Warmest greetings of the season, and welcome to the December issue of the RAS Newsletter!

We have some great events coming up this month, including a documentary about graffiti in Beijing, a film about two radical Yue opera singers, bilingual poetry, the 10th Biennale, and two Book Club sessions. Hope to see you there!

Dear Members and Friends,

November was a fantastic month at RAS Shanghai. Not only did we enjoy a series of great lectures and focus groups, we also held our Annual General Meeting. I hope you will join me in extending a warm welcome to our two new Council members Nicolas Grevot and Johan Uusitalo, who will no doubt bring a wealth of skills to our ranks. We are all delighted by the appointment of Spencer Dodington to the post of RAS President. A long-standing member and contributor, Spencer has been involved in RAS Shanghai since its re-instatement back in 2007.

I am also very happy to be continuing my role as Programme Director for another year, and hope to bring you plenty of diverse and stimulating lectures over the months ahead.


As well as the AGM, November included a lecture from Professor Ines von Racknitz about the sacking of the Old Summer Palace, and a weekender talk with travel writer Hong Mei and photographer Tom Carter. Our Focus Groups spanned a survey of Korean contemporary art, the launch of our new non-fiction Book Club, and a screening of 'Bite of China'.

Best wishes for the festive season, and for a happy, fulfilling 2015 to come!

Susie Gordon (Hon. Programme Director)

Call for Volunteers!

To run successfully and smoothly, RAS Shanghai relies on a team of generous, dedicated and friendly volunteers. If you would like to be part of this team, email Susie at programme@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn. We especially need people with IT and administrative skills. Come on board and help make RAS even better!

A branch of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the 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 Shanghai and beyond.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Convener</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAS Documentary</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd December</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>The Apartment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spray Paint Beijing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Members 70 RMB, Guests 100 RMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS Film Club</td>
<td>Sunday 14th December</td>
<td>6.30pm for 7pm</td>
<td>CHAI Bites at CHAI Living</td>
<td><a href="mailto:filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
<td>Linda Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Stage Sisters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10th Shanghai Biennale</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS Art Focus</td>
<td>Sunday 14th December</td>
<td>2pm – 4pm</td>
<td>Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:artgroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">artgroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
<td>Julie Chun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS Study Group</td>
<td>Monday 8th December</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Lecture 39 of ‘The Rise &amp; Fall’</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS Studio</td>
<td>Wednesday 10th December</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB. Join us for dinner before the session.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bookevents@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">bookevents@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
<td>Susie Gordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS Non-Fiction Book Club</td>
<td>Thursday 18th December</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>A Struggle for Survival</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bookevents@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">bookevents@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
<td>Raymond Kolter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Club Sessions</td>
<td>Forthcoming in 2014-15</td>
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<td>The Library will be closed from December 22nd until January 7th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS Library</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th: 2pm – 9pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 6th, 13th, 20th: 2pm – 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st: 2pm – 5pm</td>
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<td>Members may borrow two books</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RAS Library, Sino-British College, USST 1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu, near Shaanxi Nan Lu</td>
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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY CHINA

7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-2014 – Vice-President Tess Johnston

It has been a great year for RAS, with a full and diverse lecture programme, the publication of two new monographs and two more in the final editing stages, widening of the scope of the focus groups, developments to the library, and important changes to the constitution.

THE PROGRAMME

Under Hon. Programme Director Susie Gordon, this year featured 34 lectures, four walks, an all-day special, and one roundtable discussion. Topics were as diverse as Chinese lawyers on the silver screen, preserving the dialects of China, the rise of Jack Ma and Alibaba, foot-binding, the history of the Shanghai customs service, and Taiwanese aborigines. We partnered with other organisations such as the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, M on the Bund, and Xinlelu.com, to widen our reach.

Inspired by the success of our Eileen Chang day in August 2013, we ran a J. G. Ballard day in May, including a walk led by Duncan Hewitt and Bill Savadove, and a film and book club session for Empire of the Sun. Spencer Dodington led two walks themed around the architect Paul Veysseyre, and Sven Aarne Serrano and Betty Barr led groups around the old Lunghwa internment camp.

RAS had a presence at the Shanghai Literary Festival 2014 – Andrew Field spoke about his monograph of Mu Shiyong’s translations.

Thanks also to the venues who are generous enough to offer us space: the Sino-British College, Melange Oasis, The Apartment, Chai Living, Radisson Xingguo Hotel.

