

Alumni newsletter

Edition 27 • Winter/Spring 2005



- Transitions: Africa 2005
- HRH Opens Research Centre
- Poetry in Translation

Acknowledgments

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The newsletter is sent out free, annually to SOAS alumni.

The views represented in the Alumni Newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the School.

Front Cover:

George Nene: *African Faces*, 1993
(54 x 74cm, watercolour on paper),
Zimbabwe.



Transitions in the Brunei Gallery
(19 January – 18 March 2005),
further details page 7.

© George Nene

Mozambique PM

In February 2004, Luisa Diogo, Finance Minister (and CeFiMS alumna) was appointed Prime Minister of Mozambique. Luisa graduated from the University of London in 1992, with an MSc in Financial Economics. She was one of the first distance-learning students for the postgraduate degree, which was offered through the University's external programme; and academic support was provided by the Centre for Financial & Management Studies at SOAS. Luisa Diogo was born in 1958. She will combine the posts of Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

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Honorary Degree

Dr Lisbet Rausing was awarded a DLit (*Honoris Causa*), at the 22 July 2004 Graduation degree ceremony. This is the first honorary degree (as distinct from honorary fellowship) awarded by the School. Dr Rausing has given generous support to scholarly work on endangered languages. The Endangered Languages Project, based in the new Research Centre, has been made possible through a grant by the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

Director's Prize for Teaching

Dr Elizabeth Moore, Department of Art and Archaeology has been awarded the Director's Prize for Teaching (2003-2004) for her 'innovative use of computer-based teaching and learning' and 'her zest for teaching'. The award, of £2,500, is in its third year, and is to recognise and stimulate excellence in teaching, and teaching-related scholarly or creative activities.

© Wellcome Library, London



An eye-surgeon operating on a man, India
c. 1825 (Gouache, 17.6 x 11.7 cm)
One work in a series showing trades and occupations of India.

Asia: Body Mind Spirit

A Major Exhibition of Asian Treasures from the Wellcome Library took place from 13 October – 12 December 2004 in the Brunei Gallery.

Asia House and The Wellcome Trust presented this major new exhibition on the subject of Asian well-being. It explored Asia's holistic approach to medicine, which advocates a balanced relationship between body, mind and spirit. On show were over 200 objects primarily drawn from the Wellcome Library's collection of Asian art, much of which had never been exhibited before. It included manuscripts, rare acupuncture and anatomical charts, early medical texts, paintings and photographs. Highlights were: a real Chinese pharmacy, complete with drawers of herbs; a reconstruction of a Tibetan chapel; and a large commissioned artwork exploring the explosion of Eastern medicine onto the Western high street.

Clarke Lecture

On 4 November 2004, Professor Dame Jessica Rawson (SOAS, Chinese 1967-1969, occasional student), Warden, Merton College, Oxford gave the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art 2004 Clarke Lecture: *The 'Naturalness' of Chinese bird and flower painting? Some thoughts on the origins of one of the world's most powerful design systems* in the Khalili Lecture theatre. The Clarke Bequest was donated to the PDF by the late Misses Nellie and Nan Clarke, sisters who lived in Bloomsbury and shared a passionate interest in Asian art; their wish was that their love of art should be shared by others. The sale of their collection of Chinese snuff bottles has funded the bequest.

HRH opens New Research Centre



From left to right: David Nathan, Director of the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) (seated) giving a demonstration of interactive multimedia materials; Henrik Bergqvist; Professor Peter Austin, Director of the Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP); HRH The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London; and Eva Schultz-Berndt.



The launch issue of the **The Hans Rausing ELP** newsletter, edited by Professor Peter Austin, David Nathan and Zara Pybus, has details of award recipients from the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund; and the twenty research projects around the globe, to save some of the world's most endangered languages from extinction; along with latest news, and reports from the field. (www.hrelp.org/publications/newsletter)

Up-to-date news from the **Arts and Humanities Research Board Centre for Asian and African Literatures** is available at: www.soas.ac.uk/Literatures. Amongst the range of activities supported by the Centre is the Poetry Translation Centre (see page 13).

On 24 March 2004, HRH The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, officially opened a new Research Centre building at SOAS. The centre houses the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (ELP); the Arts and Humanities Research Board Centre for Asian and African Literatures; and the Law, Human Rights and Peace in the Middle East programme; and provides facilities for research students on two floors.

Middle East programme

The **Law, Human Rights and Peace in the Middle East** programme has been funded by a £1.4m donation from philanthropist Sir Joseph Hotung, who is a member of SOAS Governing Body. Dr Iain Scobbie was appointed as *Sir Joseph Hotung Research Professor in Law, Human Rights and Peace Building in the Middle East*, based in the Department of Law. Previously, he was Reader in International Law at the University of Glasgow. On 2 November 2004, Dr Hanan Ashrawi gave the Sir Joseph Hotung International Human Rights Lecture: *Legality, humanity, identity and the pursuit of peace in the Middle East* in the Logan Hall, Institute of Education.

Awards

Congratulations to **Anne Booth** (Professor of Economics) who was awarded a Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship (one of only 19 awards from a field of 170).

