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# US-CHINA REVIEW

Summer 2011

Vol. XXXV, No.3



**Did the Chinese discover America before Columbus?**

**This explosive question is taking the world by storm. We invite you to read the articles in this issue—then decide!**

## Letter from the President



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## **A MAP OF CHINA'S HISTORY...AND OURS?**

Summer 2011

Dear Friends of China:

It is summer here in Indiana and it is turning into a dry hot summer. We, like many of you, suffered a lot of rain this spring but with several days well into the 90s, we are in line for a long hot summer. Something that I have to look forward to is a fun USCPFPA National Convention that will take place in Kansas City, MO this fall. The schedule looks to be terrific, the after-Convention tours sound great, and in fact, I will be going out a day early to see some of the sights. You will find the registration form here in the *USCR* and on the web at [www.uscpcfpa.org](http://www.uscpcfpa.org) right on the front page. Southwest has a nonstop for me from Indy so book your travel and I hope to see you in Kansas City September 16-19!

I think you are going to find that our summer issue of the *USCR* is very informative, fun to read, and full of surprises. The more I read about China's ancient history, the more it becomes interesting, and Jane Lael has come up with an issue that brings the connection between our world and that culture together even more. A new way of looking at information gathered by everything from ancient maps and manuscripts to DNA sampling and studies. What is even better is that it is also the beginning of something you can use in your chapters and regions; a whole new learning experience of the history of the connections between our two countries and cultures. Sounds like great reading and I can't wait to read it when this issue hits my mailbox.

This fall will be a busy time for all of us. Besides the National Convention in Kansas City, September 16-19, USCPFPA has an educator's tour group going to China in October, and at the first board meeting of the new USCPFPA National board, we will be discussing the work that will be needed for the next Washington Seminar on China to be held April of 2012. We will have a lot of opportunities for you to participate with USCPFPA, learn some wonderful new things, and see some incredible sights.

Our *US-China Review* is our main publication so help us by sharing it with people wanting to learn about China and what we have to offer. If you need another copy, extras are sent to each chapter and regional leaders for just that reason. Just contact your nearest chapter or you can download an issue from the USCPFPA website at [www.uscpcfpa.org](http://www.uscpcfpa.org). Go to the *USCR* page, and you can download the issue that reports on our last national convention.

As always, in friendship,

Robert C. Sanborn, Jr.  
President, USCPFPA

## **Washington Seminar**

**April 26-27, 2012**

**Washington Plaza Hotel**

**Washington D.C.**

**Look in upcoming issues for more information!**



# US-CHINA REVIEW

Summer 2011

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**About the cover:** Map #5 from the Dr. Hendon M. Harris, Jr. Map Collection in *Secret Maps of the Ancient World* by Charlotte Harris Rees. Hendon Harris knew what he was seeing. Did you? If not, you've just had firsthand experience of how difficult it is to decode ancient documents. For a full-color higher resolution map—plus an explanatory interpretation map by David Allen Deal—go to Charlotte Harris Rees' website, [www.asiaticfathers.com](http://www.asiaticfathers.com), specifically [www.asiaticfathers.com/map.htm](http://www.asiaticfathers.com/map.htm).

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# Was Columbus Last?

By Jane Lael

Inspiration for this special edition USCR began last year when Duane Finger of the Sarasota chapter sent an email—forwarded to him from Dr. Ed Lin, via Dr. Munsup Seoh, and originally from Dr. S. L. Lee, plus a follow-up email of relevant maps sent by member Irene Leung—concerning Chinese pre-Columbian contacts with the Americas.

In the email was a July 5, 2010, article from Melaka: *Matteo Ricci's 1602 world map reveals Chinese survey world before Columbus*, stating that, "After examining more than 300 maps published from the 14th century to the 19th, Dr. Lee presents solid evidence, including in Ricci's own words, that Ricci's 1602 world map is in fact mostly based on Chinese information and maps drawn 160 years before Ricci's time and 70 years before Columbus's first voyage to America."

I contacted Dr. Lee (asiawind.com), who graciously agreed to write an article for the USCR. Then I began looking around on the Internet, seeking permission to print maps and articles and hopping from site to site educating myself. What I found was fascinating! On Gavin Menzies' amazing website (gavinmenzies.com) I encountered a book titled *The Asiatic Fathers of America*, and a link to the site of Charlotte Harris Rees (asiaticfathers.com), whose father wrote the book, and who has carried on his research, abridging *The Asiatic Fathers of America* and writing her own book, *Secret Maps of the Ancient World*. She has a new book in the works, and speaks nationally and internationally on this hot topic.

Charlotte Harris Rees and I simply clicked, and through her loving guidance and support, this special issue was born. Our joint intent is to educate and inform via articles from major movers in this international paradigm-shifting research project. In addition to her grounding overview, articles by Dr. Covey, Dr. Kent Deng, Dr. John Ruskamp, and Chao Chien grace this issue solely as a result of her



contacts. Thank you Charlotte!

Please note the global effort to surface the truth, and the crucial role of the Internet, visible especially on Gavin Menzies' website. Critical information is in different hands, caves, graves, continents, countries, languages, oceans, museums, private collections, and governments, and only God knows what documents the Vatican is sitting on. It's a seriously challenging project! And without further ado, I will let the authors speak for themselves, as space is of the essence.

As this journal is an intense read, you are cordially invited to transport yourself to Beijing Postcards on Nanluogu Xiang in Beijing. Steep yourself in photos of old China, examine the old maps, listen to laughter and Mandarin and bump shoulders with those transfixed on a specific image. Then take this copy of the USCR to one of the cafés on either side, and order your favorite beverage and something to eat, as you may need the sustenance. Let the new information flow in, and savor this rich and spicy global discussion.

Beijing Postcards came about one day when two Danes, Lars Ulrik Thom and Simon Gjerøe, sat down and studied the many old photos Simon had collected in China through five years of searching. They decided to make black and white postcards, each with an interesting story on the back. In 2006, they printed 37,000 postcards, have since produced more, and now have about 150 images of old Beijing, Shanghai, China, old portraits, architecture, and the like.

"I got interested in China as a child of 11," said Simon, "when our school got a new girl in class who'd lived in China, and at the same time I discovered we'd inherited from our grandparents a whole set of China—plates, cups, and a teapot—that had been hidden away in our basement. It was like a treasure hunt for me. Ever since, I've been collecting Chinese antiques, including old photos.

"I have an MA in Chinese and East Asian Studies from universities in Denmark and Chengdu, and have lived in China since 1995. Lars studied Chinese in Denmark and in Kunming, Yunnan, and has lived in China for about ten years. We jointly published a guidebook on Beijing for the Scandinavian market. We both are authors of articles and books."

Beijing Postcards opened in late 2008, and there's a website at [www.bjpostcards.com/](http://www.bjpostcards.com/). One can subscribe to their newsletter at no charge.

"At first," says Simon, "most of our customers were foreigners. Now they are mostly Chinese, overall about 60/40. We have been lucky to strike a time when the Chinese have started to look into their own history. In the past couple of years, local history has become very popular."

Lars and Simon also collect and sell old maps of China. Most of their prints, photographs, and maps were found abroad as most were originally taken, drawn, or published by foreigners. They hold many talks about Beijing and Chinese history using their old photos, and also do talks on map history in China, as you may do too by the end of these articles. 友

## **Everything Under Heaven**

*In August of 1972 I found it necessary to pass through Seoul, Korea. Rising in the morning, I thought I would use my time by visiting antique shops. In a swift reconnaissance mission, I swept through about 25 establishments and was about to return to my hotel...when I entered one last place. I asked the proprietor if he had any books or pictures. He replied: "Would you be interested in a book of old maps?"*

*When I opened the book, I noticed it contained many ancient cartographic sketches. There was also a very strange-looking map of Japan that must have been made at an extraordinarily early date. And then...I opened the last map...and had to control myself to keep from trembling. It was very old and unusual. "Everything under Heaven" was the title. It was terribly odd. China and Korea took up the center of the world. North of Japan, Asia arched round to Alaska. Down the North American coast it was marked "Fu Sang."*

*I became weak. I was forced to sit down...*

## **Foreword**

*We have proof that the Chinese discovered and colonized America thousands of years before the Europeans' arrival.*

*Approximately 4,200 years ago after a great flood, the Chinese had lost their sense of direction. Therefore, the Emperor found it necessary to send his astronomer Yu to survey the earth, and reestablish the four directions. Yu sent Prince Y across the great eastern ocean, to the land of Fu Sang—literally "land to the east" (the ancient American continents). Prince Y and Yu determined the boundaries of America and other places and afterwards wrote the Shan Hai Jing.*

*The Shan Hai Jing (Book of Mountains and Seas) is the world's oldest geography. It tells us of many countries in the ancient Americas. There are reports that Emperor Hwang Ti (2640 BC) probably had sent expeditions or colonies to America. However, we can be certain that Chinese were in the Americas by around 2250 BC.*

*I have found a map that confirms the 4,200 year old account of the Shan Hai Jing. In fact, there are at least thirty similar old round maps in existence, which vindicate and corroborate the report of the Shan Hai Jing. These world maps, of ancient origin, are in America, England, France, China, Korea, Japan, and in other countries. The Shan Hai Jing told of at least ten countries in America, which are found on my map—the Harris Fu Sang map—and on the maps of similar origin that came from the original Shan Hai Jing map.*

*Proofs that "America" is Fu Sang and the fathers of the Fu Sang people are Chinese are these:*

- 1. The Record of the Shan Hai Jing—which describes the people, geography, and the animals.*
- 2. The Record of the ancient Chinese commentaries on the Shan Hai Jing. The dates of these commentaries validate the age of the Shan Hai Jing.*
- 3. The witness of the American Indians and their traditions and language.*
- 4. The record of those scientists who have studied the blood and physical characteristics of the Chinese "Indian" tribes of North and South America.*
- 5. The ancient round world maps that were previously misunderstood but which we now explain.*
- 7. The Chinese Court Record (Kuen 327) in 501 AD telling of a trip originating in 458 AD to Fu Sang.*

*The means that the Chinese arrived in the Americas both in 2200 BC and 458 AD was by boat. It is the purpose of this book to give sufficient proof of the realities of these amazing matters. The final result of these revolutionary discoveries will be the greater glory of China, East India, Japan, and Korea and a new respect for and the appreciation of the Indians of North, Central, and South America.*

*The material of this book is the result of a lifetime of effort. I have been around the world ten times. In India I sought information and in Pakistan and Bangladesh. In Hong Kong and Taiwan I looked for maps and proofs. I went to the British museum and traveled to Berlin to question the Germans.*

*From the time I was a boy in China until now, I have collected information. In Holland, in Sumatra, in Macao, in Mexico I was searching...searching...searching. At Long Beach, California, and in Seoul, Korea, I received the greatest answers to my quest.*

*I am writing these lines in Taipei at the house of a Chinese friend. I am no longer young, and old age does not any more seem a far-away time. I am grateful to those who loved and aided me, and to the great God of the heavens, without whose guidance all efforts would have been in vain.*

*It is my desire that as you consider the lovely long ago morning of Fu Sang, your soul be stirred with a new appreciation of the beauty of life and the innate possibilities of men...that you will hear the music of Man's aspirations, deep in your spirit...and catch a glimpse of the excellent countenance of God.*

*I hope you will have a more sympathetic awareness of men of other persuasions and be drawn to the True Historian who works all things after His will.*

**Hendon M. Harris, 1973—excerpt from *The Asiatic Fathers of America***

# The Truth Endures

By Charlotte Harris Rees,  
author, *Secret Maps of the Ancient World*

My father, Dr. Hendon M. Harris, Jr., and I are but two in a series of people who have argued that Chinese arrived to the Americas by sea before Columbus. In fact, thousands of books and articles have been written on different aspects of this subject, and it's been debated since the 1700s.

In some of these texts the contribution is just a few sentences, such as in *Molecular Photofitting*, in which Dr. Tony Frudakis contends that unexplainably there is DNA considered Native American in Central Asia—in large enough quantity to show up in a pie graph. Since Native American DNA is derived from Asia—yet different—Dr. Frudakis thought that perhaps this implied a reverse migration after a period of years in the new world. Considering the ocean currents and Chinese writing about going back and forth, this is entirely possible.

Or perhaps the few sentences would be from *Behind the Scenes in Hopi Land* by M. W. Billingsley who wrote: “the interpreter would reveal the history of the Hopi people which began in a far away country across the great waters, where their villages and country was surrounded with great walls on the tops of which great cows drawing wagons passed back and forth. The interpreter continued the descriptions of their migrations down to the present locations.” As I read that, my mind went back to the city walls of X'ian, on top of which my friends and I rode bikes in the summer of 2006. The ancient city walls in China are as wide as many streets. Perhaps each author's contribution alone is small, but together they form a tsunami of evidence.

I have been told that my father was the first in recent years to realize the significance of the round style of world map (pictured on the cover). In 1973, in an era when major U.S. universities scoffed at those who believed something other than that

Native Americans originated and developed on this continent with no outside intervention, my father, Dr. Hendon M. Harris, Jr. wrote *The Asiatic Fathers of America*, citing his maps and much other academic evidence suggesting that Chinese arrived by sea to the Americas starting around 2000 BC.

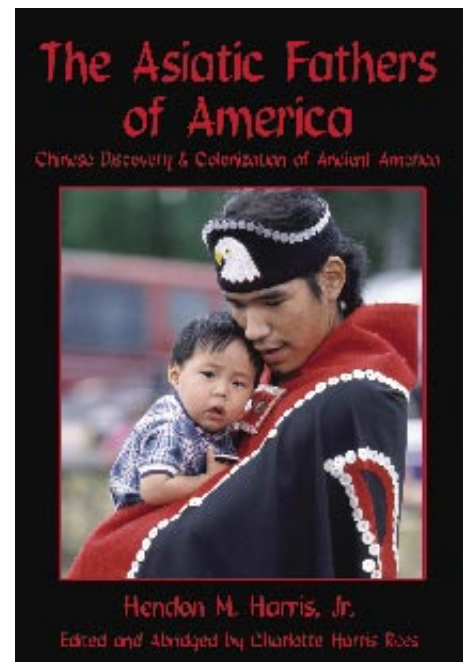
Another unique contribution was that his book brought to light the many Chinese literary references to Fu Sang that show up on the map on the American coastline. Several early Chinese writers mentioned the huge trees (giant redwoods?) they found in Fu Sang. One from the third century BC stated that Fu Sang was 10,000 li (3,300 miles) wide (almost the exact width of North America), then one came to another expansive blue ocean.