Focus groups continue to thrive. The addition of Art Focus has brought in new members and become a mainstay of the programme thanks to the enthusiasm of convenor Julie Chun. Kate Baker successfully started a Documentary Group, which is thriving, despite Kate’s departure from Shanghai. Thanks to Kate for all her hard work for RAS over the years. She will be missed. Documentary Group attracted many China-based filmmakers to present screenings: Sylvie Levey, Andrew Field, Arthur Jones, Luther Jones, Judd Willmont, Lance Crayon, Porter Erisman, Steven Schwankert.

Linda Johnson continues to do a great job with Film Club, running monthly sessions. Thanks to Sandra Strand, the Book Club is thriving as well. Marcia Johnson has become an integral member of the Book Club committee, along with Raymond Kolter and Chris Murphy, who now run a monthly non-fiction session that complements the regular fiction session led by Sandy.

Linda Ferguson runs the very popular Modern Chinese History Study Group with John O’Breza, which meets twice a month to work their way through a series of documentaries about China in the 20th century. Linda is also working as acting secretary until we can recruit a permanent one, so we extend our thanks to her for that also.

Susie Gordon initiated another focus group called RAS Studio, which offers members of the local and expat community an opportunity to speak about their projects. Speakers thus far have been artist Ross Lewis, and documentary maker Robin Lung and her ‘Finding Kukan’ film.

…cont.
In December we will host Tom Mangione of the United Verses poetry translation project. Susie also has plans to start an RAS Research Project focus group, and a RAS Student Programme (which RAS London has already) in which PhD candidates from Shanghai universities, and visiting students, can present lectures.

Many thanks to the focus group convenors who work so hard to enrich the programme. The focus groups are an important part of the RAS community.

**THE LIBRARY**

After the move upstairs here from our former space below, the library has gone from strength to strength. Our Librarian Ed Allen will be much missed as he continues his studies at Harvard. A strong library committee including Linda Ferguson and Kyle Pulsifer will ensure that the collection continues to grow. We now have upwards of 3,000 volumes, and are especially indebted to Lynn Pan, Bill Savadove for their donations. Linda’s tireless work has ensured that the library space is comfortable and welcoming, with chairs, shelves, a refreshment station, and catalogued books! Thanks Linda. Our library volunteers, including Spencer Dodington and Michelle Morkel, also deserve our thanks. We ran a book sale over the summer to shift duplicate copies and raise funds for new books. We will repeat this in January, as it was a great success.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Submissions continue to be collected for the 2015 issue of the journal, under the aegis of Dr. Neil Schmidt.

Monographs 3 and 4 were published in March 2014. ’The Happy Hsiungs - Performing China and the struggle for Modernity’ by Diana Yeh and ‘Mu Shiying – China’s Lost Modernist’ by Andrew Field. Diana visited Shanghai and lecture for us, and Andrew spoke at the Lit Fest.

Monographs 5 and 6 are in the final editing stages – the ‘Classical Gardens of Shanghai’ by Shelly Bryant, and ‘Architecture and Modernity in Manchuria’ by Ed Denison.

**RAS BEIJING**

Is now in its second year of operation, under the presidency of Alan Babington-Smith. Even after such a short time, their programme is busy and their membership strong.

**MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION**

Thanks to the hard work of Linda Ferguson, our membership system now runs on a quarterly renewal basis. We currently have 106 paid-up members, and over 600 names on our mailing list. Thanks to Alexandra Hendrickson for performing the important role of sending out event notices and invitations through our bulk mailing system. Susie Gordon writes the monthly newsletter, which has a high opening rate, and uploads event listings onto the website and the local media.

**WEBSITE**

We are in the process of upgrading our website, and plan to have this completed early next year. Thanks to Michelle Morkel for helping to facilitate.

**COUNCIL SUPPORT**

Thank all the council members, as well as Jennifer Wen who is a great help with admin and door-duties.
**RAS Publications**

**JOURNAL: CALL FOR ARTICLES**

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society China publishes original research articles of up to 10,000 words (shorter articles are also welcome) on Chinese culture and society, past and present, with a focus on Mainland China. Original articles, which will be peer-reviewed, must be previously unpublished, and make a contribution to the field. The Journal also publishes timely reviews of books on all aspects of Chinese history, culture and society.

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society China is a continuation of the original scholarly publication of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, published 1858 - 1948. The Journal proudly maintains the level of academic standards and innovative research that marked its standing as the preeminent Western sinological journal in China for nearly a hundred years.

