Dear RAS members and friends,

Welcome to the June edition of the Newsletter.

Putting this issue together has been especially enjoyable, as it was a chance to look back over the past month in the RAS Programme and remember the many highlights.

We started May with the first of two guided walks from Spencer Dodington, covering some of architect Paul Veysseyre’s residential buildings in the former French Concession. The second walk, on May 25th, focused on Veysseyre’s municipal designs. The caprices of Shanghai’s weather were evident across the course of the month: it rained cats and dogs for the first walk, and was beautifully sunny for the second!

The rain held off again on May 18th for our J. G. Ballard Day. Duncan Hewitt and Bill Savadove led a walk around the Ballard sites in the Xinhua Lu environs, and we enjoyed a Book Club and Film Club session on *Empire of the Sun*.


There were some last-minute changes to the Programme due to city events this month. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Read on for details of what is coming up in June. Hope to see you at an event soon!

Best wishes,

*Susie Gordon*  
(Hon. Programme Director)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**JUNE 2014**

**LECTURES & WEEKENDERS**

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**FOCUS GROUPS**

- Art Focus: Sunday June 8th - Why Should We Be Impressed by the Impressionists?
- Study Group: Monday June 9th - Lecture 27 & 28; Monday June 23rd - Lecture 29 & 30
- Documentary Group: Wednesday June 11th – *Grasping the Swallow’s Tail: A Taiji Movie AND Jin Xing* rescheduled to Wednesday June 4th
- Film Club: Sunday June 15th – *The Missing Gun*
- Book Club: Monday June 16th – *Andre Malraux: Man’s Fate*

**FORTHCOMING**

- July 1st – Karolina Pawlik – Shanghai Typography
- July 8th – Lecture – Kellien Parker: Phonemica
- July 12th – Literary Salon - Susan Barker: *The Incarnations*
- July 15th – RAS Studio – Robin Lung: *Finding Kukan*
## Lectures & Weekenders in June

### RAS Lecture
**TUESDAY 3rd June 2014**  
7pm for 7.15pm  
**SPENCER DODINGTON**  
Veysseyre - Shanghai’s Art Deco Master  
Tavern at Radisson Xingguo  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

### RAS Weekender
**in conjunction with the Consulate General of Switzerland**  
**SATURDAY 7th June 2014**  
4pm for 4.15pm  
**HSIN-MEI CHUANG & MATTHIAS MESSMER**  
China’s Vanishing Worlds: Countryside, Traditions, and Cultural Spaces  
Li Room at Radisson Xingguo  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

### RAS Lecture
**TUESDAY 17th June 2014**  
7pm for 7.15pm  
**ANNA GREENSPAN**  
Shanghai Future – Modernity Remade  
The Apartment  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

### RAS Weekender
**SATURDAY 21st June 2014**  
4pm for 4.15pm  
**LINDA JOHNSON**  
Shanghai on Film - The Epic Films of the Postwar Period, 1945-1949  
The Apartment  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

### RAS Lecture
**TUESDAY 24th June 2014**  
7pm for 7.15pm  
**ALISON CONNER**  
Chinese Lawyers on the Silver Screen: Lawyer Yin and Lawyer Yang  
Tavern at Radisson Xingguo  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

### RAS Summer Social
**SUNDAY 29th June 2014**  
4pm until late  
Cotton’s, 132 Anting Lu, near Jianguo Lu  
(安亭路 132 号，近建国路)  
Join us in the garden of Cotton’s beautiful villa for RAS Summer Drinks. It will be a great chance to get to know your fellow RAS members in an informal setting, in historic surroundings.

Email bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn to reserve a place at our lectures.
## Focus Group Meetings in June

### RAS Art Focus
**Sunday 8th**  
10:30am – 12pm  
K11  
**Why Should We Be Impressed By the Impressionists?**  
Art historian Julie Chun will provide a walk-through of the Money exhibition at K11.  
Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB & 100 RMB for gallery ticket  
**THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT**  
artgroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Convenor: Julie Chun

### RAS Study Group  
**Monday 12th & 26th**  
7pm for 7.15pm  
at Melange Oasis, Jiashan Market,  
550 Shaanxi Nan Lu  
**The Fall and Rise of China**  
*Monday June 9th - Lecture 27 & 28;*  
*Monday June 23rd - Lecture 29 & 30*  
Join us for dinner before the session. Suggested donation: members - 20 RMB, guests - 50 RMB  
studygroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Convenor: Linda Ferguson

### RAS Documentary Group  
**Wednesday 4th**  
7pm for 7.15pm  
at The Apartment, 47 Yongfu Lu, near Fuxing Xi Lu  
**The Unique Destiny of Colonel Jin Xing**  
(rescheduled)  
and  
**Wednesday 11th**  
**Chasing the Swallow’s Tale: A Taiji Movie**  
Suggested donation: members - 20 RMB, guests - 50 RMB  
adhocstudygroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Convenor: Kate Baker

### RAS Film Club  
**6.30pm for 7pm Sunday 15th**  
CHAI Lounge at CHAI Living Gallery,  
370 Beisuzhou Lu, near Henan Lu  
北苏州路 370 号，近河南路  
**The Missing Gun**  
Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB  
**RSVP is essential as space is limited**  
filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Convenor: Linda Johnson

