Christians and Manichaeans in the Quanzhou 泉州 (Zayton) of Marco Polo

Professor Samuel N.C. Lieu
Macquarie University (Sydney); Wolfson College (Cambridge)

Quanzhou, known to Western seafarers as Zayton features prominently in China's contact with the West in the Mongol period. The lecture will look at a steady steam of discoveries of Christian and Manichaean remains, many of great artistic and iconographic value, found in or near the port from Second World War onwards. The discoveries inevitably raise the question as to whether Marco Polo made his final departure from China via this famous seaport.

Professor Samuel N.C. Lieu is about to retire as the Inaugural Distinguished Professor of Ancient History at Macquarie University (Sydney) and is currently a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College (Cambridge). He has previously held a personal chair in the same subject at Warwick University (UK). He is the co-director of the UAI and UNESCO-sponsored Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum project and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His books on Manichaeism include: *Manichaeism in the Later Roman Empire and Medieval China* (1985 and 2nd edn. 1972), *Manichaeism in Mesopotamia and the Roman East* (1994), *Manichaeism in Central Asia and China* (1998) and *Medieval Christian and Manichaean Remains from Zayton* (Quanzhou) (2012).

All seminars take place on Wednesdays (unless otherwise arranged) at 5pm in rooms 8 & 9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge. Tea will be served at the same venue at 4:45pm. All are welcome.