For many years I was a skeptic about my father's book. In early 2003, I read Gavin Menzies' book *1421: The Year China Discovered America*. That book caused me to question whether my father could have been right. I sent Gavin an email congratulating him on his book and telling him about my family's maps and my father's research.

Meanwhile, my brother and I took our maps to the Library of Congress where they stayed for three years while they were studied. Though the map division treated me kindly, no one noticed my comings and goings until late 2004 when Gavin (whom they recognized as a *NY Times* best-selling author) came to see the maps. I had to limit the number of people who could be there while Gavin was viewing them, then had to briefly explain what Gavin had come to see and what I thought it meant.

On that occasion I had a brief private audience with Gavin in which he warned me of the many difficulties ahead and encouraged me to think big. He told me then that he thought there was not one chance in 100 million that my father was wrong. That was also when I got to know Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, Chief of the Asian Division of the Library, who has since endorsed my books and opened many doors for me.

When Gavin was asked to speak at the Library of Congress in May 2005, he agreed to do so if they would let me and a handful of others also



Raymond and Darius Williams in this photo are Tlingit American Indians from Alaska.

speak. A Caucasian professor from Singapore tried to have Gavin and all of us even loosely associated with him expelled from that symposium. Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee replied, “This is America. We have freedom of speech here. We will let them speak.”

The Library brought in extra security for that event. Because Gavin has a higher profile than I do, he has gone through a lot more opposition than I have and has experienced malicious attacks around the world. When I was scheduled to speak at Stanford University, the man and his group who attempted to cause problems at the Library of Congress wrote two letters to the president of Stanford doing his best to stop me. Stanford let me speak.

I also consider Dr. S. L. Lee, Dr. Kent Deng, Chao Chien, and Dr. John Ruskamp, who contributed articles to this issue, as friends. In July 2010 the first three men and I all spoke at the Zheng He Symposium in Melaka, Malaysia, then later at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China's Harvard. At one point, my luggage was lost and S.L.'s wife Theresa loaned me the silk jacket off her back so I did not have to lecture in the T-shirt I'd been traveling in. Both Kent and Chao allowed me to quote them in my book. In 2008, Chao proofread the Chinese in my manuscript. In

2009 Kent booked a lecture for me at the University of London. While we are all independent warriors, we are inspired to assist each other as we are able.

Though at first skeptical about my father's research, my first contribution to this study was to honestly examine his book, *The Asiatic Fathers of America*, and then to bring it out in an abridged (800 pages down to 150) version in 2006. My second contribution was in 2008—my own book, *Secret Maps of the Ancient World*, which springboards from my father's and includes much new evidence. No book other than *Secret Maps of the Ancient World* explores this subject back to the dawn of Chinese history, 2000 BC, while bringing hundreds of academic sources together and explaining them in layman's language. For those who want to study this subject further, read *Secret Maps of the Ancient World* as an overview, then read through the books and articles in its bibliography.

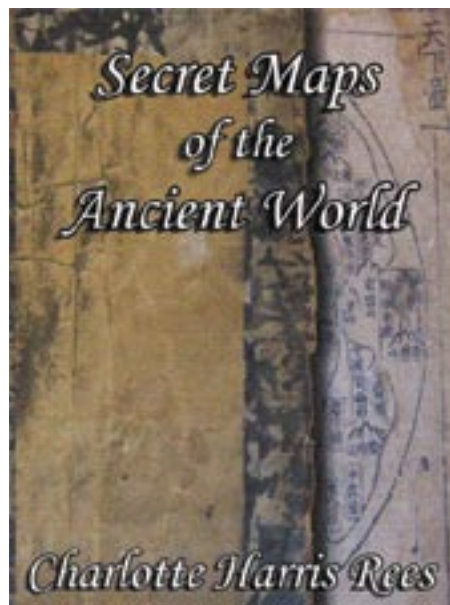
The senior statesman on the topic of the early arrival of Chinese to the Americas is Dr. Cyclone Covey (PhD Stanford '49). Since 1953 he has researched and written books on this subject. He and my father were contemporaries but never met. However, Dr. Covey mentioned my father's work in four of his own texts. When I started my own research, I tracked Dr. Covey down and asked difficult but honest questions: "It has been 30 years since my father wrote his book. Has all of this been disproved since?"

Dr. Covey assured me that my father had been right and that in the intervening years much more evidence had come to light. Then he offered to assist were I to continue my father's research. I never could have survived this complicated study without Dr. Covey's guidance and encouragement, which continues to this day. Initially almost everything about this subject was foreign to me, but he has been endlessly patient. He has been my Professor Higgins and I his Eliza Doolittle. At age 89, Dr. Covey graciously and with enthusiasm joined those writing articles for this issue.

Since before the United States was even a nation, in Europe scholars were arguing that Chinese reached

the Americas before Columbus. However, century after century they were shouted down. In his 1885 text, *An Inglorious Columbus*, Edward Vining wrote of Philippe Buache, who in Paris in 1753 published a paper stating that in 458 AD, Chinese established a colony on the coast of California. Buache scooped the research of M. de Guignes who in 1761 published, based on a Chinese text, "Investigation of the Navigations of the Chinese to the Coast of America and Some Tribes Situated at the Eastern Extremity of Asia." Perhaps de Guignes had been slow to present his own findings because he knew what had happened to Galileo only a century earlier when he went against conventional wisdom. At that time and in the centuries following, scholars have arisen with more and more evidence for early Chinese arrival to the Americas—then have been shouted down. As Kermit the Frog said: "It's not easy being green."

Vining's great work is now available as a reprint. His book and de Guignes' research inspired Henriette Mertz in 1953 to write the classic, *Pale Ink*, later published under the title *Gods From the Far East*. Using the verbal descriptions from the Chinese *Shan Hai Jing* and a topographical map, she traced the 2000 BC routes onto maps of the United States, saying that they fit nowhere else on earth. I have been to locations they identify. Too much matches up for it not to be real. The works of Vining and Mertz inspired both my father



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and Dr. Covey, who lectured widely and wrote *A Critical Reprise of "Aboriginal" American History*. I am aware of several books on different aspects of this topic currently in the pipeline to be published.

My father wrote that it used to be taught in American schools that Chinese had an early presence in the Americas. Though Dr. Covey confirmed this, I had to see it for myself, so I searched antique shops. In *Teachers' and Pupils' Cyclopaedia, Chicago, 1904*, it says, concerning

Native Americans, which that text describes as "Indians": "Some ethnologists think they descended from the Mongolian race, while others regard them as a mixture of the Polynesian and Caucasian with the Mongolian. From the tradition of their tribes it is learned that they emigrated from some region, but knew not from whence."

I found that by about 1910, the US history texts suddenly declared that the Indians originated only in the Americas. Of course, DNA now

proves the Asian connection. A DNA study in 2010 showed that famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, whose parents were the first generation to leave China, is genetically related to Eva Longoria of *Desperate Housewives*, who has Native American roots.

My father, Dr. Hendon Harris, Jr., said: "The record of Asia is written into the stones of America and into the bodies of its early people." Contact Charlotte Harris Rees at [Asiaticfathers.com](http://Asiaticfathers.com).

友



Bob Meistrell, founder of BodyGlove (wet suits) in Sept. 2010 said he has found about 30 of these when diving off the California coast. Stone cannot be carbon dated. But he was told that judging from the manganese accumulation on them it was estimated that they'd been on the seabed for 3,000 to 4,000 years. The one on the left broke in half as it was hoisted up. Bob said the whole anchor would have weighed a ton. This is the style used by ancient Chinese. Native Americans would not have used such anchors. Bob would like someone knowledgeable to analyze the stone to find where it originated. Photo by Dave Rees during visit by he and his wife Charlotte Rees.

**Charlotte Harris Rees will be a keynote speaker at the Washington Seminar, April 26-27, Washington, D.C. Be there!**



# Introduction to the *Shan Hai Jing* and Harris Fu Sang World Map

By Cyclone Covey, PhD

The legendary Chinese hero Yü was vice-regent to King Yao (Post-Neolithic, incipient-Bronze) when he sent out explorer teams to the ends of the earth commanded by Captains Ta-jang (who paced east) and Shi-hu (who paced west) with bundles of counting sticks (measuring the earth). In old age, Yü received his also-aged explorers back and compiled their expedition reports into what became the *Shan Hai Jing* (*Mountain Seas Classic*), an anthology of travelogues, which Chinese and European scholars unaccountably did not see as such, calling it variously a geography, an encyclopedia, or a fantastic fable.

At one point, the volumes of the *Shan Hai Jing* were reduced by half to 32 books, the first five of which give distances in li, a Chinese land measure that is approximately one-third of a mile. Chinese savants tried assiduously and unsuccessfully to trace the journeys within China.

A feisty Chicago patent lawyer, Henriette Mertz, astutely traced the four, long beeline journeys of far east Book IV *Shan Hai Jing* in western North America, ascertaining they fit nowhere else on the globe. She used the 1885 Vining translation of the *Shan Hai Jing*, as did Hendon Harris, although Harris could actually read the archaic, cryptic Chinese. She omitted and misapprehended the baffling desert Book XIII, which turns out keyed to the second journey—the coastal descent—of Book IV, the river half of the two teams, thus retaining li measurements for an appalling stretch, perhaps to Tierra del Fuego. [Dr. Covey was the first to realize that there were two teams measuring different features of the same terrain, one documenting mountains, the other rivers. —Ed.]

The Rev. Dr. Hendon Mason Harris acquired his Fu Sang World Map in a Seoul bookshop in 1972. Immediately



Dr. Cyclone  
Covey, PhD

grasping its implications, he wrote and published his astounding, seminal double-volume *The Asiatic Fathers of America* in 1973 in Taipei, Taiwan. He epically discerned numerous *Shan Hai Jing* toponyms on his map, including Fu Sang, Kingdom of Women, Refined Gentlemen Country, Smoke-Blackened People, Inscribed Bodies Country, Island of Little People, Land of Giants, Summerland, and Great Luminous Canyon of the Bottomless Ravine, the Grand Canyon, a favorite ancient Chinese tourist destination featured notably in *Shan Hai Jing* books IX and XIV.

The enterprising Afghan Buddhist monk Hui Shan and his companions from Kabul revisited most of these places in the 5th century AD. A Southern Liang Courtier, Yü-gie, interrogated Hui as ambassador of Fu Sang and gave a momentous banquet speech quoting Hui's descriptions. Yü-gie's speech was a big success, rousing hilarious laughter from his elite audience.

The Late Zhou Bamboo Books allot 471 years to Xia (the dynasty started by Yü)—not quite matching China's traditional 2800 to 1766 BC dating. When Sima Qian's list of 30 Shang kings were found engraved on Shang oracle bones, this verification considerably increased respect for China's traditional chronology. Chinese archaeologists defined Xia culture between Longshanoid and Shang strata at Erlitou Village (Yan-shi, Henan Province) and uncovered 99 more Erlitou sites. The c. 1028 BC fall of the Shang flushed refugees by tens of thousands to Mexico with their high Shang civilization we know as Olmec.

Surprisingly, Confucius did not mention the *Shan Hai Jing*, perhaps because he felt it had no moral wisdom,

a failure that may have saved it from the 313 BC Qin book burnings.

Harris, among much else of significance in his great tome, inferred that Hopi and Pueblo Indians were Chinese, which travel today through Colorado and Arizona confirms. 友

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*Dr. Cyclone Covey, PhD Stanford 1949, is a distinguished historian, the author of several books, and Professor Emeritus in History at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.*



## 3,000-year-old Chinese Coins in Canadian Creek

On a website titled *China Expat*, in an article with attitude titled "Before America, Fu Sang," the author speaks of the difficulty of getting the new information believed, then quotes an 1882 Canadian newspaper article:

"A few weeks ago a party of miners, who were running adrift in the bank on one of the creeks in the mining district of Cassiart made a remarkable find. At a depth of several feet the shovel of one of the party raised about thirty of the brass coins that were the type used for currency in China for many centuries. They were strung on what appeared to be an iron wire. This wire went to dust a few minutes after being exposed to air, but the coins appeared as bright and new as when they left the Celestial mint. They have been brought to Victoria [BC] and submitted to the inspection of intelligent Chinamen, who unite in pronouncing them to be upward of three thousand years old. They bear a date about twelve hundred years anterior to the birth of Christ."

<http://www.chinaexpat.com/2010/06/24/before-america-fu-sang.html/>

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**Xia Dynasty:**

22-17th c. BC 1  
2070-1600 BC 2  
2207-1766 BC 3

**Shang Dynasty:**

17 c.-1122 BC 1  
1600-1046 BC 2  
1765-1122 BC 3

**Western Zhou:**

1134 - 771 BC 1  
1046 - 771 BC 2  
1121 - 771 BC 3

**Eastern Zhou:**

770-256 BC  
770-249 BC 3

**Spring & Autumn:**

722-481 BC  
770-476 BC 3

**Warring States:**

403-221 BC  
476-221 BC 3

**Qin Statelet:**

900s?-221 BC

**Qin Dynasty:**

221-206 BC  
248-207 BC 3

**Western Han:**

206 BC-23 AD

**Xin (New):** 9-23 AD

**Western Han:** 23-25 AD

**Eastern Han:** 25-220

**Three Kingdoms:**

Wei 220-265  
Shu 221-263  
Wu 222-280

**Western Jin:** 265-316

**Eastern Jin:** 317-420

**16 Nations:** 304-420

**Cheng Han:** Di 301-347

**Hun Han (Zhao):**

Hun 304-329 ss

**Anterior Liang:**

Chinese 317-376

**Posterior Zhao:**

Jiehu 319-352 ss

**Anterior Qin:**

Di 351-394 ss

**Anterior Yan:**

Xianbei 337-370

**Posterior Yan:**

Xianbei 384-409

**Posterior Qin:**

Qiang 384-417 ss

**Western Qin ss:**

Xianbei 385-431

**Posterior Liang:**

Di 386-403

**Southern Liang:**

Xianbei 397-414

# Prof Wei Chu-hsien and China and America

By Ah Xiang

Prof Wei Chu-hsien, a student of Wang Guo-wei, Liang Qi-chao, Chen Yin-ko, and Li Chi at 1926's Tsing-Hwa [Tsinghua] University of Beijing, published a book called *China and America, Volume One*, in March of 1982. As Wei Chu-hsien noted, he had been tormented by the fact that it was difficult to find translators who knew and understood ancient classics well enough to translate his book into English.

