

Needham Research Institute Newsletter

李約瑟研究所通訊

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The Fourth Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture in Cambridge, given by Professor Dagmar Schäfer



The 4th Joseph Needham Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Jing Brand Co. Ltd., China, took place at the Riley Auditorium, Clare College on Friday, 25th October, attracting a large audience drawn from within academia and the public. The lecture, under the title *The Science of Silk, or What Can China Contribute to the History of Science?* was delivered by Professor Dagmar Schäfer, Director, Department III, Max-Planck-Institute für Wissenschaftsgeschichte. Professor Schäfer illustrated the changing nature of knowing, the role of empiricism, foreign actors, local knowledge and imperial power in 13th to 14th century East Asia world, and explored how materials shape cultures of science and what case studies of China can contribute to the History of Science. Professor Roel Sterckx, Joseph Needham Professor of Chinese History, Science and Civilization of the University of Cambridge, chaired the lecture, which was followed by a lively question and answer session.

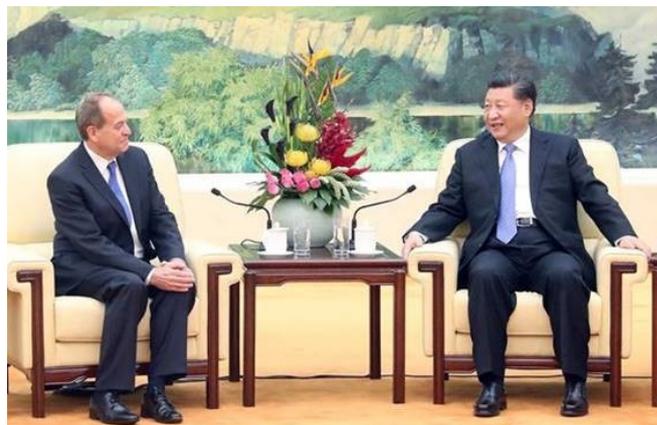
New Jing Brand Fellowship

We are delighted to report that Mr. Wu Shaoxun, Chairman of the Jing Brand Co. Ltd. and donor of our Jing Brand Fellowships in Chinese Science and Civilisation, led a delegation of six people to visit us in May this year. After a tour guided by Professor Roel Sterckx, they were invited to listen to reports delivered by our Jing Brand fellows, Professor Shih Ching-fei, Drs. Yun Yali, Federico Valenti, and Ren Xiaolin. At the end of this meeting, Mr. Li Yinhui, Chairman of the Qinghai Huzhu Barleywine Co. Ltd., expressed his appreciation of the academic achievements of the Jing Brand fellowship programme and announced that he wished to fund an additional fellowship in the programme. As a result of his generosity, we shall have three Jing Brand fellowships to offer for the next five years (2020-2024). The new fellowship will support research focused on the historical development of agriculture and food production in Northwest China. The call for applications for the these Fellowships was issued in November 2019.



Mr. Wu Shaoxun (4th from left) and Mr. Li Yinhui (1st right)

Honour for NRI Trustee



We are delighted to report that NRI Trustee Mr. Stephen Perry has been awarded the China Reform Friendship Medal by President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. The award, which recognises the work of Mr. Perry as Chairman of the 48 Group Club in helping China open up to the rest of the world, was made at a ceremony which took place in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on December 18th 2018. Mr. Perry's work builds on the lifetime mission of his father, Jack Perry, who led the pioneering "Icebreaker" Mission in 1953.

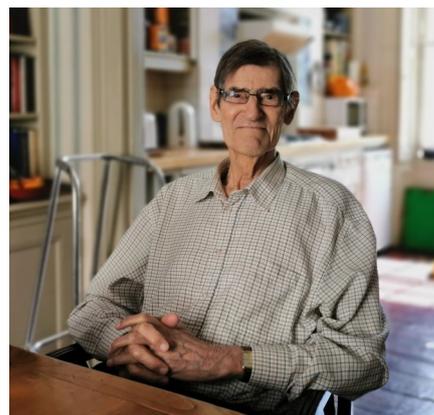
Koyré Medal for Professor Liu Dun

On 14th September 2019, during the 1st Conference of the International Academy of the History of Science (IAHS) held in Athens, Greece, the IAHS awarded the Koyré Medal to Professor Liu Dun for his significant contribution to the History of Science. NRI Trustee Professor Liu is the first Chinese scholar to receive this prestigious award.



