Welcome to the July issue of the RAS Newsletter!

As well as the usual array of news and events, this edition contains a special feature about the RAS Book Club, including an interview with our convenor, Sandy Strand.

绿树蔭濃夏日長（高骈）

Dear members and friends,

June was a great month in the RAS calendar. Spencer Dodington rounded off his recent trio of events with a lecture about architect Paul Veysseyre on June 3rd. We joined forces with the Swiss Consulate on June 7th to host Matthias Messmer and Hsin-mei Chuang’s presentation about their rural photography, and welcomed Anna Greenspan on June 17th to talk about her forthcoming book *Shanghai Future: Modernism Remade*.

The latter part of the month had a distinctly cinematic theme, with a weekender on June 21st by Linda Johnson about Shanghai film of the Golden Age, and a lecture on June 24th by Alison Conner about Chinese lawyers on the silver screen.

Sunday June 29th saw the first RAS seasonal social. A group of members and friends gathered on the sun-dappled terrace of Cotton’s to chat and get to know each other in an informal setting. Plans are already afoot for an autumn session!

July also promises to be interesting, starting with Karolina Pawlik’s lecture on Tuesday 1st, in which she will discuss Shanghai typography in the Republican Era from a transcultural perspective. Kellen Parker (founder of the Phonemica project) is speaking on Tuesday 8th about language loss in China and the preservation of dialects. Our summer Weekender/M on the Bund Salon on July 12th features novelist Susan Barker and her latest release – *The Incarnations*. Our focus groups are continuing through July, and we are holding the first in a series of roundtable discussions on July 29th. Find out more in the coming pages. Hope to see you at an event soon! Best wishes,

**Susie Gordon** (Hon. Programme Director)

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<td>July 8th – Lecture – Kellen Parker: <em>Fighting Language Loss in China</em></td>
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<td>Book Club: July 21st – <em>On China</em>: Henry Kissinger</td>
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<td>Studio: July 15th – Robin Lung: <em>Finding Kukan</em></td>
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<td>September 13th – Weekender – Li Shihong: Environmentalism</td>
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<td>September 23rd – Lecture – Nicolas Grevot: Taiwanese Aborigines – Part 2</td>
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<td>October 18th – Weekender – Betty Barr &amp; George Wang</td>
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<td>November 8th – Weekender – Ines Eben v. Racknitz: Looting of the Yuanmingyuan</td>
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bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

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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.
**Lectures & Weekenders in July**

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<td><strong>RAS Lecture</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 1st July 2014</td>
<td>7pm for 7.15pm</td>
<td>Tavern at Radisson Xingguo</td>
<td>KAROLINA PAWLIK Lost in Translation, Found in Typography - Shanghai Typography of the Republican Period</td>
<td><a href="mailto:book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RAS Lecture</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 8th July 2014</td>
<td>7pm for 7.15pm</td>
<td>Tavern at Radisson Xingguo</td>
<td>KELLEN PARKER Fighting Language Loss in China: New Approaches to Dialect Preservation in the Modern Age</td>
<td><a href="mailto:book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
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<td><strong>RAS Weekender / M on the Bund Literary Salon</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 12th July 2014</td>
<td>4pm for 4.15pm</td>
<td>Glamour Bar</td>
<td>SUSAN BARKER The Incarnations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
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<td><strong>RAS Roundtable Discussion</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 29th July 2014</td>
<td>7pm for 7.15pm</td>
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<td>CONCEPTS OF HOUSE AND HOME IN CHINA Bang by Mr. Willis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">book@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a></td>
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**Focus Group Meetings in July**

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<td><strong>RAS Art Focus</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 13th July 2014</td>
<td>2pm - 4pm</td>
<td>Long Museum West Bund, 3398 Longteng Avenue (near Ruining Lu)</td>
<td>Exploring the Long Museum West Bund Members - 20 RMB, guests 50 RMB, plus 50 RMB ticket RSVP is essential as space is limited <a href="mailto:artgroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">artgroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a> Convenor: Julie Chun</td>
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<td><strong>RAS Film Club</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 20th July 2014</td>
<td>6.30pm for 7pm</td>
<td>CHAI Lounge at CHAI Living Gallery, 370 Beizhuzhou Lu, near Henan Lu</td>
<td>Ju Dou (1990) Zhang Yimou Suggested donation: Members - 20 RMB, guests – 50 RMB RSVP is essential as space is limited <a href="mailto:filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a> Convenor: Linda Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RAS Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Monday 21st July 2014</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>RAS Library, The Sino-British College, USST 1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu, near Shaanxi Lu</td>
<td>On China HENRY KISSINGER Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB RSVP is essential as space is limited <a href="mailto:bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn">bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn</a> Convenor: Sandra Strand</td>
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**WWW.ROYALASIATICSOCIETY.ORG.CN**
Get to know our Book Club convenor Sandy Strand, and find out more about RAS Book Club, in this Q&A

Q: How long have you been running the Book Club?
A: My tenure as Book Club leader started in January 2012 with two sessions interviewing Paul French on his book, *Midnight in Peking*. I was so nervous that I read the book three times. Through my intense reading I even discovered an error in the book.... the trench coat was NOT found with Pamela Werner’s body. However, Paul later writes that the trench coat was returned to her father as part of her personal effects. Paul was very surprised since a number people had pre-read the book and didn’t notice this....

Q: How often does the Book Club meet and where?
A: We meet on the third Monday night of the month, all year round – a total of 12 sessions per year. Other than the first meetings in the PuLi Hotel Library (a beautiful setting... unfortunately with some acoustical issues), we have met in the 3/F VIP Room at Glo London. Our plan is now to meet at the new 2/F Library at Sino-British College.

Q: What does a typical session involve?
A: We like to start with introductions, so we get to know each other. Beyond the book, we also discuss the author's bio, the writing style, the translation, the plot...

Many of our members are very well read, but since I think that my own literature education was so poor, I like to dig deep into the books and typically create a Discussion Outline to make sure that we don’t stray too far from our purpose of truly discussing the featured book.

Q: What have been some of your favorite book sessions?
A: The best sessions are always the ones where we have the author or translator present. It gives us an ‘insider view’, and the ability to satisfy our curiosity with lots of questions.

Our ‘days’ featuring walks, book discussions and movies have been very popular. In 2013 we featured Eileen Chang and this year we had J.G. Ballard day.

Q: How do you choose which books to feature?
A: I like to talk with the RAS members who are authors, like Paul French and Mishi Saran, or translators like Shelly Bryant. We get some ideas from Shanghai’s monthly magazines and then through Internet searches. We also get recommendations from our members.

I try to select a range of non-fiction and fiction and also mix historical eras. Our books have mostly been about China, but we are always searching for other interesting Asian books.

Email bookevents@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn to find out more, to suggest titles for future sessions, or to book a place.
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.

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Full submissions guidelines can be found under the Publications tab of our website: www.royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

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

RAS China Monograph Series 3
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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.

RAS China Monograph Series 4
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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.

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

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