### RAS Book Club  
**7pm Monday 16th**  
RAS Library, The Sino-British College, USST  
1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu, near Shaanxi Lu  
**ANDRE MALRAUX**  
**Man’s Fate**  
Members - 20 RMB, Guests 50 RMB  
**RSVP is essential as space is limited**  
bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Convenor: Sandra Strand

## Library

**JUNE**  
Opening Hours  
Saturdays: 2pm – 5pm  
(7th, 14th, 21st, 28th)  
Wednesdays: 2pm – 5pm  
(4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)  
Members may borrow two books  
Refundable Deposit: 500 RMB (cash)  
**Hon Librarian: Ed Allen**  
librarian@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

For full details visit:  
www.royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

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The Sino-British College, USST  
1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu, near Shaanxi Lu
**RAS China 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**

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

While the thermometer outside reads a healthy daytime temperature of 40°C and the thermostat inside claims an environmentally unfriendly 22°C (Beijing air conditioning keeps getting Haier and higher...), minds and bodies were still put to work as the RAS Beijing continues with its summer programme of events.

In late April to reconnoiter for a potential event there, RASBJ’s Melinda Liu travelled to Dalian in late April for the opening of a privately owned 100-hectare botanical garden, produced with the involvement of British botanic expert David Sim Paterson OBE who is former horticultural director at the Kunming Botanical Garden and former deputy director of horticulture at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Swathed in massive plantings of purple grape hyacinth and orange, crimson and yellow tulips, the undulating hills also echoed with bagpipe music provided by Major Bruce Hitchings (Retd.), former Senior Pipe Major in the British Armed Forces. Chinese tourists squealed with delight when they heard the music and sighted Paterson and Hitchings wearing kilts. Future plans for the garden, which is open to the public, include a school of horticulture similar to those that exist in Edinburgh, Kew and Wisley. The breathtaking gardens, along with other Dalian highlights, are worthy of a visit!

On Tuesday May 13th, John Pomfret moderated a most interesting panel discussion at Shijia Hutong with several of Beijing’s most noted scientific minds including Rao Yi, Professor of Neurosciences, Peking University; Zhang Shoucheng, Professor of Astrophysics, Stanford University; and Richard de Grijs, Professor of Astrophysics, Peking University. Discussion of the day revolved around one simple question: is science an independent source of values, or must this source be found somewhere else? From there the conversation delved into several areas of scholarly debate concerning the cultural differences between Western and Chinese systems of scientific investigation and indeed the application of scientific research and discovery in today’s society.

Away from such hot topics, the RASBJs’ Matthew Hu let a weekend trip away to Zhaoxian Bailin Temple for something a little more Zen. The Ch’an temple dates back 1,200 years and today is home to 160 monks and novices. Located 45 minutes outside Shijiazhuang Hebei, the temple complex proved to be truly special in architectural design and spiritual meaning. Many thanks to all who came and to Matthew for organising such a wonderful event.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**A Farewell Conversation with James Miles and Catherine Sampson**

The Royal Asiatic Society Beijing is delighted to invite you to an evening talk with old China hands James Miles and Catherine Sampson who are soon to leave the Middle Kingdom. Both James, currently The Economist bureau chief here, and Catherine, former journalist and now renowned novelist, earned their Beijing stripes with the BBC and The Times, respectively, in the prelude to and during the tumultuous events in the capital 25 years ago and have during that time reported and commented on the challenges of and changes to China’s shifting political, social and economic landscape. We look forward to sharing their experiences – and hopefully some salacious gossip from Zhongnanhai – in what promises to be a wonderful evening.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**When:** Monday June 9th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Delegation of the European Union to China (see link for directions)  
**How much:** Members RMB 30; non-members RMB 60

Of special note, The RAS Beijing will be holding an **Extraordinary General Meeting** on Sunday June 5th at the Courtyard Institute by Jingshan Park and we hope to see all members and friends there! Please see [www.rasbj.org](http://www.rasbj.org) for more details.

Finally, we would like to offer our Asiatic thanks to Philippa Jones who has stepped down from the Events Committee having been of great support and help from even the very early days of the RAS Beijing. Philippa will be replaced by Fergus Naughton.

Yours Asiatically,  
*Fergus Naughton*
We extend heartfelt thanks to our recent sponsors:

RAS Council Members 2013 - 2014

**President:** Nenad Djordjevic

**Honorary Vice President:** Tess Johnston

**Honorary Secretary:** Marissa Peacock

**Honorary Treasurer:** Peter MacInnis

**Honorary Journal Editor:** Neil Schmid

**Honorary Librarian:** Ed Allen

**Honorary Programme Director:** Susie Gordon

**Council Members:** Alexandra Hendrickson, Liz Jennings, Ian Crawford, Peter Harris, Duncan Hewitt, Sandy Strand, Katie Baker

**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
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<th>MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residing in China:</strong></td>
<td>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.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>500 RMB</td>
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<td>Joint</td>
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<td>Patron</td>
<td>10,000+ RMB</td>
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| **Residing Overseas:** | |
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