In this book, Prof Wei Chu-hsien (Juxian Wei) stated that he, first coming across in 1961 a Confucius passage on six birds that flew backward as recorded in *Spring and Autumn Annals*, had linked the *yi* bird to America's hummingbirds. For the next ten years, he began to compile 81 essays, totaling 1.4 million characters, on ancient China's contacts with America.

Wei Chu-hsien met Prof Lau Tun-li of SUNY in 1970 and began to exchange opinions as to American Indian heritage, such as praying for rain, ancestral stone worshipping, and Chinese inscriptions found in America. In 1969, a HK publishing house first published a table of contents of the book, *The Chinese Discovered America!* Wei Chu-hsien stated that he had to use the subscription fees from some donators for sustaining his impoverished "filling lines with characters" career.

I picked up Prof Wei's book again and found out that he had listed abundant written texts, from ancient Chinese chronicles, about the existence of a "Deep Sea Valley" beyond Japan, "Feather Mountain" island in possibly the Pacific Northeast, "Brown Bear" stories, and the Redwood trees.

Prof Wei had citations of dozens of entries about the Redwood tree, known to Chinese as the "Fu-sang" in Chinese texts prior to BC eras. Apparently, ancient Chinese in AD eras, i.e., Monk Hui-shen of the 5th century, had mutated the ancient term "Fu-sang" to mean something different.

Prof Wei validated that, though America had no iron, ancient Peruvians had imported iron from ancient China for cutting the stones for palace construction. Also, he validated ancient Chinese texts [prior to BC eras] as to the abundance of silver and gold in ancient America, and that the American natives did not treasure the metals, as recorded in *Liang Shu*.

*Liang Shu, The Book of Liang*, completed in 635, contains the history of the Liang dynasty, and various descriptions of countries to the east of China. One of its best-known passages is this description by the monk Hui Shen (慧深) of the country of Fusang, 20,000 li east of China.

*The Book of Liang* is part of the *Twenty-Four Histories*, 二十四史, canon of Chinese history, a collection of Chinese historical books covering a period of protohistory and history from 3000 BC to the Ming Dynasty. The set of 3,213 volumes and its approximate 40 million words is often considered an authoritative source of traditional Chinese history and culture, and is used for research on literature, art, music, science, military affairs, geography, ethnography, and many other fields [Its text is available from National Sun Yat-sen University].

Typically, after collecting credible sources, these canonical history records were produced in the next dynasty by officially organized editing, revising, and collating. Every factual error left in the published records was officially considered a failure by the responsible officer. Therefore, compared to "personally made history" (稗史), these records are considered "credible history" (信史) by most professional history researchers.

Go to [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) and enter *China and America*, Wei Chu-hsien, for full list of his works in English and Chinese, and one titled *The Discovery of Chinese Inscriptions in America*.—Ed.

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To follow the author's work-in-progress transcription of Professor Wei Chu-hsien's work and for full text and photos, please visit the website where this article and the Table of Dynasties was derived, with permission, at [http://www.imperialchina.org/Ancient\\_America.shtml](http://www.imperialchina.org/Ancient_America.shtml).

**Northern Liang:**

Hun 397-439

**Southern Yan:**

Xianbei 398-410

**Western Liang:**

Chinese 400-421

**HunicXia:** Hun 407-431 ss

**Northern Yan:**

Chinese 409-436

**North Dynasties:** 386-581

**Northern Wei:** 386-534

**Eastern Wei:** 534-550

**Western Wei:** 535-557

**Northern Qi:** 550-577

**Northern Zhou:** 557-581

**South Dynasties:** 420-589

**Liu Song:** 420-479

**Southern Qi:** 479-502

**Liang:** 502-557

**Chen:** 557-589

**Sui Dynasty:** 581-618

**Tang Dynasty:** 618-690

**Wu Zhou:** 690-705

**Tang Dynasty:** 705-907

**Five Dynasties:** 907-960

**Posterior Liang:** 907-923

**Posterior Tang:** 923-936

**Posterior Jin:** 936-946

**Posterior Han:** 947-950

**Posterior Zhou:** 951-960

**10 Kingdoms:** 902-979

**Wu:** 902-937 Nanking

**Shu:** 907-925 Sichuan

**Nan-Ping:** 907-963 Hubei

**Wu-Yue:** 907-978 Zhejiang

**Min:** 907-946 Fukien

**Southern Han:**

907-971 Canton

**Chu:** 927-956 Human

**Later Shu:**

934-965 Sichuan

**Southern Tang:**

937-975 Nanking

**Northern Han:**

951-979 Shanxi

**Khitan Liao:** 907-1125

**Northern Song:** 960-1127

**Southern Song:** 1127-1279

**Western Xia:** 1032-1227

**Jurchen Jin (Gold):**

1115-1234

**Mongol Yuan:** 1279-1368

**Ming Dynasty:** 1368-1644

**Manchu Qing:** 1644-1912

**R.O.C.:** 1912-1949

**R.O.C. Taiwan:**

1949-present

**P.R.C.:** 1949-present

# Asiatic Echoes: The Identification of Chinese Pictograms in North American Native Rock Writing

By John A. Ruskamp, Jr., EdD

Scattered across North America are numerous ancient and complex rock carvings that are highly similar, even identical, to ancient styles of Chinese script. Could these images, believed to have been created by Native Americans, embody the long sought after historical evidence that the Chinese were in the Americas in pre-Columbian times?

During the past several decades, various assertions for an early Chinese influence in North America have been put forth, substantiated, in part, by ancient Chinese maps, relics, and texts. However, lacking an independent and equally old North American written record, convincing proof for these trans-Pacific interchanges has remained elusive. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the Native people of North America utilized any form of formal writing system, so finding a detailed record of such an interchange has been considered unlikely, if not impossible.

However, Dr. John Ruskamp has recently revealed remarkable evidence that shortly after the time of the Han Dynasty, the Native people of North America incorporated small seal forms of Chinese script into their rock depictions. In a soon to be published book titled: *Asiatic Echoes—The Identification of Ancient Chinese Pictograms in North American Native Rock Writing*, he presents his long awaited findings, demonstrating that certain native glyphs are indeed Chinese characters.

Borrowing from the legal community, Ruskamp uniquely applies the concept of artistic “substantial similarity” as an evaluative tool to quantitatively compare the individual line strokes of early Chinese pictograms with those used to draw equally old Native American glyphs. He concludes that overwhelming

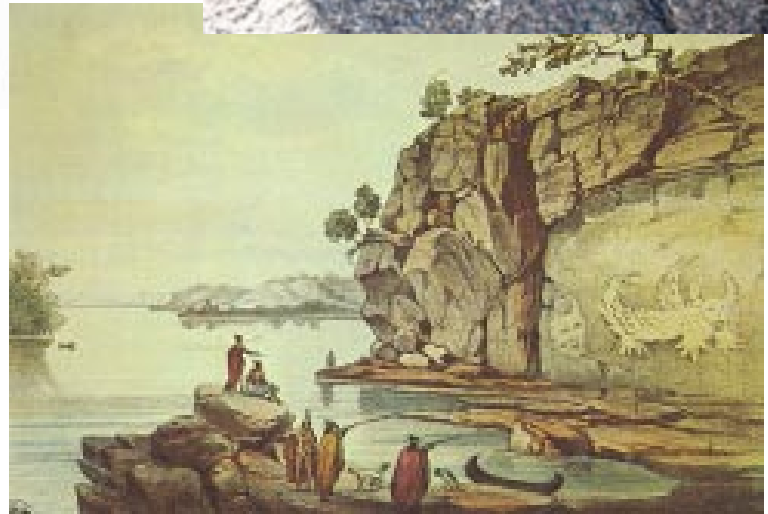


Tree, Chinese oracle bone script, c. 1300 BC

Native American pictogram, c. AD 700



Large Tree, Chinese script, c. AD 400



“Piasa Bird” pictograph

evidence supports the interpretation of specific, artistically complex, recurring, and grouped images in North American Native rock writing as ancient forms of Chinese script.

The images above are but a few of the pictograms evaluated in *Asiatic Echoes*. When viewed together, they illustrate the high degree of similarity shared by ancient script and Native American glyphs.

The book’s cover art is a photo of the “Piasa Bird” pictograph located at Alton, Illinois, a modern recreation of the original that was sighted and recorded at that location by Joliet and Marquette when they explored the Mississippi River in 1673. The original was destroyed over the years,

so this version of it is based upon the written description they left us, along with a very crude drawing, in their notes. However, the attached image made of the site in 1841 shows a fair bit of detail, and it was drawn by an eyewitness.

I believe the original was an example of Asiatic influence as there is nothing quite like this in North American Native art. It (at least from the description of Marquette & Joliet and the 1841 drawing) has features that align well with Asiatic artwork. Could this have been created by one of the early (AD 500-700) Chinese expeditions to the “far east” mentioned in the *Shan Hai Jing*? I think it is likely as one more “Asiatic Echo”.

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# Fierce Advocate of Truth

By Xu Fan, *China Daily*

April 24, 2011. Modest and soft-spoken, a mellow character like Gavin Menzies is hard to link to a fierce challenger of recorded history

However, this 74-year-old British amateur historian and retired submarine commander has published two books that claim Chinese navigators beat Christopher Columbus to the discovery of Americas and also sparked the Renaissance in Europe.

Menzies recently came to Beijing, invited as a winner of the Golden Paulownia Awards, an event held in the Great Hall of the People by Phoenix Satellite TV to honor cooperation with the television network.

With his announcement that the Chinese version of *1434: The Year a Chinese Fleet Sailed to Italy and Ignited the Renaissance* is going to be published in June, Menzies is capturing attention in the capital's culture scene.

Menzies claims in his first book, *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*, that a large fleet led by famed Chinese eunuch admiral Zheng He discovered the Americas 70 years ahead of Columbus. The 2002 book, listed on the New York Times bestseller list for months, has run to 24 editions in 135 countries.

During an exclusive interview with *China Daily*, Menzies says his interests as a historian coincide with his early years' fascination of China.

When he was three weeks old, Menzies moved to China with his mother to Weihaiwei, a major port on the Shandong Peninsula, where his father was based with the British navy. Menzies spent his first two years in China.

The chance to cure his nostalgia for China came in 1990, when Menzies saw a 1424 map—created by Venetian cartographer Zuane Pizzigano some 70 years before the 1492 Columbus voyage—that included four islands in the western Atlantic.

"It was mind-blowing," Menzies recounted. With the brave theory that the Chinese discovered the Americas and 20 years of hard work collecting evidence, Menzies published his first book *1421*, which won him both wealth and vigorous verbal lashings from critics.



Gavin Menzies' *1434* was published in Chinese in June. Photo by Zou Hong, *China Daily*.

However, he prefers to think he is a lucky man, as China's fast development has triggered worldwide interest in the country. People read his books, he says, as background for China's recent rise.

"Twenty years ago my books wouldn't have sold, because no one wanted to read about China," he says, "Its the great changes recently that made people curious about tracing back the reasons in history."

With his second book, *1434*, Menzies gives the world another fresh aspect of China's possible lost history, partly triggered by the discovery of an ancient Chinese map owned by Beijing lawyer Liu Gang.

As a firm believer that Columbus' fleets were guided by a map throughout the voyage, Menzies maintained it was another copy of the 1424 map that somehow ended up in Spanish hands. He claims that the Ming emperor Zhu Di ordered the map to be brought to the Pope as a gift, among other Chinese innovations, as part of a friendly exchange on one of Zheng's voyages.

He says another gift, a copy of the *Chinese Book of Agriculture, Nong Shu*, provided direct inspiration for the illustrations of mechanical devices pioneered by Italian Renaissance thinkers Taccola and Leonardo da Vinci. Menzies claims China was partly the fountainhead of the great Renaissance.

As expected, Menzies' theories are not exactly well received everywhere. But the author shrugs off the question-

ing voices from critics and the general public.

"I've received tons of hatred. But I don't care. I understand it's difficult for a person to turn his back on a lifelong conviction, something he was raised on."

As to the buzz his book's release might cause in China, Menzies says he has the confidence to face the questions.

"*1434's* publisher Harper Collins has done a careful fact check, sentence by sentence, which took several months."

To those professional historians who dismiss his theories as fictitious, his methodology as unorthodox, Menzies simply replies, "People tend to be too scared to admit that they are probably wrong. They are too frightened to admit that Chinese civilization might be the source of all the incredible things that happened in the West in medieval times."

However, he also says that "it's disastrous for China to have closed its doors in the past hundreds of years, and it's great for its government to decide to reopen the doors."

According to Menzies, the greatest impediment to his study has been the fact that he didn't get as much useful help from the Chinese historian community as he had imagined.

"Due to the lack of navigation knowledge, Chinese historians stopped thinking of, not to mention justifying, possibilities that their ancestors might have rounded the Cape of Good Hope, sailing all the way across the south Atlantic."

Still, Menzies and his theories have millions of followers worldwide.

"The books' official website sees thousands of visits every day and people have been contributing their own findings and evidence," he said.

The man owes much of his achievements to his loving wife, who has always supported him and financed his voyages and research since 1990. They live in central London, where he enjoys the convenience of walking ten minutes to the British Library to work on the books. Menzies just sold his latest book to a major publisher. He arranged his thoughts for a second before revealing the book's subject.

"Um...I found that the first people to get to the Americas in big numbers... weren't the Chinese—they were from Turkey. In big, big numbers. In huge fleets and ships."

"It has absolutely been an amazing journey," he adds with a smile.

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# Nailing their Colors to the Mast

By Mike Peters, *China Daily*  
7/9/2010; *Washington Post*  
7/30/2010

A bright-eyed, middle-aged woman from the state of Virginia, United States, sits waiting for her next interview in a Lido-area (Beijing) hotel lobby. She's a retired social worker, a no-nonsense lady who speaks quietly and deliberately. But she is in town to help answer the question: Did medieval Chinese navigators reach the Americas years before Christopher Columbus? Just a few years ago, Charlotte Harris Rees started thinking that her late father might have held the key to one of history's great mysteries.

