Greetings

I am delighted to write to you on the third anniversary of our newly constituted Department of East Asian Studies. As the following pages will show, our staff and students have been very busy learning, teaching, writing, and researching. Undergraduate numbers in Chinese and Japanese are flourishing with a combined intake of around thirty first-years in the past two years. Our new Tripos enters its fourth year and, with two papers in Korean Studies on the books, we are now able to cover each corner of East Asia in our teaching. Never has the role of philanthropy been so vital to secure the excellence and long-term future of our programmes. We must continue to ensure that all talented students wishing to explore the fascinating languages and cultures of East Asia that we teach at Cambridge can do so, regardless of their social and financial background. Securing philanthropic support for student bursaries and the endowment of teaching posts will therefore remain vital to protect and secure the long-term future of our work. As I leave the stewardship of the Department in the capable hands of Professor Richard Bowring for the next cycle, I am confident that the future for Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies at Cambridge is bright. I hope you will enjoy this newsletter and we always look forward to hearing from you!

Roel Sterckx
Head of Department
Undergraduate intake was healthy in 2008-2009; we took 23 new first years and have around 65 students taking the full-time BA course in Chinese. Application numbers vary year on year but, overall, numbers continue to be steady and modestly rising. At present 13 students are taking MPhils in Chinese or East Asian Studies, and we have 25 registered PhD candidates.

Our teaching and research staff had a busy year. Yuan Boping gave papers at Qinghua and the Foreign Studies University of Beijing, Nankai University, Chuo University in Tokyo and at conferences in Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, Urbana-Champaign, and the Universities of York and Essex. Boping was the Wilson T.S. Wang-New Method College Visiting Professor in Language and Linguistics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he delivered a plenary lecture entitled “What hinders the success of adult second language acquisition: An interface problem in adult second language acquisition of Mandarin Chinese”. Hans van de Ven attended a meeting on China’s Foreign Relations during WWII in Chongqing at which Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and Euro-American scholars participated. He gave lectures and papers in Berkeley, Yale, and the University of British Columbia and, together with Professor Mary Jacobus organized a workshop entitled “Translation and Conflict: Confucianism, the Classics and Chinese/Asian Modernities”. This workshop, which included papers by Susan Daruvala, Adam Chau and Roel Sterckx, was part of an AHRC-sponsored network ‘Translations and Transformations’. Hans also served on the British Academy China panel and the AHRC Peer Review College. Roel gave papers in Beijing, Charles University in Prague, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Universities of Leuven and Edinburgh. He delivered the 7th Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture entitled “Naturalist Illustration in Traditional China” at an event jointly hosted by the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and HKUST. Dr Pei-Yin Lin co-organised with Professor Mei Chia-ling of National Taiwan University an international conference on “Encounters and Transformations: Cultural Transmission and Knowledge Production in a Cross-literary and Historical Perspective – 1850-1960”. This event was hosted at Downing College and supported by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation. Dr Lin also gave papers in Berlin, the AAS at Chicago, Singapore and Taipei. Adam Chau presented papers at the Universities of Wales, Bielefeld, Oxford, Edinburgh, Qinghua and the LSE, and spent part of the summer doing field work in Xinzhu on the Hakka Yimin Festival. Barak Kushner gave talks on Sino-Japanese relations in the post WWII area at National Taiwan University, Waseda, Chicago, Bristol and Nanjing and contributed, with Dr Pei-Yin Lin, to a workshop in Taipei entitled “Exploring the Cultural Faces of Taiwan, 1945-1960”, sponsored by the Taiwanese Ministry of Education.

James Lin organized a highly successful exhibition of the jades held in the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum and wrote the catalogue entitled The Immortal Stone – Chinese Jades from the Neolithic period to the twentieth century (London: Scala, 2009). He made research trips to the Palace Museum in Taipei and museums at Xuzhou, Chengdu and the Nanyue Wang Museum. Mark Strange, who joined us as junior research fellow in October, traveled to Beijing University Library for his work on Sima Guang. Christopher Rosenmeier, CCK Postdoctoral Fellow, organized the Junior Scholars Conference on Modern Chinese Literature and Culture. Topics ranged widely covering modern and contemporary poetry, film, fiction, journals, literary societies, etc. The meeting was attended by scholars from SOAS, Cambridge, and Leiden, and a keynote speech, “Chinese, Literature, and the World Wide Web”, was given by Professor Michel Hockx. Christopher Cullen (Needham Research Institute) gave papers and lectures in Leiden, Budapest, Beijing and Singapore and hosted, together with Catherine Jami, an international workshop on “Genealogies of Science in Asia: Cross-Cultural Appropriation”, as part of the “Science and History in Asia” programme jointly run by the NRI and the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden.

A host of speakers passed through our weekly Monday seminar series again. They included Joël Thoraval (Paris), Donald Harper (Chicago), Terry Kleeman (Colorado), Stephan Feuchtwang (LSE), and others. This year’s Chuan Lyu Lectures were given by Professor Chou Wan-Yao of Academia Sinica. Her lectures were entitled “Taiwan in view of maritime history” and “Generational Differences in Colonial and early Postwar Taiwan”.

