Dear Members and Friends,

As we leave the Year of the Horse and move into the Year of the Sheep, there’s plenty to look forward to at RAS.

We are fortunate enough to have several very interesting lectures coming up, including Edward Denison this month, and Jemimah Steinfeld, Vince Ungvary, Wade Shepard and Sheila Greenspan in March.

Focus Groups continue apace, with both fiction and non-fiction at Book Club, and a new era for Documentary Club thanks to Karolina Pawlik who is doing an excellent job hosting.

More details of upcoming events can be found in the column on the right, as well as on our website.

As the Year of the Sheep begins, we wish you all the best for health, happiness and prosperity. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Best wishes,

Susie Gordon (Programme Director)

RAS Shanghai Newsletter
February 2015

Happy New Year of the Sheep!
新年快乐 ～ 恭喜发财

FEBRUARY 2015 EVENTS

RAS Art Focus: Sunday 8th, 2pm – 21 Minsheng Inaugural Exhibition: COSMOS (Minsheng Art Museum)

RAS Film Club: Sunday 8th, 7pm – Happy Times by Zhang Yimou (Chai Lounge)

RAS Book Club: Monday 9th, 7pm – Han Suyin: The Crippled Tree (RAS Library)

RAS Weekender: Saturday 14th 4pm - Edward Denison – Manchurian Architecture (Li Room at the Radisson Xingguo)

RAS Documentary Club: Wednesday 25th, 7pm – Super Skyscrapers – The Shanghai Tower (venue TBA)

MARCH 2015 EVENTS

March 5th – Book Club: Anxious Wealth by John Osburg

March 10th – Vince Ungvary: Jesuit Maps

March 16th – Book Club: Rickshaw Boy by Lao She

March 17th – Jemimah Steinfeld: Little Emperors and Material Girls – Sex and Youth in Modern China

March 24th – Sheila Greenspan: Art Appreciation

March 31st – Wade Shepard: China’s Ghost Cities

For more information, visit www.royalasiaticsoociety.org.cn and click on the Events tab.

Book through bookings@royalasiaticsoociety.org.cn

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@royalasiaticsoociety.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.
## RAS Library

**February Opening Hours**

- Wednesdays (except 18th): 2pm – 9pm
- Saturdays: 2pm – 5pm
- Sundays: 2pm – 5pm

Members may borrow two books

**Librarian: Kyle Pulsifer**  
librarian@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

RAS Library, Sino-British College, USST  
1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu, near Shaanxi Nan Lu

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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.

**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.
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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