"Few people expect ever to own documents that could change world history," Harris writes in her 2008 book, *Secret Maps of the Ancient World*, "and neither did we. Yet for decades, under my brother's bed, lay ancient Asian maps that we, our father's seven children, inherited from him. Some believe that they may contain a secret of the ancient world."

That possibility brought Rees to Asia this month for two weeks of conferences and speeches. Her first stop focused on Zheng He (1371–1435), the 15th-century Chinese admiral dispatched by Emperor Zhu Di to "proceed all the way to the end of the Earth."

An international conference this week in Melaka, Malaysia—a seafarer's crossroads for centuries, an important base for Zheng He—explored questions about Africa. Zheng certainly got there, but exactly where and the extent of his fleet's settlements and activities have engaged curious scholars for centuries.

The question that excites Rees, however, is whether Zheng He—and perhaps his Chinese predecessors—sailed to America as well.

Academics have batted around that idea for centuries, but it wasn't until Gavin Menzies published his bestselling book, *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*, eight years ago that the debate became an interna-

tional firestorm. One of the sparks landed on Rees, who read *1421* with amazement and realized that the author was trying to connect the same dots her father had followed in his research.

"When I was a social worker straight out of college, many of my clients in Oklahoma were American Indians who looked very Asian to me," she says today. "But the idea of Chinese coming to America 4,200 years ago in boats sounded pretty far-fetched then."

But her father, Hendon M. Harris Jr., child of second generation Christian missionaries who worked in several regions of China, was fascinated by the possibility. He picked up references to ancient Chinese navigators from several sources, including the ancient classic *Shan Hai Jing*, said to have been written in 2,200 BC and quoted in Chinese history and literature ever since.

Then one day in 1972, Harris was browsing in an antique shop in South Korea, looking for gifts to take home to his family in the United States. He was examining the wares on display when the shopkeeper said, "I have a map in the back. Would you like to see that?"

"Father wasn't really into collecting maps—not then! But he said, 'Yes,'" the daughter says. And when the map was spread out, as he recounted to his children years later, "he had to sit down because he felt himself shaking all over."

What Harris saw was a world map block-printed in an ancient Shang style, with China at the center and a circular continent looping around the edges of the page. He immediately related this to the Fu Sang of the *Shan Hai Jing*. In subsequent years Harris found copies of similar maps in the collections of museums and universities.

A year later, Harris wrote *The Asiatic Fathers of America: Chinese Discovery and Colonization of Ancient America*. It got some notice in academic circles, but it was never the pop-culture phenomenon of *1421*, though its premise was much more controversial.

For while Menzies' book credits the voyages of Zheng He and his admirals with the discovery of the world beyond China, Harris argues that they set sail with maps made from information acquired hundreds, even thousands of years earlier.

Charlotte Harris Rees finds that argument persuasive. Her speech in Melaka this week was titled "Zheng He's Inheritance." She told her audience that "starting a study of Chinese sea travel with Zheng He is like beginning a study of space travel with a trip to Mars."

Chinese seafaring was refined over centuries, she believes. "Zheng He could not have been as successful as he was, without the treasure trove of knowledge and invention amassed by the Chinese."

An illustration from the July 2005 issue of *National Geographic* compares



Tsinghua University, July 19, 2010, when Chao Chien, S. L. Lee, Charlotte Harris Rees, and Kent Deng spoke there. Left to right are Chao Chien, S. L. Lee, Charlotte Harris Rees, Kong Huai Tsai (descendant of Confucius), Sulia Chan (of New York, who set up the speaking schedule), and Kent Deng.

Zheng He's largest ships to European vessels of the same era. The article contends that the Chinese admiral's fleet contained up to 62 *baochuan*, or treasure ships, that measured 400 by 170 feet. (See photos of ship models that Empress Dowager Ci Xi abandoned at the 1910 Belgian Expo at [laszloart.com/ChineseJunks.htm](http://laszloart.com/ChineseJunks.htm)).

"You could fit all of Columbus' ships and all of Vasco da Gama's on a single deck of a ship that size," Rees says in awe. Rees talks about her father's research today with the passion of a religious convert. She talks of ancient Chinese shipwrecks off the US Pacific coast. Of maps Columbus and Magellan are said to have used on their voyages. Of DNA testing on Native Americans, with undisputed links to ancient Chinese. So is she convinced that Chinese adventurers, not Columbus, "discovered America"?

"I don't pretend to know the answers," she says, smiling. "But as we find more and more evidence, I think we have to keep doing our best to put it together until we do know."

**Q:** Why are the ideas in your book so controversial?

**A:** It's not easy to rewrite history. I'm not a PhD, and were I to pursue a PhD, I'd need university and academic mentors who supported the research. Most experts on the discovery of America have invested their lives and careers documenting a different view, a Eurocentric view.

**Q:** It seems that a lot of Chinese scholars are as reluctant as US scholars to embrace the idea. Why?

**A:** There is immense interest here. But it can't be proved, especially with Chinese documents, because, soon after the voyages of Zheng He, there was a tremendous reaction against these outside adventures and the strain such shipbuilding put on the country's economy. Ships, maps, records were all destroyed and China became an inward-looking society for centuries. That's why it's easier to find ancient maps that tell the story in Korea, where they were not destroyed by government order, than it is in China.

**Q:** The US Library of Congress recently exhibited a famous map made by Matteo Ricci, the Italian Jesuit, which the Library said was the first

known map of the Americas with Chinese inscriptions. You challenged that publicly.

**A:** It was a surprising thing for the Library of Congress to say. Many people doing research in this area have seen older maps of the Americas with Chinese writing. One of them is in the Library of Congress' own collection, though they have yet to validate or disprove its age.

**Q:** Is this about ethnic bias?

**A:** Well, it's true that many Western scholars are invested in the history of the European discovery of America. But it may be a matter of money, too. In May 2003, the Library of Congress purchased the Waldseemuller Map of the world for \$10 million—\$5 million from Congress and \$5 million from donors. According to their 2003 press release, that map was the "first image of the outline of the continents of the world as we know them today—Martin Waldseemuller's monumental 1507 map." That indeed is a beautiful map. However, if the Library of Congress now, only seven years later, admits that any other map that shows the American continents predates the Waldseemuller, perhaps Congress and the donors will complain their money was misspent.

Many scholars contend that since the Waldseemuller and other European maps showed the Pacific Coast of the Americas before Europeans had been there, that they had to be copied from earlier maps.

**Q:** People who read your book, your father's book, and Gavin Menzies' book can easily be overwhelmed by all of the evidence. But critics contend most of it is circumstantial. Of everything you've seen and learned about, what has been the most convincing evidence for you?

**A:** DNA evidence, which is quite recent. We've known for a long time that the "Chinese blue spot," which appears on the buttocks of babies and then disappears, is also seen at birth in many Native American communities. Now we know that five distinct genetic markers match ancient Chinese with modern Native Americans. That's evidence you can take to court and win.



**Says Braden, "Archaeologists and geologists have no problem with the new information. It's the historians who have a terrible time with it—because it messes up their story line."**

*New York Times* best-selling author, geologist/scientist Gregg Braden ([greggbraden.com](http://greggbraden.com)) has spent 20+ years searching remote monasteries, ancient sites, traditions, and scriptures worldwide, including those of Egypt, India, Peru, and Tibet, and is deeply in touch with the new information surfacing. Scientists are now identifying civilizations that date into the last ice age, advanced sophisticated civilizations, twice as old as anything ever found. The oldest scientifically confirmed one right now is in Turkey, Gobelki Tepi, 11,500 years old, from the early Pre-Pottery Neolithic A period, which ended around 9000 BC. Predating Stonehenge by 6,000 years, it and others upend the conventional view of the rise of civilization. Virtually none of this new information is being integrated into our schools.

Other evidence is of a 180-degree polar shift that occurred about 13,200 years ago. There was a sudden melting of the polar caps and tremendous flooding on the planet. It was the evidence of these geologic events that turned Braden to the study of ancient texts to discover whether records and explanations or interpretations of these events survive in countries throughout the world.

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# Chinese Surveyed and Drew the First World Map Before Columbus

By Siu-Leung Lee, PhD

A seven-centimeter diameter plain brass medallion with the inscription “Authorized and awarded by Xuande of Great Ming” was unearthed four inches under the soil, several hundred miles inland from the American east coast. Is it evidence for pre-Columbian contact of Chinese with America? Since I obtained the medallion in 2006, it has totally changed my life, and I hope it will change history as it is taught today.

Zheng He, an admiral who served the Ming Emperors Yongle and Xuande, assisted them to establish diplomatic and trade relations with all the nations they could find in the world. In seven voyages (1405–1433), each with 28,000 well-equipped crewmembers on hundreds of huge ships, traveled via different routes for two to three years. The capacity of this 28-year endeavor is at least 1,000-fold of all explorations combined in the Great Discovery Age. The whole purpose of the last voyage commissioned by Emperor Xuande in 1430 was to announce himself and his new era. After Xuande died, China isolated herself from the rest of the world for more than 400 years. Most of Zheng He’s records were lost.

The brass medallion by itself is not proof of Ming Chinese in America before Columbus. To solve this mystery, I approach the problem like a forensic detective solving a 600-year-old cold case. There is no living witness to tell the story, but cultural relics speak their own language and are amply available to keen eyes. Hundreds of Chinese cultural relics in America cannot be mere incidental or accidental independent developments. Cultural relics are better in telling the truth as less error is introduced by personal bias.

The medallion was unearthed in a very scantily populated area near Asheville, North Carolina, where major battles were fought between the earliest European immigrants and the native Cherokee. The Cherokee had a Big Dipper flag, a symbol that represented the Chinese emperor for 2,000 years. This is well documented in 1,000 years of official history as part of the imperial procession, from the Song to the Qing dynasties. The Big Dipper was also a guiding constellation for Zheng He’s navigation. Other than China and the Cherokee, no nation in the world had a Big Dipper flag before the 20th century.

The Floridian natives had star-crescent flags, an easily recognized Muslim symbol. Zheng He was a Muslim, his ancestral name Mohammad. The Spanish colonists certainly would not have displayed a star-crescent flag as Columbus set sail in the same year the Spanish drove the Muslims out of Spain.

The Catawba tribe neighboring the Cherokee is famous for their pottery. Their traditional tripod earthenware, although much less sophisticated, almost replicates the distinct Chinese brass or porcelain censer made during the Xuande era. These censers, patterned on the ceremonial vessel “*ding*” used by Chinese emperors and kings, were part of the gifts brought by Zheng He and were also used in ceremonies to pray for maritime safety.

Up until the mid 18th century, Europe could not figure out the mysterious formula to make porcelain, until the English got porcelain clay from the Catawba Indians. The special white porcelain clay is called *I-to* 垆土 in Catawba tongue, *unaker* 垆泥 in Cherokee, and *un-na-ke* in the dialect of Jingdezhen, the Chinese porcelain capital of the world for the last 1,000 years. Even South Carolinians are surprised that their porcelain technology so uniquely resembles the traditional Jingdezhen technology—in processing of clay, glaze, and the style of pots. There are plenty of details left for discussion in my upcoming book.

The most important and irrefutable clue comes from the 1602 map allegedly drawn by Matteo Ricci as a gift to the Chinese emperor Wanli. Matteo Ricci, an Italian Jesuit who

came to China in 1584, stayed until his death in Beijing in 1610.

Matteo Ricci’s 1602 map is completely written in Chinese. In Ricci’s own words on the map, he had consulted Chinese sources to add hundreds of names and to correct the geography. Almost 50 percent of the 1,114 names, including those on the American continents, do not have equivalents in European maps. And, Ricci’s map is far more accurate than any other contemporaneous world map.

The absence of Papal State and important Renaissance names on Ricci’s 1602 map is obviously inconsistent with Ricci’s status as a Jesuit commissioned to evangelize China. An Italian map without the Papal State and Florence in the 16th century is equivalent to an American map today without Washington DC and New York City. The first major American cities established in the 16th century by Spanish and Portuguese settlers, such as Santa Cruz, Acapulco, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires, are notably absent.

The shape of Hudson Bay and the California peninsula are far more accurate on Ricci’s map than the contemporaneous European world maps. Hudson Bay was not “discovered” until the year Ricci died. Area west of the Mississippi, explored by Lewis and Clark 200 years later, is shown with many names. Names and features that should be on the map are not there, while those shouldn’t be are found. That is why Ricci’s 1602 map has been characterized as “impossible.”

Ricci’s map is consistent with the naming of major oceans with cardinal directions using China as the center of reference, while European maps were inconsistent and confused even 200 years later. This mistake is seen on a globe commissioned by the Pope and a map by Ricci’s successor Giulio Aleni. This shows the Chinese had prior knowledge of the three largest oceans.

The most important dating clue is a note on the map above Spain clearly stating that the map was drawn “70 some years” after the first official contact of China and Europe. This refers to Pope Benedict XII sending a legation of 50 clergymen to Beijing (1342–47). Seventy some years later would date the map to 1410s–1420s

when Zheng He was active in his voyages, 160 years before Ricci and 70 years before Columbus. On the other hand, 70 some years prior to Ricci's visit or the European world maps, China had a maritime ban with no contact with the west. The significance of this statement was left unnoticed by all including Ricci himself, until I deciphered the meaning.

The 1602 map was completed one year after Ricci was allowed to roam in the Forbidden City. This provides a timing witness of where and when he likely had access to information in the imperial archive.

Unless more primary information can be found to support European discovery and survey of these places on Ricci's map before the map was drawn, the conclusion should be revised to say that Ricci's 1602 map is truly one based on Chinese survey, while the other world maps are copies of an original source done by the Ming Chinese. For Ming Chinese to have drawn this map, they must have circumnavigated and returned safely. It is thus beyond reasonable doubt that Ricci actually uncovered and redrew a Chinese world map around Zheng He's time (1405–1433), proving that Chinese were indeed the first to start the Great Discovery Age.

Ricci's map is not the only one that contradicts the "history" we have been taught. A 1507 map by Waldseemueller shows the vast Pacific Ocean and the Panama Isthmus before Balboa crossed the isthmus, seeing the Pacific Ocean for the first time in 1513, six years after the dated Waldseemueller map. Out of the thousands of miles of coastline, how did Balboa spot the isthmus so soon after Columbus's trips? How did Magellan in 1519 prepare for the long journey across the unknown Pacific and make it successfully in one shot, with no prior information? There used to be 1,000 copies of the Waldseemueller map, which obviously served as the guide for Balboa and Magellan. Who else had the ability to survey the American continent in such detail before Columbus?

The only surviving copy of the Waldseemueller map was acquired by the Library of Congress in 2007. The Ricci 1602 map was purchased by University of Minnesota in 2010. Both are permanently on display as

witness to my statements.

The above is only a brief glimpse of the available evidence that Ming Chinese surveyed the world and drew the first world maps that led the Great Discovery Age. The purpose of this article is not to negate European contributions in developing the new continent. However, it is necessary to give proper credit to the deserved and to have history reflect the truth. Without the Ming Chinese maritime explorations, the new continents would still have been discovered, but at a much later date. It is well recognized that the first settlers of America came from Asia 14,000 years ago. So the friendly relationship between

peoples of the two continents happened long before China and America were nations by name.

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*This article summarizes presentations at the Hong Kong branch of the Royal Geographic Society in 2006, and at the Zheng He Conference in Melaka, 2010. Dr. Siu-Leung Lee is a biochemist turned historian, internationally known for his Chinese calligraphy, and author of all translation and calligraphy of Nickelodeon's animated series "Avatar." In 2010, a renowned Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong featured Dr. Lee's Zheng He research in a full front-page article. SLLee@asiawind.com; website asiawind.com.*

*The famous Matteo Ricci map, made in the year 1602.*



## Weaving a Profound Dialogue between West and East:

On Matteo Ricci, S.J. *Ignatius Insight* (5-27-09)

By Dr. Anthony E. Clark

Pope Benedict XVI asked the bishop of Macerata, Italy, Claudio Giuliardi, to prepare for a Jubilee Year in honor of the 400-year anniversary of Ricci's death; Ricci died on May 11, 1610, at his small church in Beijing. His impact on China was so great that after his death the Ming (1368–1644) ruler, Emperor Wanli (r. 1563–1620), gave imperial land in Beijing to the Jesuits for his burial. Fr. Ricci was the first non-Chinese allowed to be interred inside the Middle Kingdom. His tomb at the Zhalan Cemetery, located today in the campus of the Beijing Communist Administrative College, is an actively visited site.



In China, Matteo Ricci is hailed as the Western world's greatest "foreign guest" to China for his contributions to Chinese science, cartography, calendrics, mathematics, and philosophy. While China's list of accolades does not generally include an appreciation for Ricci's religious beliefs, the Church remembers him as the "father" of the China mission, one of the founders of Catholic apologetics, a controversial accommodationist, and one of history's most brilliant thinkers.

Matteo Ricci began his missionary work in 1582 at Macau, a Portuguese trading colony in southern China, where he began his studies in Mandarin Chinese. Ricci endeavored to introduce Christianity to China delicately, choosing to graft the faith more organically onto China's existing culture rather than Christianizing it by first Westernizing the Middle Kingdom's ancient traditions.

Ricci was one of the first Christian missionaries to master the official *guan-hua* dialect of Chinese, the language spoken by the literati elite, the Confucian magistrates who held the administrative reins of the empire. Ricci was the first to navigate through the entire empire without a translator.

Having mastered both spoken and written Chinese, and after memorizing the Confucian classics (a lifetime commitment for other mortals), Ricci apprehended China's cultural mores better than his contemporaries. He knew

that there were cultural aversions to certain images—such as those depicting Christ's Passion—and he understood that the only way to effectively introduce Christ to China would be to withhold some aspects of Christianity until native Chinese were better prepared.

While in Nanchang he held public debates

with Chinese scholars on science and theology, and the local Confucian officials marveled at Ricci's precocity.

During these disputations, he memorized and recalled a long series of Chinese characters after merely glancing at them. In a letter to Rome, Fr. Ricci wrote: "...to increase their wonder, [I] began to recite [the characters] all by memory backwards in the same manner, beginning with the very last until reaching the first. By which they all became utterly astounded and as if beside themselves."<sup>1</sup>

At his first mission in Zhaoqing, he enticed local elites in 1584 with his *mappus mundi*, the first Chinese-language, European-style map of the entire world. It was the first time that Chinese had seen a map drawn to scale, more or less, illustrating China in comparison to the rest of the globe. Not only did Ricci's map interest Chinese locals, but it also challenged previous assumptions that China occupied most of the world's land mass.

While some accuse Ricci of focusing too exclusively on wooing the Chinese with Western curiosities such as maps, clocks, and clavichords, he did bring



many Chinese into the Church.

Some have argued that Matteo Ricci's eagerness to bring China to the fullness of the Catholic faith led him to several problematic assumptions. One, that...Eastern and Western history was the same before the Great Flood;...that Noah's son Shem moved to China, bringing knowledge of Adam when originally sinless; and... that the "sages" (*shengren*) mentioned in China's ancient classics prefigured and alluded to Christ.

What eventually happened was that local Chinese literati were enraged that a foreigner took such exegetical liberties with the revered history and beliefs of their own traditions.

But in the end, Matteo Ricci is little remembered for his theological and historical creativity; he is more often remembered today for his contributions to, and influence on, Chinese society, a legacy few foreigners can claim.

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan D. Spence, *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci* (New York: Penguin Group, 1983), 139.

See the great, full, unabridged article and photos at [http://ignatiusinsight.com/features2009/tclark\\_mricci\\_may2009.asp](http://ignatiusinsight.com/features2009/tclark_mricci_may2009.asp).

**Anthony E. Clark, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Asian History at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington.**

# China's Economic Miracle in the Past: the Song Efflorescence

By Kent G. Deng, PhD,  
*London School of Economics*

Nowadays, we take two things for granted: first, until recently, China was a very poor developing economy; and second, China is able to do wonders if she determines to do so. What has not been obvious is that China did economic wonders a millennium ago under the Song (960–1276). If the Song growth and development had continued, scholars have argued, China could well have been the first country to industrialize 500 years ahead of Europe.

In many aspects, the Song was rather an unusual dynasty right in its beginning. The Song (both Northern and Southern) was a period of chronic crises: the state was extraordinarily weak in the provision of national security, the pressure from the Tartars and Mongols was mounting to an unprecedented degree, and the polarization among landholders reached a record level.

However, these factors alone did not make the Song unique since they had occurred before although to different degrees. Rather, the distinctiveness of this period lay in (1) a change in the governmental structure, (2) a change in landholding structure, and (3) a change in demographic distribution and redistribution between north and south. All these changes were in one way or another related to the Song establishments.

The weak state under the Northern Song was a result of a deliberate policy under the first Song Emperor Taizu (r. 960–76) who gained power by a military coup d'état. With the constant fear of being toppled over by a coup d'état against himself, Zhao systematically stripped army officers and civilian bureaucrats of their power and claimed military, financial, judicial decision-making to be the exclusive responsibility of the

Imperial Court, ignoring the severe resource constraints of the center. Such constraints parallel to a considerable degree the imperial state.

On the other hand, with the legitimacy of the Song always questionable, the new emperor needed to gain support from the elite. For that end, a package was delivered: not only were the Song bureaucrats paid higher salaries than any of their counterparts among all dynasties, but also extra official positions were created to accommodate members of the literati.

Meanwhile, partly for the purpose of creating employment, and partly for sake of window-dressing, to enlarge the standing army, the Song armed forces increased from 120,000 in 960 AD to 378,000 in 976, and continued to rise to 666,000 by 997 (versus a total population of some 16 million), to 912,000 (versus a total population of 19.9 million) by 1021, then to 1,259,000 by 1048, and finally to a record level of 1,400,000 in 1049 (versus a total population of some 22.3 million).

These soldiers were well paid. It is recorded that in 1064 AD, each soldier of the elite troops was paid 50,000 bronze coins per year and each soldier in the ordinary troops 30,000. They cost some 80 percent of the government annual budget. Interestingly, however, these soldiers were not for war. The Song government decided to pay huge ransom to the Jin Tartars to buy peace with the powerful neighboring nomads annually with silver (100,000–200,000 taels a year) and silk cloth (200,000–300,000 rolls a year).

All these policies created large deficits in China's budget, which in turn forced the government to find alternative revenues to finance its internal and external expenses. As Confucian ideology opposes heavy taxes on the farming sector but allows squeezing the merchant class, that alternative had to be taxing the commercial sector. After all, China produced silk and porcelain (real porcelain indeed beginning from the Song period) that could earn China more revenues.

However, thanks to the Jin Tartars who now controlled China's silk roads, China had to find new markets for its products at sea. This ushered in the greatest surge of large-scale state-sponsored maritime trade

in Chinese history. Given that the Europeans sailed across the Atlantic at the end of the fifteenth century in response to the Ottoman monopoly of overland trade of silk and spices, the Chinese started a similar process, only half a millennium ahead of the Europeans.

For such a purpose, Chinese ship designers and shipwrights began to build large deep-water ships, commonly known as junks, with the minimum replacement of 500 tons. In fact, the design has remained largely unchanged until the last century. With the new 'clinker built' method of wooden planks and pure iron nails, these ships were built quickly and cheaply without highly skilled carpentry: even women and children could have a go with a hammer. This new design and new demand for ships stimulated China's iron and steel industry. It is commonly cited that Song China annually rolled out 125,000 to 150,000 tons of the metal, about half a millennium ahead of the Europeans in per capita terms.

With this rather modern flat-pack approach, a huge commercial navy was built in a short space of time ready to sail with shiploads of silk and porcelain for profit. What remained were the right seasons. They were dictated by the Asian monsoons affecting the Pacific and Indian oceans. The monsoon wind blows in one way from the north to the south across Asia in November to March each year, which coincides with the slack season for farming in China which freed the Song Chinese for maritime trade with their new silk of the year among other things.

The wind changes to the opposite direction in May to September to allow the Chinese to catch up with their agricultural fieldwork. This is God-given which suited the Songs perfectly. In addition, the steady and highly predictable winds persuaded the Songs to use tall square sails mounted on hard frames to harvest the maximum wind power, a technical approach that will not work in many other regions in the world.

Once all these were in place, the Song maritime expansion began. What has impressed the world later on in the early fifteenth century under the banner of Admiral Zheng He (1371–1435) who sailed extensively

across the western Pacific and Northern Indian oceans was in fact the beginning of the end of the legacy of the Song sea power.

The efforts paid off. With Chinese ships calling at several dozen ports in Southeast Asia, flooding one market after another with Chinese manufactures, money rolled in to government coffers: in 1311, 70 percent of revenue came from trade taxes. Meanwhile, a China-centered international trading network emerged one later reported repeatedly by Arab and European visitors.

All went so well for the Songs until the Mongols ruthlessly swept across the East Asian Continent, defeating the Tartars in 1234 and the Songs in 1279. What followed was an eight-decade-long economic dark age for the Chinese: the Chinese were not allowed to engage in long-distance trade, or wear silk, or have a high office in the government. The profitable maritime trade was commissioned to Mongol-trusted foreigners of the 'colored-eye race'. In addition, many industrial centers, such as the iron-and-steel capital Keifeng, were ruined. This ended the Song growth.

There can be little doubt that the Song miracle growth was a state-led endeavor with a range of makeshift measures to ease a financial crisis rather than a well-thought-out development plan for the economy. What did this do to China's economy of the time? It flourished unprecedentedly and all around in technology, outputs, and trade. This is something worth recalling as China is developing fast.

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## The Chinese Origin of the Age of Discovery

By Chao C. Chien

For hundreds of years the Age of Discovery has enjoyed the status as one of the most spectacular chapters in European history. The miraculous achievements in discovering new lands—not just lands, but entire continents—led to the glorious flowering

of European cultures and the ultimate domination of the world. Yet the curious aspect of this history is that nobody seems to know what brought on such an unlikely explosion of brilliance. The records of the period, especially concerning seafaring, are, to say the least, sketchy.

What made Christopher Columbus desire to travel west by sea to Asia (as it is said) whereas everybody else was going east, implying that he knew the Earth was round at a time when Europeans generally thought it was flat? And why did the Portuguese, the first to venture out of continental Europe, go east? Indeed, what prompted them to go at all? The pat answer provided, even in schools, is that the Ottoman Turks had monopolized the spice trade with the East, choking off trade routes. Thus, the Portuguese decided to circumvent this obstacle and to find a new, direct sea route to the Spice Islands, which implies that they knew where those islands were. This theory, of course, is now discredited, hence the real reason, or reasons, remains unknown.

A close and detailed examination of extant European documents of the period, however, offers up a logical, almost humdrum explanation: the Chinese had documented the lands of the world and the Europeans inherited the knowledge.

European maps from the period, from late 14th c. to 16th c., showed the lands of the whole world before the European explorers had visited them, before they knew such lands existed.

The lands included all the continents: Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia, and the poles. Islands such as Greenland and Iceland were also prominently and unmistakably depicted. Mapmakers were not supposed to be able to represent geography without data. The fact that they did without firsthand experience of survey indicates that they had copied the maps from a source that had. This conclusion is inevitable. The maps in question are not Chinese but European maps, and they are preserved in national archives and institutions.

Further examination of these same documents shows that the mapmakers not only copied their oceans and landmasses, they also copied the geographical characteristics of their sources; they had Chinese names on their maps. But are not Chinese names rightfully on Chinese lands? Well, they are not supposed to be on non-Chinese lands, and they were. For instance, Chinese names were found on the American continents alongside native names, informing us that the European mapmakers had no real knowledge of what they were working on, and they were unaware of the state of confusion they were in. Thus we find Cathay and Tibet neighbors to Rio Parias and Mexico

Not only are these names found in unlikely places Chinese names, they are unquestionably Mongol-Yuan Dynasty era nomenclature. For example, the name Manji, which appears on many of these antique European maps, is a name the conquering Mongols be-



1569 (Less than 100 years after Columbus explored the Caribbean) Mercator map sporting all major landmasses of the world.

stowed on the Chinese, and it means “Barbarians.” Such signatures are an easy give-away. The Europeans had obtained Chinese knowledge documented during the 13th to 14th c.

It is important to note that during the reign of the Chinese Ming Dynasty emperor Chengzu at the beginning of the 15th c., a series of naval expeditions were launched sending huge ships into the Indian Ocean and beyond. The mission was headed by a court eunuch named Zheng He. The proliferation of Chinese geographical knowledge on European documents did not begin until early the 15th c.; that is, the time of Admiral Zheng He’s epic voyages, and soon thereafter. Zheng He’s fleets sailed between 1405 and 1433. Right at this time, clearly identifiable elements from the 2,500-year-old Chinese geographical encyclopedia *Shan Hai Jing* began showing up on European documents.

The *Shan Hai Jing* describes the geography and the people who live in foreign lands. Shan means mountains, hai means seas. *Shan Hai Jing* means *The Classic of Mountains and Seas*, or simply, “*Geographica*.”

The *Shan Hai Jing* contents and the Chinese place names provide us with more than just clues to the sources of European Age of Discovery documents. The overtly Mongol names also help explain the sudden appearance of the grand Ming treasure ships and Zheng He’s epic voyages. Doubtless the Ming also had come into the Yuan Dynasty maritime records, which enabled them to build such ocean liners and provided guidance for their outings.

That the data that ultimately reached Europe that was expressed in the Mongol system also informs us that Zheng He was using them too. (Had the Ming created their own records of the world, the nomenclature that reached Europe would have been in Ming terms.) Thus we have no direct indication that the Ming had repeated the feats of their predecessors. This may come as somewhat of a disappointment to Zheng He enthusiasts who would just love to be able to claim that Zheng He had explored the American Continents before Columbus. Sure, there are plenty of tantalizing hints and suggestions here and there, but ultimately, unfortunately, incontrovertible evidence that can attest to such an event has so far proven elusive. This is not to say, of course, that Zheng He

had not visited the Americas. Perhaps one day such evidence will surface.

The Portuguese explorers and Christopher Columbus sailed some half a century later. Their having benefited from Chinese geographical knowledge is beyond doubt. Indeed, the antique maps scrutinized in present research show that the map sketches attributed to Christopher Columbus contain Chinese signature features.

Unlike official conveyance of properties between nations, knowledge transfer is generally undocumented. It is also largely opportunistic. Such majestic ships as the Ming treasure ships sailing the high seas and making calls at ports around the world cannot be totally unseen, and indeed they were seen. European documents at the time, as uncovered in this research, explicitly documented such sightings. The Ming maritime expeditions were summarily terminated upon the death of their sponsoring emperor.

There can be no doubt that pertinent documentations of the enterprise found their way overseas, to not just Europeans, but Muslims and others as well. The transfer of knowledge was also hardly neat and organized. The antique documents showed an almost tortuous process in which European authors had a hard time working with and having to interpret something clearly of a foreign nature. The scales of the geographical renderings were different, for example. Thus, one finds landmasses drawn to grotesquely erroneous sizes and major landmasses ridiculously misplaced.

As time went on, as the Europeans began flexing their naval muscles and reaping successes, much of this early period of learning was forgotten. Legends and convenient story-telling filled the void. Christopher Columbus, who had fallen out of favor with Queen Isabella I of Castile and became persona non-grata within ten years of his now famous outing, was soon completely forgotten. The continent that he supposedly discovered was ostensibly named for another navigational nobody named Amerigo Vespucci. He was resurrected some three hundred years later only because Europeans needed a hero for their inexplicable exploits.

For the Chinese, the secretive and disfavored nature of the Zheng He trips in the eyes of succeeding regimes, which officially destroyed much of the mission’s records—purportedly burned

as vestiges of an evil past—helped erase the grand episodes from the pages of Chinese history. The Zheng He expeditions were commissioned by Emperor Chengzu who was a usurper. He gained the throne after a four-year civil war, ousting his nephew who vanished. Throughout his reign he was at odds with the court officials who held him illegitimate. His maritime policy was summarily reversed upon his death and replaced by a decree so radical that the Chinese were forbidden to go to sea and to build ships with more than two masts. The Chinese eradicated their own supreme naval technology. (As to why Emperor Chengzu dispatched such enormous ships overseas, that will be a discussion for a different occasion.)

In a short time, and upon the crushing juggernauts of European sea powers and the subjugation by the Manchu in the 17th c., the Chinese had come to believe the entire affair of the Age of Discovery was European in the making. Today we find Chinese post-Zheng He maps drawn with European input, clearly acknowledging the superiority of the foreign newcomers. Ironically, much of the European geographical input contained material that was originally Chinese, misinterpreted, and reintroduced to the Chinese without the latter being aware of it. The Chinese had lost their past. Today even the Chinese acknowledge Christopher Columbus as the discoverer of the Americas. They had lost their own tradition.

Complete research with evidence and analyses is contained in my new 400-page ebook, *The Chinese Origin of the Age of Discovery* (300 illustrations), available from B&N and Amazon. I also authored its precursor, *The 1421 Heresy*, still available on Amazon, under the pen name Anatole Andro, and am penning another book on these same issues. 友

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**Mr. Chao C. Chien, 錢肇昌, a California-based independent history researcher and University of Michigan engineering grad, before heading his own computer consulting company, was employed at various firms, including the Jet Propulsion Lab as Senior Systems Engineer, where he participated in the Voyager and Galileo spacecraft programs. His life passion is history. He is currently working on the origins of the world’s major civilizations. Contact Mr. Chien at [anatole.andro@yahoo.com](mailto:anatole.andro@yahoo.com).**

## TRANSITIONS

It is with sadness that we note the passing of our long-time Las Vegas chapter member, Fairy Hayley, who died on May 26, 2011, at age 84. Fairy was a fourth grade teacher in the Clark County School District. She became an active member in USCPFA early on, and served as Correspondence Secretary for many years and was a representative to the Western Region. Fairy had a positive outlook on life and enjoyed learning. When she was in her 60s she began Chinese language courses at the University of Nevada. Fairy enjoyed traveling and meeting the local indigenous people. She took 11 trips to China, including one to Tibet. Fairy is survived by one daughter and three sons. To reach the family please contact Cynthia Tripp, President, Las Vegas chapter.

## EASTERN REGION

### NE New York

Chapter secretary and art teacher Alison Stonbely was our Sunday afternoon speaker in February. Alison joined the Educators Tour October 22–November 2, 2010, to China, hosted by Youxie. The educators visited schools and historic sites in Beijing, Xian, An Shang Village, and Shanghai. They visited rich schools and poor schools, and she showed many photos of all. For Chinese children, nine years of attendance is mandatory. Parents have to pay for the last three years of middle school.

The group toured *hutong* and visited Beijing Normal School, an expensive school with very good equipment—and also a primary school for migrants: 50 teachers for 5,000 boys. Alison was struck by the contrast between the shacks the migrant families were living in and the luxurious apartment buildings across the street. The group visited a vocational and technical school that seemed similar to American schools.

In An Shang Village, originally people lived in caves but now have buildings. The group stayed overnight in villagers' homes and were given electric blankets! The village has built a school, a museum, and a gallery in

memory of a student killed in an auto accident in the U.S. In Shanghai, the group visited the Children's Palace and a somewhat unusual orphanage for handicapped boys.

Our well-attended April 14 annual banquet was a wonderful social affair. Many visiting scholars and their children from China attended, which we all enjoyed.

President Kirk Huang emceed the program and thanked officers, members, volunteers and friends for their efforts, contributions, and support for a very successful year. Gene Damm, Chapter Education Chair, received the Friendship Builder Award and Mark Lewis the award for Friendship Links. Zachary Wellstood and Brionna Neal, outstanding students learning Chinese at Tech Valley and Schenectady high schools, each received a Tema Bellison award. The winners were an inspiration to us all.

Guests of honor were Sean Shortell (district director for Congressman Paul Tonko), Matt Aumand (district office manager for Assemblyman Bob Reilly), and Zhaohui Yang and Leehua Miaw, president and vice chair of the Chinese Community Center. All praised the work of our chapter. Chinese entertainment was Frank Wang playing Erhu and an ancient Chinese gourd pipe, and Sheri Duan singing. American entertainment was Josh Sheridan playing guitar and singing original and pop songs. All did an exceptional job! Student vocalists Xuan Hong and Hao Wang from RPI both sang, sharing their talents and youth and giving vitality to the program.

In China, he's called an Agony Uncle. In the U.S., he'd be known as an advice or lonely-hearts columnist. Agony Uncle Bob, a successful economist and businessman who lives in the Capital District, began answering questions from young people about broken relationships and keys to success decades ago in Beijing and Shanghai magazines. On May 22, Bob discussed his latest book: *You Are Born to Fly: An American Scholar Shares Wit and Wisdom with Young China and the World*.

On June 4 members went for a hike around Shaver Pond, located in Grafton Lakes State Park. And

we're currently arranging our annual August USCPFA China Friendship Night—Baseball! We take our friends from China to see a Tri-City Valley Cats baseball game. We're also having a contest for a name for our newsletter, debuting in the August/Sept/Oct issue. There is a unique surprise gift from China just waiting for the winner!

—Reported by Rezsina Adams and Kirk Huang

### Richmond

On March 27, 2011, the chapter held its annual banquet at Mekong Restaurant with 36 in attendance. Diana Greer opened the meeting and welcomed the many friends of China. New member Rick Tatnall with Replenish Richmond spoke briefly about the area's focus on tourism and the many events related to the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

My Lan Tran, chair of Sister Cities Commission, spoke on the renewal of official relations with Zhengzhou, China. Members were encouraged to attend the Kansas City National Convention in September. Members of an exploratory committee are examining the possibility of having the 2013 national convention in Richmond. The June 25 Richmond chapter picnic will be held near the Tredegar Iron Works, followed by a tour of the American Civil War Center. Members of the Chinese Embassy have been invited. The new USCPFA Richmond chapter website is up and running at [www.uscpfarichmondva.com](http://www.uscpfarichmondva.com). Please view it for details of upcoming events.

Associate Professor Xueming "Jimmy" Chen, PhD, Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Public Policy, Virginia Commonwealth University, spoke on the "High Speed Rail System in China from an International Perspective." His PowerPoint presentation and lecture was well received, and he was awarded a special gift of appreciation. Our annual banquet and meeting was adjourned with many new and renewing memberships registered.

—Reported by Diana Greer

*FRIENDSHIP WORK is continued on page 24*

# 友友 National USCPFA Convention 友友 September 16-17-18, 2011

**Holiday Inn Plaza, One East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO**

**Rooms:** \$99 per night, 2 queen size beds, good for 3 days before and after the Convention. (See Pre and Post Convention Activities.) Reservation block expires August 16. To register online, go to <http://www.kcplazahotel.com> —in the Reservations box, type in group code **USC**. To register by phone, call **816-753-7400**; same group code, **USC**. Super Shuttle from airport to hotels, \$18 one way/\$32 round trip/taxi cheaper for 2. (To save on hotel taxes, bring your checkbook to the Convention to pay USCPFA-KC for your room costs.) Questions? Call Joyce Cox, 816-942-6307

**Convention Registration Fee (SEPARATE from hotel fees):** Early Bird \$195 if made by July 16, Regular \$210 by August 16 and Late \$220 after August 16. Covers 5 meals, materials, and program fees.

## **Pre-Convention Activities, Friday, September 16, 2011**

- **Visit to Arabia Steamboat Museum** (Kansas City's Best Kept Secret)

Leave Holiday Inn at 9:30 am to drive to the Museum. Price of \$20 includes admission and transportation. Lunch will be "Dutch treat" in the River Market area. Return in time to go on the afternoon excursion listed below.

- **Visit to the National World War I Museum and Liberty Memorial**

Hotel Shuttle will leave at 1:30 pm for the first trip to the Museum. Transportation will be available later for those who cannot be there that early. Admission is \$12 (\$10 seniors) which includes a visit to Liberty Memorial Tower. Shuttle returns to Holiday Inn at 5:00 pm.

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM**

### **Friday Evening, September 16**

Welcome by Kansas City Chinese Association Drum Rollers

**6:00** Opening Session: Welcome by Kansas City Mayor, National USCPFA President Bob Sanborn, and Midwest Consul General of PRC. Introduction of Chinese Ambassador, Youxie, Consulate Guests, National Board, Convention Committee.

Dinner followed by Speakers and Entertainment: "US-China Relations" and "China Today"

Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. (invited), Visitors from Youxie including Madame Li (invited)

Chinese Dancer and Artist, Zhang Li

Official Photograph of Conventioneers, Ambassador, Youxie delegation and Consulate Guests

**9:00** Dessert and Mid-autumn Festival around the pool

Moon cakes, moon gazing, visiting with friends and enjoying Chinese dances and lanterns

### **Saturday, September 17**

**8:00** Continental Breakfast in the Meeting Room

**8:30** National USCPFA Plenary Session, Robert Sanborn, President and Barbara Harrison, Past President, presiding

**10:30** Transfer to Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (walk or by hotel shuttle)

**11:15** Presentation: "Highlights of the Chinese Collection at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art," Colin Mackenzie, Senior Curator of Chinese Art

**12:00** Half of the Delegation will go to lunch in Rozzelle Court while the other half tours the Chinese Exhibits with a docent. Tour groups will be small so everyone can see and hear easily. One tour will be conducted in Mandarin.

**1:00** Procedure will be reversed for the other half of the Delegation.

**2:00** Presentation: "Laurence Sickman, Marc Wilson, and Chinese Paintings in Nelson-Atkins Museum," Colin Mackenzie

**3:15** Return to Holiday Inn for power point presentation on "China's Lost Girls" by John Kennedy, University of Kansas

**4:15-6:00** Continuation of National Plenary Session, Barbara Harrison presiding

### **Saturday Evening, September 17**

**7:00** Dinner with Speaker: "China's Great Leap into the 21st Century"

New Ear's musical presentation, "China Rising"

USCPFA Awards, Bob Sanborn, National USCPFA President

Meet The Past: "Interview with Edgar Snow" DVD presentation filmed at the Edgar Snow Symposium, October 2010

### **Sunday Morning, September 18**

**8:00** Working Breakfast: Each region will meet to discuss issues and make reports.

**9:30** Panel Presentation: How can USCPFA and Confucius Institute work together to promote US-China Friendship? The University of Kansas Confucius Institute

**10:15-12:00** Closing Session: Voting, Final Resolutions: Barbara Harrison, National USCPFA presiding

**12:30** Optional Dim Sum Lunch, Bo Ling's Restaurant, cost is NOT included in Convention fee. Reservations needed.

## POST CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

### Sunday Afternoon, September 18

(Adjustments concerning time and locations may be made according to participants' needs and agreement.)