We are happy to report that Pei-Yi Wu rejoined us as Taiwan lector and were pleased to appoint Chien Li-Kuei, a PhD fresh from SOAS, to a newly established teaching and research fellowship in Chinese Buddhism. George Mak, a 2nd year PhD candidate, was shortlisted for the 2nd Sir George Staunton Prize of the Royal Asiatic Society. His article “Laissez-faire or Active Intervention? The Nature of the British Bible Society’s Patronage of the Translation of the Chinese union version,” will be published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

In June, Professor Wang Gungwu was conferred Honorary Doctor of Letters in recognition of his contribution to international scholarship as a historian of China and the Chinese. He was presented to the Chancellor, HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh at the 800th Anniversary Degree Congregation at Senate House, alongside nine other eminent individuals from the fields of religion, business, science, music, history, philanthropy, politics and economics. The first Chinese historian to be honoured by the University, Professor Wang is Chairman of the East Asian Institute and a Professor of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, and a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.

The Society president, Daniella Wambold, said the aim was to “showcase original works by Cambridge students from diverse backgrounds, who recognise the potential within East Asia and its changing image in the eyes of the rest of the world”.

CEACS student photograph

The Department was delighted to sponsor a student-led Cambridge East Asian Culture Studies student photography competition. The Society president, Daniella Wambold, said the aim was to “showcase original works by Cambridge students from diverse backgrounds, who recognise the potential within East Asia and its changing image in the eyes of the rest of the world”.

CEACS student photograph
Chinese Historiography Workshop,
Dr Mark Strange

Frequent warning calls about the decline of pre-modern Chinese studies in Britain have sounded over the past decade and more. Despite the soul-searching, though, few practical initiatives have sought to revive this large and important field of research. On 24-28 March 2010 Cambridge was therefore delighted to host a workshop that addressed this problem. It was the third in a series of five workshops that will run nationwide over two years, under the title ‘Research Training in Old Chinese’. The Cambridge workshop took as its thematic focus history and historiography; the full range of the pre-modern Chinese past received attention.

The picturesque surroundings of the Needham Research Institute, so resonant with historical significance for Chinese Studies in Britain, offered a fitting venue for the event. Ten established scholars led discussions. Each gave a lecture on an area of their research interests: they pointed out the latest trends in scholarship – issues central to the field – and introduced the use of methodologies and tools relevant to present research problems. Each then guided a close analysis of texts that touched on the topic of their lecture. Twenty graduate and post-doctoral students of Chinese Studies participated; several others, with a range of China-related research interests, also listened in. The central focus in all this was the sinological community working in Britain, but the workshop benefited greatly from the international backgrounds of its participants: the PRC, Taiwan, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, and the United States all received representation. Here was a sense that pre-modern Chinese Studies is now a truly worldwide endeavour. If anything, that underlined the value of the present workshop, for it mediated cultural and literary exchanges, Mary Jacobus, Professor of English and Director of the Centre of Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and the Humanities, and Hans van de Ven, Professor of Modern Chinese History in the DEAS, have directed for the last two years a Network called ‘Translations and Transformations: China, Modernity, and Cultural Transmission’. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, they worked closely together with Haun Saussy of Yale University, Bird White Hossum Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale, and Wang Ning, Professor of English and Director for the Center of Comparative Literature at Qinghua University. Together they hosted three large conferences in Cambridge and at Yale and Qinghua, as well as several smaller workshops and seminars. The Network also hosted, for longer periods of residence at Cambridge, influential critics such as Wang Hui, the former editor of the hugely influential literary magazine Dushu.

The Network brought together in productive meetings leading scholars from China, the USA, and the UK. Just to name a few, they included Lydia Liu, Mark Lewis, Jing Tsu, Timothy Brook, Susan Basnett, Chen Yongguo, Wan-ling Wee, Wan Junren, and Michel Hockx. The first conference, held at Cambridge, examined translatability and mapped out the situatedness of translanguaging practices. The second, held at Yale, adopted a historical approach to study the role of translation in mediating political and military conflict throughout Chinese history. The final conference, held at Qinghua, took a sharp analytical lens to the construction of alternative modernities, especially by literary authors.

The small conferences and seminars took on equally substantial topics, including the translation of the Chinese classics into modern standard Chinese and the revival of Confucianism. The concluding seminar was preceded by a plenary lecture by Professor Prasenjit Duara, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at Singapore University, and was followed by a workshop on religion, secularism, and conversion. The Network will result in the publication of at least one book and many journal articles. An outcome no less important is the close relationships forged between China scholars in the UK, the USA, and China. Several projects are now under consideration to continue the network into the future.

Chuan Lyu Lectures

In May the Department, in conjunction with the Chuan Lyu Foundation, hosted two lectures by Yen Chuan-Ying, Professor of Art History at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. The titles of the talks were, ‘The Conflict Between Innovation and Tradition in Classic Temple Architecture in Taiwan – The Metamorphosis of the Great Hall at Nanyao Temple in Zhanghua’ and ‘Self-Portraits and Images of Women in Official Art Exhibitions and the Issue of Cultural Identity during the Japanese Colonial Period in Taiwan’.