Full submissions guidelines can be found under the Publications tab of our website: [www.royalasiaticsociety.org.cn](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.cn)

Inquiries may be sent to the Honorary Journal Editor, Dr Neil Schmid:

editor@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

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**RAS China Monographs**

**FORTHCOMING in 2015**

**Monograph Series 5 & 6 with Hong Kong University Press**

More details to follow shortly

**RAS China Monograph Series 3**

**Hong Kong University Press**

**OUT NOW**

**Mu Shiying**

*China’s Lost Modernist: New Translations and an Appreciation*

*Andrew David Field*

When the avant-garde writer Mu Shiying was assassinated in 1940, China lost one of its greatest modernist writers while Shanghai lost its most detailed chronicler of its demi-monde nightlife. As Andrew David Field argues, Mu Shiying advanced modern Chinese writing beyond the vernacular expression of May 4 giants Lu Xun and Lao She to even more starkly reveal the alienation of the cosmopolitan-capitalist city of Shanghai, trapped between the forces of civilization and barbarism.

Each of these five short stories focuses on the author’s key obsessions: the pleasurable yet anxiety-ridden social and sexual relationships of the modern city and the decadent maelstrom of consumption and leisure in Shanghai epitomized by the dance hall and the nightclub. This study places his writings squarely within the framework of Shanghai’s social and cultural nightscapes.

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**RAS China Monograph Series 4**

**Hong Kong University Press**

**OUT NOW**

**The Happy Hsiungs**

*Performing China and the struggle for Modernity*

**Diana Yeh**

The Happy Hsiungs recovers the lost histories of Shih-I and Dymia Hsiung, two once highly visible, but now largely forgotten Chinese writers in Britain, who sought to represent China and Chineseness to the rest of the world. Shih-I shot to worldwide fame with his play *Lady Precious Stream* in the 1930s and became known as the first-ever Chinese stage director to work in the West End and on Broadway. Dymia was the first Chinese woman in Britain to publish a fictional autobiography in English in the 1950s. Through exhaustive research and fieldwork among surviving family members and friends, Diana Yeh traces the Hsiungs’ lives from their childhood in Qing dynasty China and youth amid the radical May 4th era to Britain and the USA, where they became highly celebrated figures, rubbing shoulders with George Bernard Shaw, James M. Barrie, H.G. Wells, Pearl Buck, Lin Yu Tang, Anna May Wong and Paul Robeson among others. Though fêted as ‘The Happy Hsiungs’, their lives ultimately highlight a bitter struggle in attempts to become modern.

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**Monograph Series 1 & 2 with Hong Kong University Press**

Both *Lao She in London* by Anne Witchard and *Knowledge is Pleasure* by Lindsay Shen are now available on Amazon Kindle.

Hard copies are available for purchase at RAS events and during library opening hours.
RAS Council Members 2014 - 2015

President: Spencer Dodington
Honorary Vice President: Tess Johnston
Honorary Secretary (Acting): Linda Ferguson
Honorary Treasurer: Peter MacInnis
Honorary Journal Editor: Neil Schmid
Honorary Librarian (Acting): Kyle Pulcifer
Honorary Programme Director: Susie Gordon
SBC Liaison Officer: Ian Crawford
Council Members: Alexandra Hendrickson (Communications), Sandy Strand, Katie Baker, Nicolas Grevot, Johan Uusitalo
Ex Officio: Vice-President Beijing Chapter - Alan Babington-Smith
Ex Officio: Past President - Katy Gow
RAS China Monograph Series Editor: Paul French
Honorary President: Mr Brian Davidson, HM Consul General, British Consulate Shanghai

HON VICE PRESIDENTS
Carma Elliot CMG OBE
Professor Liu Wei

PAST PRESIDENTS
2007-2011 – Peter Hibbard MBE
MEMBERSHIP FORM
NEW [ ] RENEWAL [ ]

MEMBERSHIP Number: ..............
QUARTER DUE: ..............

TITLE: Mr - Ms - Dr - Professor ..................................................
FAMILY NAME: .................................................................
FIRST NAME: .................................................................
NATIONALITY: .................................................................
E-MAIL ADDRESS: ...........................................................
MOBILE No: .................................................................
PROFESSION: .................................................................
AREAS OF INTEREST and EXPERTISE: ..............................
WOULD YOU be willing to help with RAS matters? ......................
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SIGNED: ................................................................. DATE: ....
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY .............................................. FEE PAID.... RMB
RECEIVED BY: .............................................. ON BEHALF OF RAS

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Residing in China:

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<td>Joint</td>
<td>800 RMB</td>
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<td>Student</td>
<td>150 RMB</td>
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<td>Friend</td>
<td>1,500 RMB</td>
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<td>Patron</td>
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Residing Overseas:

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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>350 RMB</td>
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MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Any foreign passport holder interested in Asian culture and in promoting the aims of the Society may apply for membership. (PRC law 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.

membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn