

# Needham Research Institute Newsletter

李約瑟研究所通訊

New Series, No. 15

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November 2018

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## The Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship in the History of Science and Technology in China

The Needham Research Institute Trustees are delighted to announce the establishment of the Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship in the History of Science and Technology in China, established to honour the late Professor Ho Peng Yoke, former Director and Trustee of the Institute (1989-2002), who passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

The Trustees are deeply grateful to Professor Ho's family, whose generous decision to donate £500,000 to the Institute to perpetuate Professor Ho's intellectual legacy has made the establishment of this Fellowship possible.

Professor Ho played a crucial role in supporting Needham's monumental *Science and Civilisation in China* project during 1950-80s. In 1989, he accepted Dr. Needham's invitation to become Director of the Institute, and under his wise guidance the Institute began its transition to the vibrant scholarly community which it is today.

In the summer of 2018, a Japanese Flowering Cherry tree was planted in the grounds of the Institute, accompanied by a commemorative plaque inscribed "In Memory of Ho Peng Yoke, 1926-2014, Director and Trustee".

This Fellowship will be open to post-doctoral scholars of any nationality researching the history of science and technology in China. Preference will be given to those working on a subject in line with Professor Ho's own research interests. Application is now open and we look forward to welcoming our first Ho Peng Yoke Fellow in October 2019.



## The Founding of the Needham Research Institute Friendship Association (NRIFA)



In order to support the NRI's work and its outreach activities, the NRIFA was formally founded at a meeting held at the University of Science and Technology Beijing on Saturday, 9th June. More than fifty NRI scholars and friends attended this meeting, including Mr. Alistair Michie. Professor Liu Dun was elected the first President of the NRIFA, with Professors Bridie Andrews, Fung Kam-Wing, Gao Ce, Guo Shirong, Catherine Jami, Niu Weixing, Qian Wei, Qu Anjing, Shi Yunli, Shin Dong-Won, Togo Tsukahara, and Wang Siming being elected Vice-Presidents. A Steering Board of 34 members was also established, including the President, Vice-Presidents and 21 eminent scholars, namely Bu Fengxian, Fan Zhimin, Han Qi, Hu Weijia, Huang Quansheng, Jiri Hudecek, Jun Yong Hoon, Li Xiaocen, Liu Bing, John Moffett, Ning Xiaoyu, Lena Springer, Wang Yangzong, Wang Qianjin, Wu Guosheng, Yin Jie, Ying Jia-Ming, Yu Xinzhong, Zhang Li, Zhang Yukun, and Zhao Zhijun. Professor Liu Xiao and Dr. Wu Huiyi were appointed as Secretary of the NRIFA, with Drs. Jenny Zhao and Chen Kunlong acting as Deputy Secretary.

## The Third Needham Memorial Lecture in Cambridge, given by Lord Renfrew

The third Needham Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Jing Brand Co. Ltd., China, took place at the Riley Auditorium, Clare College on Friday, 26th October, and was well attended by members of the University and the public. The lecture, under the title *'Liangzhu and the origins of state society in China'*, was delivered by Professor Lord Colin Renfrew, an authority on European prehistory and former Director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. It was chaired by Professor Martin Jones, Chairman of the NRI Trustees and a fellow archaeologist.

Professor Renfrew presented his most recent research on the archaeological finds from the Liangzhu site in Zhejiang, China, which was carried out jointly with Chinese archaeologists. In his opinion, new archaeological finds from Liangzhu have challenged the conventional view that the first state society of China appeared in the Shang Dynasty, from around 1600 BC, as documented in burial sites found at Anyang since 1928. The magnificent finds of the city enclosed with earth walls, hundreds of finely worked jades, and the large-scale hydraulic works strongly suggest the emergence of what may be regarded as a state society. Professor Renfrew argued that a complex society had already emerged and flourished more than a millennium earlier than that of the Shang period, with its magnificent bronzes, and may be regarded as the earliest state society of East Asia.



## The Twelfth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture in Hong Kong



On 23rd March 2018, Professor Martin Jones, Chairman of the NRI Trust, delivered the Twelfth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture at the Hong Kong Central Library to an audience of more than 70 people. The title of Professor Jones' lecture was *'Food Globalization in Prehistory'* and covered early cultural interaction between East and West. The Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture was organized by the Joseph Needham Foundation for Science & Civilisation Hong Kong (JNFSC, formerly the East Asian History of Science Foundation Hong Kong), which is currently chaired by Dr. Peter Lee.

## The Second Ma Kanwen Memorial Lecture at the NRI

The second Ma Kanwen Memorial Lecture was held at the Institute on Friday, 25th May 2018. Dr. Vivienne Lo of the China Centre for Health and Humanity, University College London, presented an excellent talk on *'Professor Ma Kanwen and his Ethnographic Journey of 1954'*, which highlighted Professor Ma's early investigative work on historical sites relating to the heritage of ancient Chinese medicine.

## Launch of our Fundraising Campaign for the Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship Fund



During the Needham Research Institute Friendship Association's founding meeting in June in Beijing, (see *previous page*) a fundraising campaign for the newly established Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship was formally announced and put into action. Over the subsequent five months, the NRIFA has raised over £30,000 in China, UK and USA, and this money has been added to the Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship Fund, which was established in April 2018.

The Needham Research Institute and its Trustees express their gratitude to the NRIFA and the following individuals and institutions for their immense support and generosity: Liu Dun, Liu Xiao, Ning Xiaoyu, Hao Liuxiang, Wan Fubin, Xu Bin, Hu Weijia, Qu Anjing, Hou Yude, Niu Weixing, Qian Wei, Nie Fuling, Wang Xiaojun, Min Xiangpeng, Ma Tunfu, Yang Huan, Yong Mei, Yin Jie, Shi Yunli, Liu Jiemin, Yu Xinzhong, Zhao Bin, Zhao Dan, Zhang Li, Cheng Rui, Li Haijing, Ding Hong, Dong Qiaosheng, Guo Lu, Liu Jie, Bu Fengxian, You Yang, Zhang Yukun, Liu Shanshan, Li Yan, Xie Dan, Sa Rina, Li Dexin, Tang Quan, Deng Kehui, Huang Quansheng, Wang Shuyan, Wang Qianjin, Hu Huakai, Wang Yangzong, Han Rubin, Yi Degang, Han Jishao, Zhang Lujun, Ji Zhigang, Zhang Jiawei, Zhang Meifang (from China and ordered according to the dates of donation); Zhao Jingyi, Wu Huiyi, Chen Kunlong, Dang Xiaoning, Fang Yibing, Shi Yunhua, Mei Jianjun, as well as the Moller Center, Churchill College and the Wiselinx Executive Education (from the UK), Wang Haixia and Liu Xinyi (from the US).

We hope to build further on the funding already received, with the aim of running the fellowship to commemorate this great scholar in perpetuity. If you wish to make a personal donation, please email Dr. Liu Xiao at [lixiao@ucas.edu.cn](mailto:lixiao@ucas.edu.cn) or Dr. Wu Huiyi at [Huiyi.Wu@nri.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Huiyi.Wu@nri.cam.ac.uk) for information on how to do so.

## The Joseph Needham Symposium on Early Cultural and Scientific Transmission

On 26th -27th March 2018, the Joseph Needham Symposium on Early Cultural and Scientific Transmission across Eurasia with China took place at the Cho Yiu Conference Hall, Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). This symposium was jointly organised by the Joseph Needham Foundation for Science & Civilisation Hong Kong, NRI, CUHK, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). A group of eminent scholars from HK, mainland China, UK, US and Japan were invited to participate in this symposium, including Professors John Steele, Liu Li, Zhao Zhijun, Sun Xiaochun, Sun Zhouyong, Wang Qianjin and Bill Mak. A total of fourteen papers were presented, which were organised into five sessions with a focus on the following topics: agriculture and crops, archaeology, metallurgy, cultural transmission and astronomy.



### Fellowship News

We are delighted to announce that Beijing Xingzhi Exploring Culture Communication Group Co., Ltd. have agreed to extend their sponsorship of the Needham-Silk Road Scholarship program for a fifth year, at the current rate of £17,000. The new collaboration agreement was signed in September 2018, and the Needham-Silk Road Scholarships have been advertised on our website and through social media.

We also have pleasure in announcing that the Jing Brand scholarship programme has been renewed for 2019-2020. In August the Jing Brand Company approved our report for the 2017-18 fellowship period (including the selection results of four scholars for 2018-2019) and indicated their continuing support for the programme.

From 2018, the Sino-British Fellowship Trust has agreed to extend our SBFT fellowship programme from three months to six months. The first scholar to benefit from this extended fellowship period is Dr. Ma Tunfu from Henan University.

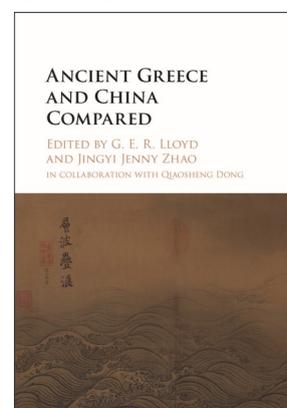
### Progress of the *Science and Civilisation in China (SCC)* Project

Professor Mei Jianjun and Dr. Chen Kunlong participated in the Symposium on 'The Chinese Bronze Age in a Eurasian Perspective', which was held at Peking University during 28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> August. Dr. Chen presented their joint paper entitled 'Interaction and Localisation: New Insights into Early Metallurgy in China'. On 21<sup>st</sup> September they also attended the workshop on 'Eastern Zhou Metal Technologies' held at the British Museum where they presented a paper discussing the development of metal forging technology in Pre-Qin China. Professor Su Rongyu participated in the British Museum workshop and presented his recent research on the bronze vessels in the collection of the British Museum.

Professor Zhao Feng, Director of the China Silk Museum, visited the NRI in July to work on his *Looms* volume for the SCC series. He carried out detailed research on the archival materials related to the published textile volume and further revised his writing plan.

### Book Launch: *Ancient Greece and China Compared*

*Ancient Greece and China Compared*, jointly edited by Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd and Dr Jingyi Jenny Zhao, with the collaboration of Mr Qiaosheng Dong, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. The volume stems from the conference 'Comparing Ancient Worlds: Greece and China', which took place at the NRI in January 2013. It features an introduction and an afterword, and 14 articles which explore the ancient Greek and Chinese worlds from an interdisciplinary perspective. In January 2018, a drinks reception was held at the NRI to celebrate the launch of this pioneering work.



### 2018-2019 Fellowship Holders and Visiting Scholars

We are delighted to announce the successful applicants for our 2018-2019 fellowship programmes as follows: 1) Jing Brand Fellows: Shih Ching-fei (National Taiwan University), Yun Yali (Capital Normal University), Federico Valenti (University of Sassari, Italy), Ren Xiaolin (Chinese Academy of Sciences); 2) Needham-Silk Road Fellow: Wang Tingting (Sun Yat-sen University); 3) Li Foundation Fellow: Gu Man (China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences); 4) SBFT Fellow: Ma Tunfu (Henan University).

Visiting scholars funded by other funding bodies in 2018-2019 include: Guo Xiaoyu (Chicago University); Han Xiangna (University of Science and Technology Beijing); Lu Ruihua (Beijing Institute of Technology); Bill Mak (Kyoto University); Mao Dan (Shanghai Jiaotong University); Qu Anjing (Northwest University); Shi Honglei (Taiyuan University of Science and Technology); Wang Xiaohu (South China Normal University); Wang Xiaojun (Henan Finance University); Xiao Bo (Wuhan University); Yi Bao (Shanxi University); Zhang Jiuchen (Chinese Academy of Sciences).