Research Reports: Dr Adam Chau

In September 2009, Dr Adam Yuet Chau, Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China, conducted some preliminary fieldwork on ‘technologies of exuberance’ in temple festivals in Taiwan. The research aims were to find out how temple organisers and craftsmen have incorporated modern technologies.
to enhance their ability to produce ritual exuberance and ‘red-hot sociality’, and to investigate the relationship between traditionalism and innovation. His two case studies were the Yimin (Righteous Compatriots) Festival in Hsin-pu, Hsin-chu county (新竹), and the Qianggu (Robbing the Hungry Ghosts) ritual (搶孤) in Tou-cheng (頭城), I-lan county (宜蘭). Both ‘event productions’ are related to the Hungry Ghost Festival (中元節), and both the scale and form of ritual activities are astonishing. In Hsin-pu, following tradition, participating households compete to raise the biggest (heaviest) pig as an offering to the spirits of the compatriots who died fighting for their communities in the past, and the top-ranked households are seen to be particularly blessed by the spirits. Especially eager households would spend an enormous amount of money to raise the pigs and, after slaughtering (or ‘sacrificing’) them, decorate them in the most colourful, some may say gaudy, manner (on these occasions being gaudy and having more ‘bling’ are de rigueur). The decorated pigs are hauled onto large trucks – these trucks in fact form part of the decoration – and are displayed in front of the Yimin Temple and back in the villages. In Tou-cheng, gigantic temporary wooden and bamboo structures called ‘hungry ghost (feeding) stations’ (孤棚 plus 孤棚) that are about fifteen storeys tall are constructed as a combined effort of different communities, all strapped with offerings and prizes. Teams of young men compete to climb up the giant greased poles and the bamboo towers to grab the top prize. Dr Chau’s other activities this past year include finishing the edited volume Religion in Contemporary China: Revitalization and Innovation (forthcoming from Routledge, 2010) and a few articles, including ‘Mao’s Travelling Mangoes: Food as Relic in Revolutionary China’ (forthcoming in Past and Present).

Dr Lin Pei-Yin

In January 2010, Dr Lin Pei-Yin and Dr Barak Kushner were awarded a grant from the Ministry of Education in Taiwan under the auspices of ‘The Talent Cultivation Project of Taiwanese Literature, History and Art in Globalisation’ for the project ‘Politics, Aesthetics, and Hometown Construction: A Re-exploration of Taiwan History during the Early Postwar Period’. Dr Lin is project leader for the grant and both she and Dr Kushner went to Taiwan for fieldwork and to present their research findings at the Department of History, National Cheng-Chi University (the host institution) in the summer of this year.

Together with Dr Chang Bi-Yu at SOAS and Dr Jeremy Taylor at Sheffield, Dr Lin and Dr Kushner were awarded another grant for the joint project, ‘Exploring the Cultural Faces of Taiwan 1945-1960’. They provided a presentation at the host institution, the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature at the National Taiwan University in early September 2009, and attended an international conference held at NTU in mid September 2009.

Dr Lin was awarded a conference grant (of 12,000 Euros) in May 2009 from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange for the project entitled ‘Encounters and Transformations: Cultural Transmission and Knowledge Production in a Cross-literary and Historical Perspective 1850-1960’. An international conference, with attendants from Europe, USA, Singapore, and Taiwan, co-organised by National Taiwan University and Department of East Asian Studies, Cambridge, was held on September 28 and 29, 2009 at Downing College.

Japanese Studies

Dr Brigitte Steger Reports on EAJS workshop

The European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) PhD workshops facilitate networking and communication in Japanese Studies among early stage scholars (doctoral students) from across Europe, where many Japanese Studies departments are very small indeed and opportunities for students’ travel funding for international conferences is still limited. The workshops cover all the disciplines in Japanese Studies from the Humanities to the Social Sciences. They enable students to get to know the work of their peers in Europe and begin a dialogue with senior scholars in their own field. The EAJS PhD workshops also help to give graduate students a sense of belonging within a wider group of Japanese Studies scholars, and moral support for their sometimes lonesome struggles.

The EAJS PhD workshops have become extremely popular. This year, we had a record number of 70 applications, revealing both the important function the workshops fulfil in the development of a future generation of Japan specialists and the success of previous workshops in Cambridge, Paris, Vienna, Oxford, and Lecce. It was heartbreaking to have to refuse so many excellent young scholars; however, both because of financial constraints and for the coherence of the workshop, it was necessary to limit the number of presenting participants to 16. In addition, Cambridge PhD students were invited to participate, and one of them presented. We tried to strike a balance between disciplines, countries/institutions of the participants as well as gender; but also to make sure that participants could relate to each other and that we would be able to provide them with supervisors with relevant expertise.

Both the workshop itself and the preparation for it were very intensive; all participants showed a high level of commitment and willingness to invest work and time. They had not only handed
in an academic essay and a progress report of their dissertation
two months ahead of the event, but also read and engaged with
the essays by all their peers prior to coming to Cambridge. This
enabled us to keep paper presentations to 10 minutes, followed by
comments of a designated discussant (5 minutes). The purpose of
these comments was not to point out all the little and big omissions
or mistakes in the paper, but to initiate a discussion both on the
project itself, its methodology, and on its links to current (or older or
potential future) debates within Japanese Studies. Most of the time
(40 minutes in total per speaker) was allocated to lively discussions,
in which all participants, regardless of their background, actively
participated. The chairs of the session were strict in time-keeping,
in order to make sure that each participant was given the same
opportunity to have her or his paper challenged.

Despite financial constraints, given that Cambridge is one of the
few European departments in Japanese Studies covering a wide range
of disciplines, we profited from a larger number of excellent
and experienced supervisors (nine) than earlier workshops. The
idea is that senior scholars from their own disciplines, trained in
the intellectual traditions of other European countries, provide a
feedback on doctoral students’ work, often giving new perspectives
and moral support. In general, supervisors had two advisees each
to take care of in the form of a one-on-one supervision of 55
minutes (and in some instances much more) based on the texts;
they were also chairing the sessions and participated in social events
where possible. Thus, the EAJS PhD workshops do not only allow
engagement with peers across disciplinary boundaries, but also give
guidance and allow quality control across Europe.

Professor Richard Bowring, Head of Japanese Studies at Cambridge
University and Master of Selwyn College, invited the group to a
welcome reception at the Selwyn College Master’s Lodge on the
Sunday evening, so that all participants could meet and mingle
before the actual work started. We had lunch at Darwin College,
and a formal dinner in the newly renovated Dining Hall of Downing
College. After two days of intensive engagement with each others’
research, Wednesday morning was dedicated to other aspects of
academic life including the infrastructure in and around Cambridge
that helps to facilitate it. Dr Simon Kaner introduced the Sainsbury
Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. Dr Angus
Lockyer (SOAS, London), Senior Editor of Japan Forum, gave insights
into the ups and downs of the publishing and perishing world.
Last, but not least, the Head Librarian of the Japanese collection at
Cambridge University Library, Mr Koyama Noboru, had prepared a
fascinating exhibition of some of the Japanese treasure holdings of
CUL, and showed us around the Japan collection, one of the largest
and oldest in Europe.

Travel, accommodation and food expenses of all participants were
paid for with financial support by the Japan Foundation, the Great
Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the Japan Foundation Endowment
Committee, EAJS, and our own Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern
Studies, which we acknowledge gratefully.

Here are some reactions from participants after their return (reports
of the participants will be published in the upcoming EAJS bulletin):

‘Thank you for the very interesting conference, I definitely came
back more motivated!’
‘I think it was very much a success. It was good to see everybody
doing much effort to engage with topics that were so different from
their own.’
‘Thank you very much for your support and hospitality in
Cambridge, it has been an amazing experience.’
‘The days in Cambridge were very intensive, but they brought me a
lot. It was a wonderful experience.’
‘I found the workshop very helpful, and the generosity of EAJS is
quite a motivator as I want to produce work that proves that EAJS
has invested its funds wisely!’
‘I really enjoyed the event, the atmosphere, getting to know
everyone and their research. It was very inspiring for me. I especially
liked the experience of supervising, it was stimulating and
rewarding.’
‘I met many nice people and had interesting conversations, and I
learned new things in the process. The session on publishing was
quite motivating, even though it might not have been intended that
way. Now back to my desk.’

Japanese Speech Contest for university
students in the UK and Ireland

Harriet Jones, a third-year student of Japanese Studies, was awarded
second prize at the fifth annual Speech Contest for university
students organised by the Japan Foundation London Language
Centre (JFLLC) and the British Association for Teaching Japanese as
a Foreign Language (BATJ). After being screened by a telephone
interview, she proceeded to the finals in Category I, for students
studying Japanese as a main degree subject, and competed against
four other contestants from King’s College London, Leeds University,
Oxford University and SOAS, in front of a full audience in the Khalili
Theatre, SOAS on Saturday 27 February 2010. She delivered an
eloquent speech entitled “Are tōroma incidents a ‘by-product’ of
Japan’s low crime rate?” and answered the panel’s questions with
confidence. As well as highlighting the importance of understanding
the roots and the true nature of tōroma incidents (killing sprees),
often considered to be committed without any clear motive, she
put forward her own ideas on the necessity for both domestic and
social care and educational support, especially for youths feeling
marginalised and alienated from mainstream society. Her fluency
and competence in Japanese and sharp insight into Japanese society
greatly impressed both the judging panel and the audience.

Although three first-year students entered the Group Presentations
Category for students studying Japanese at beginner level, which
was newly introduced this year, sadly they did not make the finals.
But it was highly encouraging that they appreciated the opportunity
to make an effort and improve their language skills.

Tsurugi no Kai

16 March 2010 saw the first meeting of the Tsurugi no kai, the
alumni association for all those who read Japanese at Cambridge.
It operates mainly through Facebook, thanks to the hard work of
our Faculty Librarian, Françoise Simmons. About 35 former students
from very different generations (1965–2008) met over drinks and
sushi at the Daiwa House in London.
Many who came felt that such a meeting was an excellent idea that was long overdue. The group hopes to meet at least once a year in London and perhaps once a year in Cambridge. It is hoped that similar meetings can be arranged in Tokyo. Anyone who wishes to organise such a meeting please contact either Francoise Simmons on fs285@cam.ac.uk or Dr John Swenson-Wright on jhs22@cam.ac.uk.

DEAS at the forefront of International Relations

The Department of East Asian Studies has forged strong links with a new and distinctive website, “38 North” (38north.org) established at the U.S. - Korea Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University. Conceived and managed by Joel Wit, a specialist in North Korean matters with many years of policy experience related to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), the site provides a new forum for informed commentary and discussion on DPRK-related issues.

“38 North” harnesses the experience of long-time observers of North Korea and others who have dealt directly with North Koreans. It also draws on other experts outside the field who might bring fresh, well-informed insights to those of us who follow North Korea. The site does not limit its coverage to North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction but also digs beneath the surface of political, economic, social and other developments. And of course, as recent events have shown, from Kim Jong Il’s stroke to the currency revaluation to the opening of fast food restaurants in Pyongyang, there is a lot happening. North Korea is not a hermit kingdom, but rather a country that has been in the throes of change, good and bad, for over a decade. Those changes have important implications for the Korean peninsula, the East Asian region and the international community.

The Department of East Asian Studies is especially pleased to be associated with the new site since it directly complements a parallel initiative focusing on Human Security in the DPRK, that is being developed by Dr John Swenson-Wright, in conjunction with colleagues both at Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London, and at SAIS, Johns Hopkins. The project, funded in part by the Korea Foundation, brings together US, European and East Asia policy specialists, to explore pragmatic options for promoting the human security agenda between the DPRK and the international community.

Manners Scholarship: Chloe Wong

Third year student Chloe Wong has recently been awarded the Manners Scholarship at Corpus Christi College for gaining firsts in her exams. Scholars receive a modest amount of money to spend as they wish, as well as a further sum towards the purchase of books and study materials. The Manners Scholarship commemorates Rodger Manners, Earl of Rutland, who in 1595 made provision for support of four scholars, “to be chosen by the Master and Fellows... out of such as they should in their consciences think fit for such places both in morals and learning.” In addition to the Scholarship, Chloe won a special ballot for a set of rooms in the College.
Mr. Kanghee Won, president of the Cambridge University Korean Society. After the service, there was a talk by Mr. Warwick Morris, former UK ambassador to South Korea, entitled “A Witness to Change: Three Decades of Korea-Watching”.

Robinson College has received a grant from the Academy of Korean Studies under its Strategic Initiative for Korean Studies (AKS-SIKS). The grant, which is for a period of three years, is intended to enhance curriculum development for teaching Korean history and, more specifically, the Korean War. The project is led by Dr Michael Shin, and it will also involve the creation of teaching materials, including a concise historical atlas of Korea, and the compilation of an oral history of the Korean War using interview materials stored in the Imperial War Museum in London. The interviews were originally conducted as part of the 1988 Thames Television documentary “Korea: The Unknown War”.

As part of the AKS-SIKS grant, Robinson College has given summer bursaries to two Cambridge undergraduates to study Korean in Seoul in 2010. The recipients are Linnaea Manberger (first year, Trinity) and David Pegg (fourth year, Homerton).

Two special seminars on the Korean War were held for students in the MPhil program in East Asian Studies. First, Dr Steven Casey of the London School of Economics came on 3 December 2010 to talk about his recent book, Selling the Korean War: Propaganda, Politics, and Public Opinion 1950-1953. Second, on 10 February 2010, Professor Rosemary Foot of the University of Oxford discussed her research on the Korean War, focusing on her book, A Substitute for Victory: The Politics of Peacemaking and the Korean Armistice Talks.

Cambridge-Seoul joint workshop

A joint workshop was held with the Graduate School of International Studies of Seoul National University on 8-10 February 2010. Professor Park Tae-gyun brought four of his Master’s students to Cambridge to participate in three days of lectures and seminars with students in the MPhil programme. Topics of discussion included the politics of the Liberation period, the armistice talks, post-war developments, and Korean War films, as well as the differences in views on the war between Korean and American scholars.

Cambridge-Seoul joint workshop

Other Korean-related talks

- Professor Ch’oe Yun (Sogang University.) “The Aesthetic Dilemmas of Writing Fiction” 28 Oct 2009
- Dr Stephen Epstein (Victoria University of Wellington) “The Axis of Vaudeville: Images of North Korea in South Korean Pop Culture” 2 Nov 2009
- Mr. Kwang-Joo Sohn “Predicting Change in North Korea: The Post Kim Jong-il Era” 25 Nov 2009
- Professor James H. Grayson (University of Sheffield) “Chudo yebae: A Korean Protestant Response to a Confucian Ritual Need” 1 Dec 2009
- Dr Jim Hoare (first British representative in Pyongyang, 2001-2002) “The Other Korea: Thoughts and Pictures from the DPRK” 19 Feb 2010

There was also a ‘Korea at War’ Film retrospective at Robinson College with Dr Mark Morris hosting discussions with the directors.

Staff talks and conferences:

Members of the Department have been very busy providing talks in 2009/10, some of which include:

- Dr Barak Kushner “Japanese Love Statues and Chinese Prisons: Early Cold War Sino-Japanese Relations and WWII War Crimes,” Sigur Center for Asian


“日本戰犯的審判：中日關係歷史之翻轉,” (Riben Zhanfan de shenpan: Zhongri guanxi lishi zhi guancha) (Japanese War Crimes: Observations on Sino-Japanese Historical Relations – the case of Taiwan) at the conference hosted at Taiwan National University, 台灣與周邊近現代東亞的文化交流與知識生產 (The Shifting Sands of Common Boundaries – Interpretation and Production of Knowledge in Modern East Asia) September 10, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan. (Delivered in Chinese)


“Devils to men and men to devils - unraveling postwar Chinese war crimes trials of Japanese POWs,” Centre for East Asian Studies, University of Bristol, February 9, 2009.

Peter Kornicki, Professor of East Asian Studies.

In 2009, Professor Kornicki completed his term of three years as Chair of the African and Oriental Studies Section of the British Academy and became Chair of the newly founded East Asia Panel, of which John Swenson-Wright is also a member. In 2009, he also spoke at the “Imprimer sans profit?” workshop in Paris and gave the keynote address, the ‘Constructing Identities and Regionalities in East Asia’ Conference at Barnard College, NY. In January 2010, he gave a lecture on “Vernacularisation in East Asia” at the Institute of Oriental Studies at Tokyo University. Since January 2010 he has been on sabbatical; January and part of February 2010 were spent in Japan and Vietnam: in Japan he worked mainly at the Toyo Bunko in Tokyo and at Ryukyu University and Okinawa Prefectural Library; in Hanoi, he did some research again at the Han-Nom Institute.

Dr John Swenson-Wright

On 30 April, Dr John Swenson-Wright gave a paper entitled: “Diplomatic History and the Politics of Nation-building: South Korea in Comparative Perspective.” The paper is part of an international conference organized jointly by Korea University and Brain Korea 21 on the Globalization of the Korean Political Science. Whilst in Seoul, Dr Swenson-Wright gave a talk at the British Council which was aired on Airirang’s HEART TO HEART TV show. Details can be found via this web link: http://poonggangdailyjoins.com/article/view. asp?aid=2907696

Dr Swenson-Wright also recently co-organized a conference focusing on International Relations and a regional security mechanism in East Asia, with Rudiger Frank from the University of Vienna, Austria.

The conference was part of a conference series titled “Korea and East Asia”. The first conference took place in February 2009, under the topic “Korea and East Asia: Transformation of Socialist Systems”, with a conference volume published in January 2010.

Currently, Dr Swenson-Wright is planning a joint conference on human security and the DPRK with Joel Wit of SAIS, Johns Hopkins University with funding for the conference already partially secured from the Korea Foundation, SAIS and the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Conference will be held at Chatham House, with subsequent follow up presentations in Seoul and Washington, DC.
exchanging information and giving advice to each other on exam techniques and on how to deal with sleepless nights.

The Library also publishes its own online newsletter once a term highlighting major changes and developments (see Library website).

The Faculty owns some very important archive materials. A few years ago these were catalogued and made available online through the Library’s website. Since then, the Faculty’s Archive collection has attracted much interest and we receive many enquiries from all over the world.

We are also involved in modest fund-raising activities. We have set up a link to Amazon on the front page of our website. If you buy books via this link, a percentage of the cost will be donated to the Library by Amazon in the form of gift vouchers. We use this income to purchase additional titles for the Library.

The Library organises several exhibitions a year, amongst which the most popular is the display of the recommended preliminary reading materials for prospective students on the Open Days. Publications of the academic staff of the Faculty can be found on permanent display in the Library.

Festival of Ideas

The aim of the Festival is to present an opportunity for Cambridge’s local community to explore various aspects of the Humanities. It first took place in 2008 and last year it continued to prove a highly successful venture.

The events took place over seven days. Many of the Faculty’s academic staff presented seminars on their fields of expertise. Professor David McMullen gave a talk on China in the First Millennium, Professor Roel Sterckx spoke about the influence of Confucius on Modern China, and Professor Hans van de Ven’s talk explored China during World War II. Dr Mark Morris gave a presentation of East Asian film and Dr Brigitte Steger spoke about Japanese high school students’ sleep patterns.

From the Middle Eastern Department there were contributions by Professor Charles Melville, who spoke about Persian miniature painting and the epic verse The Shahnama – The Book of Kings, Dr Amira Bennison, who described the Islamic world and everyday life during the ‘Abbasid caliphate, and Mrs Rachel Williams, who presented the basics of Modern Hebrew.

All events were very well attended and received many enthusiastic responses. Some travelled from outside of Cambridge to hear these seminars.

There were also contributions by persons from outside of the Faculty and these, too, proved very successful. Mr Davidson MacLaren from the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation presented an exhibition of the gilded prints of the Mamluk & Il-Khanid Masterpieces Collection. The Foundation also invited Mr Ahmad faris Rizq, running for Cambridge’s Festival of Ideas and the second year that the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies participated in it.

The events of the Festival at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies contribute to opening the Faculty up to the community and raising its profile among the public. They are one of the main opportunities to form a unique link between the University’s institutions and the community. The enthusiastic response shows that there is a great need for such a link.

We would like to thank both Departments for their generous financial contribution, which enabled the Faculty to invite presenters external to the Faculty. Our thanks also go to the administrative staff, particularly Ms Mary Howe, for all their hard work and involvement in this venture.

Staff Publications

Peter Kornicki

John Swenson-Wright

Dr Barak Kushner, 2010

Journal Articles
May 2010 ‘Pawns of Empire: Postwar Taiwan, Japan and the Dilemma of War Crimes,’ in Japanese Studies, special issue on Japan and Taiwan.

Dr Brigitte Steger
The seminar series of the Asian Studies Centre continues to run from strength to strength with key talks by a number of distinguished experts in their field. Most seminars run on a Monday and full details of the next series of talks can be found on the events section of the Faculty website. Talks this year have included:

- Rural Law Activism and Citizenship Struggles in Neo-socialist China, Dr Susanne Brandtstädter, University of Oslo
- A Chinese Approach to International Affairs? History, Identity, and the Challenges of Cultural Determinism, Professor Arne Westad, London School of Economics
- ‘On the Tōkawa Riverbank, we turned our Faces towards Amaterasu and Did Worship: The Origins of the Ise Shrines’, Professor Mark Teeuwen, University of Oslo
- The Unfinished War: Armistice Negotiations, the Armistice Agreement, and the Security Crisis on the Korean Peninsula, Professor Park Tae-Gyun, GSIS, Seoul National University
- An Anthropology of the Night Universe: the Case of the Ise Shrines’, Professor Yungsoo Shin, Chung-Ang University; Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge
- The Troubled Spirit of Modern Japan, Professor Kenneth Pyle, University of Washington
- Circulation, Mining and Smuggling - The Transition to a Silver Economy in East Asia based on Korean Sources (918-1550), University of Oslo
- Militizing Justice: Post-Cold War Redress and its Longue Duree, Professor Lisa Yoneyama, University of California, San Diego
- Chinese ethics and the notion of the golden rule, Professor Tiziana Lippiello, Ca’ Foscari University, Venice
- Forced Treaties and Japan’s Annexation of the Great Han Empire (Korea): An Argument for the Illegality of the Annexation, Professor Yi Tae-Jin, Emeritus Professor, Seoul National University
- Time use, gender and social class in the Japanese past, Professor Osamu Saito, Hitotsubashi University; Visiting Leverhulme professor, University of Cambridge
- From Godzilla to Hello Kitty: Sanitising the Uncanny in Post-War Japan, Professor Kato Norihiro, Waseda University
- Historiography and the Remaking of North Korea’s Ideology in the Age of Globalization, Professor Yungsoo Yook, Chung-Ang University; Visiting Professor, University of Leiden
- Rising China and the Chinese Diaspora: Historicity, the State, and Identity, Professor Liu Hong, University of Manchester
- Railway Policy in Japan, Mr Ichiro Shimizu, Embassy of Japan, UK

**Professor Hans van de Ven**

**Dr Lin Pei-Yin**
(forthcoming) “Remaking ‘Taiwan’: Literary Representations of the February 28th Incident by Lin Yaode and Li Qiao,” *Understanding Taiwan: From Colonialism to Democracy* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, Germany).
(forthcoming) “Negotiating ‘modern’: On Popular Fiction from Taiwan in the 1930s with Xu Kunquan and Lin Huijun as Examples”, *Bulletin of the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature*, National Taiwan University.

**Dr Susan Daruvala**
2009 ‘蘇文糧， “僞軍的軍事動員和文化視角” in Yan Ping, ed. 全球化與文學* (Globalization and literature) (Proceedings of the International Conference on Cultural Horizons and Chinese Literature, Qinghua University and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 7-10th August 2000) (Jinan: Shandong jiaoyu chubanshe)

**Dr Adam Chau**
2010 “借故專業戶” ？*中国文化实践中的家庭型宗教服务供给* (Chinese version of “Superstition Specialist Households?: The Household Idiom in Chinese Religious Practices”; in Chinese academic journal *学海* 2010 no.3)
2010 “Mao’s Travelling Mangoes: Food as Relic in Revolutionary China” (as part of a special supplementary issue of the journal Past and Present on relics and remains)