- \*National Board and some Regional Boards meet at Holiday Inn
- \*Visit Kemper Contemporary Art Museum—across the street, free admission, on your own
- \*Visit Sister Cities Bridge and Xi'an Warriors/Shopping/Dinner on the Plaza – walk or hotel shuttle, on your own.
- \*Visit Truman Library & Home, transportation and admission \$20. Reservations needed. Dinner on your own.
- \*Visit to Union Station, Railroad Experience, Crown Center and Diastole. Transportation \$12. Dinner at Crown Center/Plaza, individual pays, Reservations needed. Questions? Call Joyce Cox, 816-942-6307

### Monday, September 19

- \*Morning Walking Tour of the Plaza \$10, reservation needed. Lunch on the Plaza, on your own
- \*Day Tour of Independence, MO: Truman Library, Three Trails Museum, Jail, Old Court House. Reservations required. \$12 plus admission to chosen attractions and lunch in Independence.

Email [joycecox@att.net](mailto:joycecox@att.net) for more information, or call 816-942-6307.

## Registration Form—USCPFA National Convention, September 16-17-18, 2011 Holiday Inn, One East 45th Street, Kansas City, MO

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ USCPFA Region? Western, Midwest, Eastern, Southern  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Convention Fees:

**Registration:** Early \$195/Regular \$215/Late \$235 x number of attendees \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Choice for Lunch at Museum of Art: Chicken Salad on Croissant \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Salad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you plan to go to Dim Sum Lunch on Sept. 18? No  Yes  number of people \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Needs? Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Trouble walking \_\_\_\_\_ Need wheelchair \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre/Post Convention Activities:

- Registration: Visit Steamboat Arabia, Fri., Sept. 16, 9:30— \$20 x number of people \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Registration: Visit WWI Museum and Liberty Memorial, Fri., Sept. 16 Yes  No
- Registration: Truman Library and Home, Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18— \$15 x number of people \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Registration: Visit Union Station, Railroad Experience, Crown Center, and Diastole,  
 Sunday afternoon, Sept.18. Reservations required: \$10 x number of people going \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mon., Sept. 19 Morning Walking Tour of Country Club Plaza— \$10 x number of people going \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mon., Sept. 19 Full-day Tour of Independence, MO: Truman Library, Old Homes, Three Trails Museum and  
 more! Pay at door for attractions visited. Transportation & Trolley, \$12 x number of people \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed, check made out to USCPFA-KC:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check to:

USCPFA National Convention, c/o Teresa Chien, 12101 Pawnee Lane, Leawood, KS 66209

## Friendship Work

### Northern New Jersey Organizing Chapter

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Jim H. Lee, accompanied by O.C. members Patricia Talmadge and Alicia Del Sasso, did a Chinese New Year presentation at Johnson and Johnson Consumer & Personal Products Worldwide Company in Morris



Plains, N. J. PowerPoint slides were used to introduce the USCPFA and Chinese culture, customs, and New Year, and China's economy specifically to the Asian Society for Innovation & Achievement membership. The presentation went well. Hopefully, some of them will be new members.

Note: Jim is willing to share his beautiful Chinese-culture-rich PowerPoint presentation with members: an excellent chapter resource. To preview and request a copy, contact Jim at [leejimap@gmail.com](mailto:leejimap@gmail.com).—Ed.

—Reported by Jim H. Lee

### DC Metro Area Organizing Chapter

The USCPFA-DC chapter hosted its First Annual Chinese Year of the Rabbit Luncheon Feast on February 26 at Tony Cheng's Restaurant in historic Chinatown.

The program committee—Christine Brooks, Lacey O'Neal, Heather Banks, and Kat Miller—drew on years of experience in the DC metropolitan area to bring together the meal, the venue, and the program. Christine Brooks hosted the program, which attracted a diverse group of 40. Also attending was our mentor Diana Greer, President of the Richmond chapter.

Member Lacey O'Neal—who served in China as a Crisis Manage-

*From left: Member Patricia Talmadge, Jim H. Lee (USCPFA Northern New Jersey O. C. President), member Alicia Del Sasso, Mr. Jeremy Puttock (Vice President of Global Franchise, Consumer Health Care of Johnson & Johnson), Jane Zhang (ASIA group), and two ASIA group members on the right.*

ment Team Leader/Trainer as part of the Department of State School of Leadership and Management—spoke of her experiences in writing 24+ crisis scenario exercises and training employees serving at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Member Heather Banks shared her experiences as the 100th representative sent to Asia by the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association; she taught English at Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan. An English and art major at Oberlin, Heather took courses in Chinese art and history and brought several pieces to share.

Dr. Shifen Gong Fox, whose biological father had been a military officer in Chiang Kai-shek's National Army, and who died months before she was born, gave a riveting presentation about her adventures learning about her father. The group followed as she visited her father's hometown in Sichuan in 2008, where she met cousins she didn't know she had. Her visit coincided with the Sichuan earthquake and recovery operation that made news all over the world. The second part of Dr. Fox's presentation, "The Rest of the Story..." will be featured at the second Year of the Rabbit luncheon in June.

Special guests were members of the China Challenge Program, DC public school students studying Chinese who participate in a program that makes the whole city the classroom—they order food in Chinatown, learn taichi at the Chinatown Cultural Community Center, view Chinese art

at the Smithsonian. Their native Chinese certified language teacher and a DC teacher link language instruction with discussions of China's impact on the U.S. and the world.

Marcia Brown, project manager of the China Challenge program, shared that students are selected based on their academic prowess and their interest in learning Chinese. The students undergo an intense 18-month study of Chinese history, culture, and language. Several have traveled throughout China and have continued their interest, becoming fluent in the language.

Assisted by Chinese language instructor Mrs. Ling, each China Challenge student shared a presentation in Mandarin. For the finale, they read in unison a poem in Chinese to the joy of all.

Attendees toured the Chinatown Cultural Community Center and received gift bags from the Chinese Embassy.

Several members were invited to the Chinese Embassy April 12 to celebrate a historic documentary on Flying Tigers Pilot Glen Beneda, who was in China during World War II. The premier was followed by a lavish reception in honor of Mme Liu Yandong, State Councilor of China, on the occasion of the Second Meeting of China-U.S. High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchanges.

The DC chapter joined with members from New York City to welcome a delegation from the Shanghai Research Institute of Culture and History, Shanghai International Studies University, and the Shanghai Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, who made day trip to DC on May 24. They visited the National Mall and several museums and monuments. The day was capped off with dinner on the waterfront and an evening ride to view the monuments and capitol on their way out of the city to Dulles Airport.

—Reported by Dr. Christine Brooks

## MIDWEST REGION

### Carbondale

The Carbondale chapter currently has 24 members, several of whom no



longer live in Carbondale yet choose to continue their membership. The pleasure comes in corresponding with them at least once a year. Just like Christmas newsletters, we have that chance to catch up on what is happening with them, and can share our own news. One member splits her time between Carbondale and her away home. Several other members are finally retired and able to travel, so their time away from Carbondale may nearly equal their time in Carbondale. This makes for wonderful conversations when we do eventually speak. Needless to say, arranging meetings is complicated. We stay connected through the chapter newsletter and renewal letters, and sharing Chinese holidays and celebrations. Our times together are cherished.

—Reported by Kitty Trescott

### Chicago

Continuing one of the chapter's several ongoing series of talks, Chinese Biographies, Saul Thomas, PhD candidate in history and anthropology at the U. of Chicago, presented on February 20 a program titled "Lu Xun's True Story of Ah Q: Differing Views of its Critique of China's 'National Character.'"

Chinese Porcelain was presented via DVD at the March 20 meeting. The site in China most famous for producing porcelain pottery is Jingdezhen, situated in the middle of the Yangtze River in the NE corner of Jiangxi Province, between Zhejiang and Hubei provinces, which permitted its wares to be readily transported East, West, and throughout the Yangtze River system. The kaolin clay in Jingdezhen is the finest in China. Ceramics (not yet porcelain) using such clay is said to have been produced there beginning in the Han dynasty (200 BC–200 AD).

Kunqu Opera: The Peony Pavillion (Excerpts, Commentary, Context) was the presentation by XU Peng, a University of Chicago graduate student, at the May 15 meeting, which included her own performance of selections. In both Peking Opera and Kunqu, the basic plot is generally based on some historical event or well known story that has particular

cultural significance to the Chinese people. The plots of Kunqu theater tend to focus more on human relationships and the inner life of the individual (befitting its audience of princely officials and gentry), while Peking Opera tends to focus more on public moral conduct (befitting its imperial encouragement).

—Reported by Roger Noback



*Pictured here are USCPFA member Bob Chien, President of the Society for Friendship with China, Chancellor Leo Morton of the U. of Missouri at Kansas City, and member Jim Hill at the far end, Dragon Boat race chairman. Photo by Linda Hanley.*

### Kansas City

The Kansas City chapter welcomes everyone who can come to the National Convention September 16–18. We have plenty of tours and treasures to share, as well as fascinating people to meet. We're here working to tie everything together from a Moon Festival by the pool to premiers of several new piano compositions from the University of Missouri at Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and New Ear.

The UMKC Conservatory is celebrating the most recent honor to its composition faculty, the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in Music for Zhou Long's new opera *Madame White Snake*, which

premiered in Boston in spring 2010 and was a part of the Beijing Arts Festival the following fall. Husband and wife Drs. Zhou Long and Chen Yi are a force in the developing arts and music movement via using the Chinese experience in America as a fusion of expressed thought, echoing globalization.

Reports from our local members teaching long-term in China help

put faces on the children and young adults whose stories and experiences Dana and Alan Perry and Mark and Qian Vranicar have related at our monthly meetings.

—Reported by Mary Warpeha

### Minnesota

Our chapter hosted its annual Chinese New Year Banquet on February 12, at the Peking Garden Restaurant in St. Paul with a record turnout of 166 guests. The evening was filled with good conversation, good food, and lots of door prizes. Margaret Wong and Linda Mealey-Lohmann emceed. Co-President Walter Graff gave the opening remarks, introduced the cur-



rent and incoming board members, and thanked the table sponsors—the U of M China Center/Confucius Institute, the Greg Buteyn family, the Glynis Hirschberger family, the Yim Simpson family, the Wong/Graff family, and the Elving Anderson family.

Guests were updated on the progress of the two sister-city China Garden projects. The St. Paul–Changsha China Garden is progressing through the approval process and will be submitted to the Met Council soon. The Minneapolis–Harbin China Garden is moving through the Heritage Preservation Commission permit process. During the research, many connections were discovered between the Washburn-Fair Oaks Park neighborhood and China at the turn of the century, including the fact that Mr. Washburn, the park's namesake, traveled by invitation to the Imperial Court in Beijing in 1896.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Carole Hyder, board member and International Feng Shui expert, who shared her top ten Feng Shui tips for success during the Year of the Rabbit, including tips for assuring that one's space at home and work is maximized for success and profitability.

*Minnesota board members Linda Mealey-Lohmann, Margaret Wong, and Co-President Walter Graff holding artistic rendering of proposed Minneapolis-Harbin China Friendship Garden planned for Washburn-Fair Oaks Park, across from the Minneapolis Institute of Art.*

Shaanxi Governor Zhao Zhengyong, who made a whirlwind visit to Minnesota in April, was invited to breakfast with members of the Minnesota chapter during an official sister state/province visit. The delegation included Mr. ZHANG Baowen, Director of the Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, Mrs. LI Xuemei, Director of the Department of Commerce, Mr. HE Jiuchang, Development and Reform Commission, Mr. LIANG Ping, Provincial Investment Group, and Mr. HUA Wei, Coal and Energy Group.

Hosts were Governor Mark Dayton and the Minnesota Trade office. Visits were made to the University of Minnesota, 3M, and Dorsey Whitney. Tours of the Minnesota State Capitol, the Governor's Residence, and the University of Minnesota introduced the group to the metropolitan area. The sister-city relationship was initiated by board members of the Minnesota chapter 29 years ago and continues to grow.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Atlanta

The food was excellent at our February 5 well-attended New Year's dinner.

We heard about the Year of the Rabbit from past president Peggy Roney, whose yearly presentations have become a greatly anticipated part of the festivities. Our main entertainment was a lion dance by a local group that does authentic performances. Secretary-treasurer Penny Blackford did her usual excellent job making dinner arrangements. We are pleased with our New Year contributions to the Shandan Baillie School in Gansu.

The topic for our April 5 Spring Forum, was "Cinema in Contemporary China." Professor Shu-chin Wu of Agnes Scott College spoke on "Visualizing China in Transformation: The Underground and Independent Films of Jia Zhangke," and Professor Qi Wang of Georgia Tech spoke on "Alternative Visions and Unofficial Historians of Post-Socialist China: A Talk on Contemporary Chinese Cinema and Documentary." Both women specialize in the study of cinema and made excellent presentations. Professor Wu made the arrangements for us to meet on the Agnes Scott campus, and the forum was co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program at Agnes Scott, of which Professor Wu is director.

Two years ago we started Movie Night. April's film, "Women from the Lake of Scented Souls," is much more about contemporary China and less exotic than its title suggests—a film well worth seeing. We especially enjoy the Movie Night hospitality of long-time members and former co-presidents Geoff and Pat Webber and their son Jeremy and his wife Cheryl. Geoff and Pat have a beautiful party room in their home, and the evening begins with a mostly pot-luck supper that features main dishes prepared by the lovely couple.

We appreciate the suggestions on film from Carolyn Bloomer of the Sarasota chapter as we have begun to educate ourselves on Chinese cinema. Carolyn, a professor at Ringling School of Arts in Sarasota, is a great

resource person on Chinese film.