Details of all the fellowships we offer, and information on how to apply to visit the Institute can be found on our website at [www.nri.cam.ac.uk/opportunities](http://www.nri.cam.ac.uk/opportunities)

## Archival Project

Thanks to generous support from Dr. Peter Lee, Chairman of the Joseph Needham Foundation for Science & Civilisation, Hong Kong, the NRI has been able to hire an experienced archivist, Dr. Rosalind Grooms, to work 2 days per week on parts of our as-yet uncatalogued archives of Dr. Needham. Aided by Dr. Sally Church, Dr. Grooms will initially be focussing on the cataloguing of files and photographs relating to Dr. Needham's many visits to East Asia after 1950, with a view to producing further educational outreach materials through digitisation and small, portable exhibitions.

## Book Donations

Once again this year the Library received many donations of books. Most notable among them is the 30 volume set of reprints of the translations of Western works on science and technology done at the Jiangnan Arsenal in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Copies of the originals are rare, and this is, I believe, the first time that they have been reprinted. The gift came directly from the publishers, China Science and Technology University Press, thanks to the good offices of the chief editor, Professor Feng Lisheng of Qinghua University.



## Seminars

Our weekly Friday afternoon seminars, organised by Dr. Wu Huiyi, continue to attract a large and enthusiastic audience. Some recent presentations have included texts on Buddhist mountaineers, infants and childhood in early China, Jesuit astronomers in C17th Beijing, and commercial mathematics in Edo Japan. The Friday afternoon seminars have two formats: text-readings and talks. The text-reading seminars aim at close examination and discussion of interesting primary sources and have featured texts in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Tibetan. Text materials are circulated and the speaker reads this material through, giving an English translation. In recent years, an increasing number of scholars working on contemporary periods and on non-textual materials have given talks about their on-going or recently completed research projects.

The fortnightly science historiography reading group held on a Wednesday morning is also thriving, and has recently included sessions on recent developments in digital humanities, early trans-Eurasian exchanges, and issues raised by Catherine Jami's recent edited volume *Individual Itineraries and the Spatial Dynamics of Knowledge: Science Technology and Medicine in China, 17th-20th Century* (Paris: Collège de France, Institut des Hautes études chinoises, 2017). In contrast to the Friday seminars, its function is to facilitate dialogue between scholars from different fields on methodological and historiographical issues of the history of science in East Asia. By its inclusion of scholars from both the NRI and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, it capitalises on the diversity of research fields at the NRI whilst seeking to bridge the gap between Western and non-Western history of science around topics of common concern. On each occasion, the reading material, usually an article, is circulated prior to the meeting which takes the form of a free discussion of its content with a brief presentation by the scholar leading the session.

## Study Visit from the International Schools Foundation (ISF) Academy



The ISF Academy students from Hong Kong visited our Institute from 26th June to 13th July. There were ten students in the group, four girls and six boys. Under Dr. Wu Huiyi's guidance, students carried out research on a number of interesting topics, such as China's space programme, revenge in Chinese history, the journey of an African giraffe to China in 1414, modernization in the late Qing dynasty, and the rise of Beijing as a political centre. Furthermore, two guest talks were organised and given by Mr. John Moffett and Dr. Rosalind Grooms. We are pleased to note that for the first time, this year's group included younger siblings of students who had previously benefited from the summer school programme at the NRI.

## Needham Research Institute WeChat Group

We are delighted to announce that the Needham Research Institute now has its own WeChat group, where news and events of the institute are publicised on a weekly basis. Since it was set up in April 2018, the group has attracted over one thousand subscribers and is proving to be an effective method of communicating the work of the institute to a wider audience.

(Please scan the QR code provided to access WeChat content and subscribe.)