**Dr Mark Morris**

**Professor Roel Serckx**
Chinese Studies Teaching and Research Staff

Dr Adam Yuet Chau
University Lecturer in the Anthropology of Modern China

Dr Li-Kuei Chien
Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellow in Chinese Buddhism

Dr Susan Daruvala
Senior Lecturer in Modern Chinese Literature

Dr Pei-Yin Lin
Lecturer in Taiwanese Studies

Dr Joe McDermott
University Lecturer in Social and Economic History of China

Professor David McMullen
Professor Emeritus of Chinese

Professor Roel Sterckx
Professor of Chinese

Professor Hans van de Ven
Professor of Modern Chinese History

Ms Emma Wu
Language Teaching Officer in Chinese

Dr Boping Yuan
Senior Lecturer in Chinese Language and Linguistics

Affiliated Staff

Professor Christopher Cullen
Director, Needham Research Institute
Honorary Professor, History of East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine

Dr James Lin
Assistant Keeper of Applied Arts, Fitzwilliam Museum
Lecturer in Chinese Art History

Dr Mark Strange
Drapers’ Company Research Fellow, Pembroke College

Librarians

Mr Charles Aylmer
Head of Chinese Department, Cambridge University Library

Mr John Moffett
Librarian, Needham Research Institute

Japanese Studies Teaching and Research Staff

Mrs Toshimi Boulding
Lector in Japanese

Professor Richard Bowring
Chair of Japanese Studies

Dr Clinton Godart
Research and Teaching Associate in Japanese Science and Technology

Professor Peter Kornicki
Professor of East Asian Studies

Dr Barak Kushner
Lecturer in Modern Japanese History

Mrs Haruko Laurie
Senior Language Teaching Officer in Japanese

Dr Mark Morris
Lecturer in Japanese Cultural History

Staff News

Mrs Carol Pleasance

While at secondary school, I went ballroom dancing with Dad and watched him playing in a dance band.

At the age of 15, I joined a small group called ‘The Colts’, 3 guitars and drummer, and sang with them in clubs and at parties. I left school and went to work as a civil servant at M.P.N.I. in Newcastle and started singing with a 22-piece dance band called ‘The Mark Maddison Band’ at the age of 17 and did quite a few appearances.

After that, I joined the Navy and went to Scotland to work with helicopters. This was a 9-to-5 job with a uniform.

I married for the first time in 1967 and had my first girl, Julie, in Newcastle in 1968 and the second one, Sam, in Gibraltar in 1972 as my husband was in Army. We then went to Northern Ireland with the Army straight from Gibraltar. Met up with two other ‘squaddies’ there who played guitar as well, so I joined up with them and we played and sang folk music in the NAFFIS or MESSES on camps.

First marriage ended in 1977 and I then met my new husband and married him in 1979. I have been very happily married to Peter for over 30 years. Between us we have four children and ten grandchildren...at the moment...

We enjoy going away in our caravan. We also do a lot of fishing. We are members of the Histon and Impington British Legion Club and we play on two Cribbage teams there.

I came to work here 13 years ago as Secretary to the Chairman of the Faculty. Professor Robert Gordon was Chairman then.

I have enjoyed my time here and the students have been wonderful. Two Japanese students called me Nana for about two years because I said I had bigger grandchildren than they were. I used to joke with the students and say that I had taken over where their mums left off when they came here and that if they were very, very good they would get a sweetie out of my tin, but if they were not, they would get their ears boxed!! It has always worked!”
The Faculty

In March 2007, the former Faculty of Oriental Studies was renamed the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (FAMES) to better reflect its geographical scope and teaching and research focuses, and two new Departments were established. The Department of East Asian Studies encompasses Chinese, Japanese and Korean Studies. Hebrew and Aramaic, Arabic and Persian Studies now constitute the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. Sanskrit and South Asian Studies are currently offered at graduate level only and the study of the Ancient Near East has been reassigned to the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Faculty building has been refurbished and we now have a much more welcoming reception area and state-of-the-art lecture rooms. We organise many events throughout the year and we would be delighted to welcome you back.

All events are publicised on the ‘News and Events’ pages of the website at:

www.ames.cam.ac.uk/news_events/

Stay in touch

We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of the newsletter. We plan to produce issues regularly to keep our friends and members up-to-date with our activities so if you have any suggestions or contributions for future issues do get in touch.

Contact us at:

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Sidgwick Avenue
Cambridge
CB3 9DA
Tel: +44 (0)1223 335106
Fax: + 44 (0)1223 335110
Email: enquiries@ames.cam.ac.uk

www.ames.cam.ac.uk

Media Links

If you are a journalist seeking an expert on topics related to the teaching and research areas of the Department you may find the Guide to Expertise a useful resource.

Managed by the University’s Office of Communications, the Guide is an online directory of experts willing to be contacted by the media and includes many of the Faculty’s staff. The database can be searched by keyword or context to help find an academic with the necessary expertise. For further details visit www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/ and click on the ‘Find an expert’ link. Do contact the Department and let us know which projects, programmes or publications you are working on too. Send an email to enquiries@ames.cam.ac.uk.