We are proud to announce our new website, [www.uscpfa-atlanta.org](http://www.uscpfa-atlanta.org). For this we thank Shawn Lucci, who with his wife Christa Ernst, has agreed to join our leadership committee. Christa, a former student of co-president Doug Reynolds at Georgia State University, continues her study of Chinese language. Shawn volunteered his services, set up the website, and is doing an outstanding job with this project. We greatly appreciate their contributions to our chapter.

—Reported by Ed Krebs

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Long Beach, California

The Year of the Tiger 2010 began in February with a special celebration with Chinese language students from the LB Polytechnic High School modeling authentic costumes of 17 ethnic minority groups of China (courtesy of the USCPFA National Archives). They sang, played local musical instruments, and described cultural traditions of the various ethnic groups. Their teacher, chapter member Dr. Minqi Zhu, is widely recognized for his scholarship and his six popular—nearly 200 students—Chinese language classes.

The chapter sponsored a night in March for members to attend John Adams' 1987 eclectic modern opera, "Nixon in China," sung in Southern California for the first time in 20+ years. It remains as topical as ever, was brilliantly performed, and will be staged by the New York Metropolitan Opera next season with Peter Sellars producing/directing and John Adams conducting.

In May we explored the roles of "Women in New China" through the eyes of three young women who described their experiences growing up in rural and urban China, then moving to reside and work in the United States. Ms. Heidi Zhang of CSULB led the discussion. In contrast, member Dr. Marie LaFontane gave a retrospective of women in old China transitioning to the new.

Since exchange visits by Chinese officials from various provinces have been negotiated through some of our

local university campuses, we were requested to set up visits and chaperone two groups of physicians and health professionals to the prestigious Long Beach Memorial Hospital in June and October. Both groups, clinical physicians and family planning officials from Jiangsu Province, toured the main hospital as well as the new, multi-million-dollar Children's Hospital.

A boat trip of the LB Harbor in July gave members and guests a chance to marvel at towering container ships from China and elsewhere. We learned about the dynamic shipping life at the renowned 200-year-old Port of Long Beach, which excels in trade with China and the Pacific Rim.

In October, Jim MacLellan, Director of Trade Services of the Port of Los Angeles, spoke to our chapter on "Historic Trade Routes Between California, Mexico, and Asia" in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was of great interest to learn that some major port cities on the west coast—no California or Mexico then!—were developed by the Portugese (China via Macao) to supply the Spanish missionaries and their newly established missions.

Our new officers for 2011 are Joe Lau, President, Richard Yu Vice-President, and Hazel Wallace, Secretary.

At a January 16 luncheon meeting, Rose Mary Thompson, Mimi Lau, and Joseph Lau reported on their fabulous trips to China with the National US-CPFA/CPAFFC Friendship Forum in 2010. They visited Nanchang, Beijing, and other cities—and spoke of their visit to the Shanghai EXPO, meeting up with ex-Pres. Jimmy Carter, and buying exquisite porcelain from Jingdezhen Province.

On April 2, Dr. John Jung fascinated us with his accounting of American-Chinese experiences in the USA, specifically that of Chinese restaurants from his recent book, *Sweet and Sour: Life in Chinese Family Restaurants*.

We have increased our membership in the last few years and are making great efforts to offer relevant topics of interest related to China to our members and friends in Long Beach and the surrounding areas.

—Reported by Hazel Wallace and Elizabeth Kraft

## WESTERN REGION

### Las Vegas

On March 20, longtime member Patrick Wirtz spoke about his trip to the Shanghai Expo. He showed photos of the pavilions, highlighting the energy-saving designs, and photos of exhibits from many countries with modern and traditional architecture. Spain's pavilion, e.g., was cooled by shade provided by a woven lattice. We enjoyed Patrick's presentation.

On April 17, immigration attorney Robert Lum spoke about Asian immigrants and how today they have different expectations. In the mid and late 1800s, people leaving China were usually male; they expected to return home after earning money, and often brought a son to run the business when they returned to China. In the 30s and 40s, Chinese fled the Japanese, seeking friends and family in the USA. They were able to write back home and expected to return someday.

In the 50s, with immigration to the USA cut off, immigrants fled communism and did not expect to return. In the 1970s, after Nixon and Mao resumed relations, a wave of scholars and performers visited the United States, usually single people, hoping to gain education or training not available in China. Most returned after a short time abroad. Those who stayed were able to maintain contact with friends and family in China. Recent immigrants travel back and forth freely. Many establish long-term residency, staying for many years. Some have children in the U.S., who will have dual citizenship and may return to the USA as adults.

Las Vegas is a desired destination for Asians because of Nevada's favorable business climate and its gambling, a favorite Asian pastime. Clark County is the fastest growing county for Asians in the 2010 Census, a high percentage being foreign-born.

On May 15th we watched a video on Chinese-American civil rights. *Victor Who* deals with the murder of Victor Chin in Detroit in 1982. The documentary features news clips of the family dealing with the tragedy and interviews with key Asian leaders. We

## Friendship Work

learned how Victor's death and trial brought together various Asian groups into a consciousness that we are all Asian-Americans. The trial became a catalyst for other groups to speak out against anti-Asian prejudice.

We held a fundraiser for the Fengcheng Children's Home in Liaoning, China, whose many disabled children belong to families who cannot provide medical care. Member Andrew Gyure spent several weeks last summer helping them set up a cafe and teaching the older children to provide restaurant service. Books, artwork, and videos were donated for the fundraiser.

Past President Edna Zhuo and her husband Sammy Dong are spending the summer in Kun Ming with Sammy's relatives. Sammy grew up there and talks about the beautiful gardens and butterflies. Pictures sent by email show smiling faces and delicious meals with family.

Our chapter, which is in active in summer, will regroup after the National Conference in September.

—Reported by Cynthia Tripp

### HAWAI'I SUBREGION

#### Oahu

Aloha all from the Oahu chapter in Hawai'i. We welcome exchanging thoughts on best practices from across America (and China) by email, telephone, and in person. Do call on us when visiting Hawai'i.

Our chapter has focused on building collaboration with specific areas in China as the next step beyond friendship and understanding. The collaboration builds on education, publication, media, business entrepreneurship, and charity.

Oahu is assisting to edit a public television showing of the *4th Seminar on the Principles of Chinese and American Law*. We sponsored the Hawai'i State Bar Association and the Hainan Lawyers Association last winter for a presentation on How To Open a Business in Hawai'i and Hainan, respectively. Fourteen lawyers from Hainan, China, exchanged legal steps to be undertaken, with printed material and books, with lawyers in Hawai'i. Anyone wishing a copy of the latest

Hainan Laws and Regulations are welcome to receive it by contacting us.

High school and middle school student and faculty exchanges are being explored with cross visits. The concept of transplanting a Hawai'i summer school course in English for credit but given in Haikou, Hainan, and vice-versa, is in the discussion stages assisted by the Oahu USCPFA.

Our chapter members are assisting a delegation of twelve top Hainan and Haikou chairmen and CEOs of major corporations to explore with their Hawai'i counterparts cross-investing, internships, and best practices. Collaboration is underway with invitations sent. We assisted Professor Inge White of our WWC University of Hawai'i to present research results in Sanya, Hainan, on orchids and pharmaceutical uses: a joint publication is being written.

The Oahu chapter continues to support its adopted charity in China, the Bright Connection for mentally and physically handicapped children in Sanya.

On Arbor Day we planted six rare endemic sandalwood trees (*iliahi* in Hawaiian and *tan heung mu* in Chinese) at its namesake, Iliahi Elementary School, the site of an Iliahi forest two centuries ago. Hawai'i is best known to Chinese people as Sandalwood Mountain, but the sandalwood has been so depleted that few today know what a living tree looks like. Our USCPFA chapter has been the principal promoter of the replanting of sandalwood trees in Hawai'i.

Four film crews, from Beijing, Zhongshan, Singapore, and Taiwan, have this year arrived to interview and research, through Oahu members, the activities and supporters of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. This is the 100th anniversary of the double ten, October 10, revolution that ended the Ching Dynasty and started Asia's first republic, with Dr. Sun as President. Hawai'i had a great role as a cradle of the Chinese revolution. Many Oahu members are descendants of the first supporters, whose care and support for a modern China are carried on by them today through the USCPFA.

We extend our Aloha to you. We

also extend our wishes of China's ancient revered concept *Bo ai*, to which Aloha comes closest. Aloha and Bo ai.

Note: Chinese philosopher Mozi (ca. 470 BC–390 BC) rejected Confucianism, which emphasized the correct performance of ritual social roles, and sought an objective moral standard that could be applied equally to all members of society. His ethical system emphasized the greatest good for the greatest number. His doctrine of *bo-ai* (universal love) maintained that one should love all people equally.—Ed.

—Reported by Leigh-Wai Doo

#### Honolulu

Early in March, President Frances Goo and host families Walter Chang, Vernon Ching, and Dr. Margaret Lee took the six Parvin journalists to the Big Island of Hawai'i—their reward for teaching Mandarin classes—along with Kathryn Mo, wife of journalist Morrice Mo. In perfect weather they visited the newly reconstructed Akaka Falls visitor area, and experienced the awesome beautiful eruption of Kilauea volcano at night. The group was able to get up close to observe the habits of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle at Kaanapali Black Sands beach.

At the April membership meeting, Mr. Xiudong (Doug) Xie, a photo-journalist with Xinhua News Agency, presented a slide show of the best of over 7,000 photos taken when he was stationed in Afghanistan, Kabul, and London, ones distributed worldwide by Xinhua. The photos as seen through his eyes took the audience through a visual journey of pain and joy, despair and hope in Afghanistan, and showed the diverse and multicultural aspects of Great Britain.

Since the beginning of the year, several new members enrolled in the Mandarin class. In May, the class and board members gave a farewell party for the Parvin Fellows. A few days later, they received their certificates of completion from the University of Hawai'i. At this ceremony, all expressed deep appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality received during their stay in Hawai'i.

—Reported by Lenora Leu

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# THE CENTER FOR TEACHING ABOUT CHINA

VISIT THE CTAC WEB PAGE AT <http://www.uscpfa.org/ctac.html>

Be sure to request a new, updated catalog of all CTAC items! Email Kitty Trescott and one will be mailed to you ASAP!

**FEILONG: THE CHINA GAME**, created by Mamopalire of Vermont, Inc., \$30.00

This game, "The Flying Dragon", was created by the Asian Studies Center of The University of Vermont in collaboration with Mamopalire of Vermont, Inc. in 2005. It is a question-based board game designed for everyone, age 8 to 80+. Up to eight people can play at one time. There are three levels of questions, similar in style to trivia pursuit. Every player has a dragon marker that travels the board as questions are answered. Questions are on cards drawn from the decks. Each player has eight destinations to reach in course of the game, ultimately landing on the map of China. More than thirty categories of questions provide options for the players. A game can be played in one hour or be prolonged for several hours. What a wonderful way to encourage and support an interest in China.

*Questions? Catalogs? Email Kitty Trescott at [trescott@midwest.net](mailto:trescott@midwest.net).*

Send payment for above to: **CTAC, 1214 West Schwartz, Carbondale, IL 62901**

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友

# USCPFA National Friendship Tours

Travel in China is an adventure into another historical time, into another culture, into a society changing as you watch it.

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## Travel to China with Friends! 2011 USCPFA National Tours

The US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) has been taking travelers to China since the 1970s.

## Report on the USCPFA Delegation to Friendship Forum September 6-17, 2010

In September of last year, National Youxie sponsored a Friendship Cities Conference in Shanghai (to involve China's sister cities from all over the world), and a Friendship Forum in Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province (to involve participants from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S., and other English-speaking countries).

In addition to attending the conference, delegates visited the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and toured in Jiangxi Province, where the Long March began, and where they visited China's Porcelain City, Jingdezhen. USCPFA's 13-member delegation was led by USCPFA President Bob Sanborn and included representatives from USCPFA's four regions—Eastern, Midwest, Southern, and Western.

Before the tour, several delegates joined a group led by President Jimmy Carter in a day-trip to Zijiang in Hunan Province to attend the unveiling of a statue of General Claire Chennault. Chennault was leader of the American Flying Tigers, an important force in turning the tide against the attacking Japanese in WWII. Zijiang is the site where the Japanese surrendered, ending their prolonged attack on China.

On behalf of all USCPFA members, Bob Sanborn presented to President Carter an engraved USCPFA medallion to acknowledge the President's "extraordinary achievements in US-China relations." The award and presentation were made possible by the concerted efforts of people on both sides of the Pacific.

To see more of Linda Hanley's photos of the tour, go to <http://hanleyphoto.zenfolio.com>. Click on "China Tour 2010," which will open a new page. There, enter "Friendship" as the password. This allows access and downloading. Prints may be purchased. Downloads are free. For "President Jimmy Carter" pictures, go to Sept. 7 and Sept 8, 2010. Group photo was taken Sept. 8.

**NOTE: Youxie has been sponsoring a Friendship Forum tour every 2 years. Consider applying for the USCPFA delegation when the 2012 tour is announced.**

**Questions? Contact Barbara Cobb, Tour Coordinator, at [Barbara.cobb@juno.com](mailto:Barbara.cobb@juno.com) (Tel/Fax 615 833-9512). Mail applications & payments (check payable to USCPFA National Tours) to USCPFA National Tours, 496 Ellenwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211-5716.**



*For over 1,000 years Jingdezhen has been the porcelain capital of China. From its unique kaolin clay, the city's people produce porcelain "as thin as paper, as white as jade, as bright as a mirror, and as sound as a bell." Known for its superior quality and beauty, it is highly valued by collectors of antique porcelain.*

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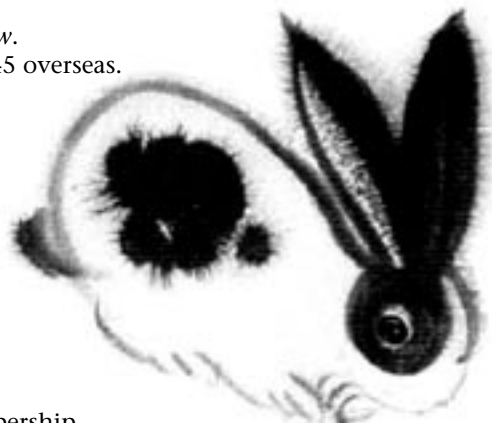


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**2011 is the Year of the Rabbit**

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