SIR JOHN BOYD, KCMG (1936—2019)

We are sad to record the death of our former Chairman, Sir John Boyd, on 18th October 2019. Sir John was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Needham Research Institute in 2005, and succeeded Lady Youde as Chair from 2008 to 2016. He oversaw the strengthening of the Board of Trustees in 2009, with the addition of five new Trustees, including the present Chairman Professor Martin Jones. In 2013, Sir John chaired the Appointments Committee which recommended the appointment of our Director, Professor Jianjun Mei, in succession to Professor Christopher Cullen. During his Chairmanship of the NRI, Sir John hosted visits from distinguished guests such as HRH Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the PRC and His Excellency the Singapore High Commissioner, Mr. T. Jasudasen. We are deeply grateful for the contribution that Sir John made to the life and development of the Institute, and shall miss his unfailing support, wise guidance and friendship.



Obituary by Elizabeth Wright, Trustee

John Boyd was born in 1936, the oldest of 4 boys. His father was a Professor of Anatomy at the University of Cambridge and John's three brothers were all distinguished in their various academic or medical fields. John, however, pursued a different course, reading modern languages at Clare College, Cambridge, after secondary education at Westminster School. On graduation he was offered a position in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), but decided to take up a two-year scholarship at Yale to read Mandarin. A good choice, as, when he subsequently joined the FCO he was sent to Hong Kong to further improve his Chinese by living with a Chinese family. That experience strengthened his deep interest in Chinese culture, society and history.

He was first posted to China in 1965, when China was still reeling from the economic and social disasters of the Great Leap Forward and was about to embark on the trauma of the Cultural Revolution. He was there for two years, then followed a stint in London, followed by 4 years in Washington, at what was a particularly interesting and febrile time at the height of the Vietnam War. Then, back to Beijing as a First Secretary at a time when relations with the UK were easing with the appointment of an Ambassador, after years of representation by a Chargé d'Affaires. During that time John's marriage to his first wife, Gunilla, was dissolved and in 1977 he married Julia Raynsford, who was to become a very distinguished author. Her books include *'Travellers in the Third Reich'*, which became an international best-seller and won the *Los Angeles Times* history book prize.

A number of postings followed, including economic counsellor to Bonn, two years with the UK delegation to the UN and then back to Hong Kong as Political Adviser from 1985-87. Then back to London, firstly as Deputy Under-Secretary of State (defence and intelligence) and then Chief Clerk to the FCO (a role that is far more powerful than it looks on paper!). John's final posting was to Tokyo in 1992, as Ambassador, which he and Julia greatly enjoyed. Quite apart from the aspects of working in the world's second largest economy and becoming very engaged with the business community, John and Julia immersed themselves in the cultural and intellectual life of the country and all that it had to offer. They pursued their musical interests and a highlight for John was the chance to play second violin privately in the Embassy, with three other string players from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which visited Tokyo under the leadership of Sir George Solti. On his return to the UK John took up several posts, including Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, a Trustee and subsequently Chair of the British Museum, Chairman of Asia House and Chair of the Needham Research Institute from 2008-2016.

For those of us who knew John as a friend as well as a colleague, we remember a delightful, funny, self-deprecating, intellectually curious and very able man, with wide interests and pursuits; a public servant of great integrity, but one who got as much pleasure from finding an early edition of 'Middlemarch' as from dealing successfully with a tricky diplomatic challenge. He will be greatly missed by Julia and his five children and many grandchildren and all his friends and former colleagues.

Continuing Donations to the Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship Fund

Over the past year, the Needham Research Institute Friendship Association (NRIFA) and the Institute have continued to receive donations to the Ho Peng Yoke Fellowship Fund. Donations made by individuals and institutions in China, the UK, and USA now total over £40,000. The Needham Research Institute and its Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to the NRIFA and the following people for their immense support and generosity: (From China and ordered according to the date of donation) 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 Xinzong, 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, Yi Degang, Han Jishao, Zhang Lujun, Ji Zhigang, Zhang Jiawei, Zhang Meifang, Wang Xiao, Han Rubin, Li Xiaocen, Zhou Chang, Wang Miao, Yang Ruidong, Fu Banghong,; (From the UK) Shi Yunhua, Mei Jianjun, Dang Xiaoning, Chen Kunlong, Zhao Jingyi, Wu Huiyi, Fang Yibing, Wang Zilan, Yu Bin, Zhao Yang, Ren Xiaolin, Gu Man, Yun Yali, and (from the US) Wang Haixia, Chen Shuanglin, and Liu Xinyi.

Science in the Forest, Science in the Past II Workshop



The second conference on “*Science in the Forest, Science in the Past*” was held at the Institute from 5th -7th June 2019. Organised by Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd and sponsored by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, with additional support from the departments of Classics, History and Philosophy of Science and Social Anthropology in Cambridge, the workshop was attended by more than 20 scholars, including specialists in a wide variety of fields covering history and philosophy of science, social anthropology, sinology, Greco-Roman classics, and computer sciences, many of them world leaders in their disciplines. Two of our Jing Brand Fellows, Professor Shih Ching-fei and Dr. Federico Valenti, also participated. The conference papers covered a wide range of topics and plans to publish the papers are underway.

Crafted Knowledge in a Globalized World Workshop

A one-day workshop on “*Crafted Knowledge in a Globalized World*”, jointly organized by Professor Shih Ching-fei (Jing Brand Fellow) and Dr. Wu Huiyi (ISF Senior Research Fellow), was held at the Institute on 24th June 2019. It was financially supported by the Institute and the MOST Research Project: “Humanistic Reflections and Cultural Practices in Contemporary Taiwan”. About twenty scholars attended, including Professor Shane McCausland, Percival David Professor of the History of Art, SOAS, Professor Lai Yu-chih, Department of Modern History, Academia Sinica, and Professor Jeremy Tanner, Institute of Archaeology, UCL. Nine papers were presented and discussed, covering such interesting topics as crafted knowledge on Chinese porcelain, Mattioli’s natural history illustrations in the Beitang Library, and forged antiquities and true knowledge in Middle Period China. The workshop contributed to the broader picture of technology transmission and knowledge production, not only by providing a set of case studies in the East Asian context, but also by promoting cross-disciplinary and cross-regional dialogue on issues in the relevant fields..



2019-2020 Fellowship Holders and Visiting Scholars

We are delighted to announce the successful applicants for our 2019-2020 fellowship programmes as follows: 1) Ho Peng Yoke Fellow: Bill Mak (Kyoto University); 2) Jing Brand Fellows: Zhang Meng (Peking University), Song Yuanming (University of Science and Technology Beijing), and Hilary A. Smith (University of Denver); 3) Needham-Silk Road Fellow: Tong Yangyang (Northwest University) and Shi Zhilin (Lanzhou University); 4) SBFT Fellow: Jiang Hongjun (Inner Mongolia Normal University); 5) SYK Fellow: Yu Jia (Phd candidate, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge); 6) Lloyd Dan-David Fellow: Jingyi Jenny Zhao; 7) ISF (HK) Fellow: Wu Huiyi.

Visiting scholars funded by other funding bodies in 2019-2020 include: Kato Shigeo (Waseda University); Zhang Shanjia (Lanzhou University); Yang Lijuan (Chinese Academy of Science); Wang Chuanhao (University of Science and Technology Beijing).

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.

Study Visit from the International Schools Foundation (ISF) Academy

Students and teachers from the ISF Academy took part in the annual summer visit to our Institute from 25th June - 12th July 2019. Under Dr. Wu Huiyi's guidance, students carried out research on a number of topics, such as the First Opium War, traditional Chinese hygiene practices, birds in Song Huizong's and Qianlong's court paintings, the importation of Japanese vocabulary into Chinese, and the Zodiac animal sculptures from the Summer Palace. During their visit, students were given talks by Dr. Gu Man, our Li Foundation Fellow, on the excavated sources of Chinese medicine, and our Chairman Professor Martin Jones, on archaeological research in ancient food plants. The students also made their usual contribution to the library and archive, whilst simultaneously learning GIS mapping skills, by counting around 1,300 pre-WWII postcards of churches from around the world collected by Dr. Needham and recording their location. We are delighted that the ISF Academy have renewed their contract with the Institute, and Dr. Wu's fellowship, for a further period of five years.



Library News: Wellcome Trust Project Grant

The Library has received a 3-year grant from the Wellcome Trust to support a 3-year project "*Science and Medicine in China from World War II to the Cultural Revolution: Sources from the Archives of Joseph and Dorothy Needham*", which began on October 1st. The Project will involve the conservation, cataloguing and selective digitisation of archives, photographs and objects relating to Joseph and Dorothy Needham engagement with China from the 1930's to the early 1980's. The archives are held mainly here at the NRI, but also at Girton College and the University Library. The outcomes of the Project will be made available through the University of Cambridge archive management system, Cambridge Digital Library, and via a variety of outreach activities, such as public talks and small exhibitions. Our Librarian, John Moffett, will be joined on the Project by our part-time archivist, Dr. Rosalind Grooms, and Research Associate Dr. Sally Church. We are extremely grateful to the Wellcome Trust and all those who supported our application, and in particular to Dr. Peter Lee whose generosity enabled us to put this funding bid together.

Gathering of NRIFA Members in Hefei

The 2019 annual conference of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology took place at the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, Anhui Province. Members of our Needham Research Institute Friendship Association (NRIFA) also had a jolly social gathering during the conference. Professor Liu Dun, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NRIFA joined the meeting and had the opportunity to meet many NRIFA members. We are greatly encouraged by the strong interest in the NRIFA networking initiative.

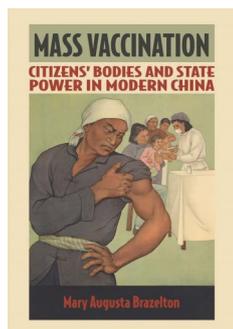
Front from left: Deng Kehui, Fu Banghong, Nie Fuling, Sun Yongping, Wang Gong, Li Haijing, Yin Xiaodong



Back from left: Wang Miao, Han Jishao, Zhang Shujian, Huang Quansheng, Yi Degang, Qian Wei, Liu Dun, Guo Shirong, Li Xiaocen, Hou Yude, Zhang Meifang, Liu Xiao, Wang Xiaohu, Chen Kunlong.

Book Launch and Zhu Kezhen Award

Dr. Mary Brazelton's new book '*Mass Vaccination: Citizens' Bodies and State Power in Modern China*' (Cornell University Press, 2019) was formally launched at a drinks reception held at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge on 1st November 2019. More than 40 people attended the launch ceremony, including many NRI scholars. The book highlights how and why China became an exemplar of primary health care at a crucial moment in global health policy. On 23rd August 2019, at the closing ceremony of the 15th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia held in Jeonju, South Korea, it was announced that Dr. Brazelton's paper entitled 'Engineering Health Technologies of Immunization in China's Wartime Hinterland, 1937-45' (*Technology and Culture*, April 2019, Vol.60, pp.409-37) had won the Zhu Kezhen Award.



Leonardo da Vinci Medal

Congratulations to Professor Francesca Bray (University of Edinburgh), author of *Science and Civilisation in China Volume VI, part 2: Agriculture*, who received the Leonardo da Vinci Medal from the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) at their 2019 Annual Meeting in Milan on Saturday 26th October.