In May 2004, Professor **Nicholas Sims-Williams** was awarded an AHRB grant of £370,797 for a three and a half year project on: *The Chronology of the Bactrian Documents from Northern Afghanistan*, which continues an earlier pilot project, funded by the British Academy, on Bactrian palaeography. Some 150 documents, written in Bactrian, the principal language of pre-Islamic Afghanistan, were discovered in the 1990s and these leather, cloth and wood 4th-8th C E documents will undergo Carbon-14 analysis as part of the project to throw light on an obscure but eventful period of Afghan history.

In December 2003, **David Arnold**, Professor of History of South Asia, received an award of £280,572 for: *A Guide to sources for the History of science and environment in India, 1780-1920*.

Drew Gerstle, Professor of Japanese Studies, was awarded £155,927 for a research project on *Creating Celebrity: Kabuki Actors, Poets and Artists in 19th Century Osaka*.



Frank Dikötter's 3-year funded project was ranked 'outstanding' by the ESRC. The project is entitled *Narcotic Culture: A Social History of opiates in Modern China*. On 12 March 2004, the Department of History launched the book: *Narcotic culture: a history of drugs in China* by Professor Frank Dikötter, Dr Lars Laamann and Dr Zhou Xun.

Grammys

The CD *Kassi Kasse* produced by **Lucy Duran** was nominated for a 2004 Grammy Award, her first, in the 'World Music Traditional' category. It features Kasse Mady Diabate one of Mali's greatest griot singers and was recorded using a mobile studio (powered by four car batteries) in a disused dispensary in his home village Kela, famous for its griot tradition. Lucy Duran has produced eight albums by Malian musicians. (The winning album was: *Sacred Tibetan Chant - The Monks of Sherab Ling Monastery*.) Copies are available from the SOAS bookshop.

The Alumni Newsletter is published annually. Here is a selection of items from:

Autumn Term

September – December 2003

14 October: **HE President Xanana Gusmao of Timor D'Este** visited SOAS, under the auspices of the Centre of South East Asian Studies.

(15 October – 12 December) *Persian Steel: a mirror of life in Iran* opened in the Brunei Gallery.

A two-day **conference** was held on: *The Qur'an, text, interpretation and translation*.

The **Khalili Lecture Theatre** was opened.

Professor Frank Dikötter gave his Inaugural Lecture: *'Patient Zero': The Myth of the 'Opium Plague' in China*.

The **Centre for Ethnic Minority Studies (CEMS)**, formed from the Group for Ethnic Minority Studies, GEMS - founded in 1988 - became an interdisciplinary research centre with **Werner Menski**, Professor of South Asian Laws, as Chair.

The IT Department were on the alert to prevent international computer viruses with names like *Blaster*, *Nachi* (and later *MyDoom*) affecting computers at SOAS.

Professor Peter K Austin gave his Inaugural Lecture: *The Life, Death and Life of Languages*.

Karen Clarke, who joined as SOAS' first Equality and Diversity Advisor during the summer, informed colleagues about new equality legislation, which came into force in December 2003.

Dr Ziba Mir Hosseini gave the **Professor Noel Coulson Memorial Lecture** on: *Islamic law and feminism: the story of a relationship*.

Professor William Hale gave his Inaugural Lecture on: *Islamism and Democracy; the Turkish Case*.

The Department of Art and Archaeology held the **Yarshater Lecture Series** (4-5, and 8-9 December).

Old computer equipment was donated to charity, to benefit **Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital**. (SOAS currently recycles white paper, cardboard, confidential waste, toner cartridges and mobile phones.)

Spring Term

January – March 2004

The School signed **three memoranda of understanding** with the University of Leiden.

A collaborative SOAS/King's College London **BA degree in Turkish and Modern Greek Studies** was launched at an evening's reception of poetry and music in the Brunei Gallery, in the presence of the **Ambassadors of Greece and Turkey**.

Mind and Body Week's programme included a talk on personal safety by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, yoga, Thai massage and reflexology. **Student Services** is offering a nutrition clinic, in addition to existing homeopathy and acupuncture clinics.

Professor Michel Hockx gave his Inaugural Lecture: *To be continued... the Journal Literature of Republican China (1911-1949)*.

Wole Soyinka (SOAS Honorary Fellow) gave one, of five, BBC Radio 4 Reith Lectures entitled: *Climate of Fear*.

On 12 March, **Lady Kennedy QC, President of SOAS**, was one of 180 women invited to join Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace, for the first women-only lunch to celebrate female achievement. Also invited was **Jemima Khan** (UNICEF ambassador).



Anant Shah, sponsor of the Jain Spirit Award of Jaina Studies

The **Centre of Jaina Studies** was launched. The Centre, based in the Department of the Study of Religions, promotes the study of Jaina religion and culture. Public lectures have been given by, amongst others:

Professor Nalini Balbir (Sorbonne) and in April, **Professor Emeritus Willem Bollée** (University of Heidelberg). For more details: www.soas.ac.uk/jainastudies

In April 2004, Lord Howe of Aberavon, the School's first Visitor, hosted a dinner at the House of Lords. An **International Advisory Board** was launched (see page 23).

Prints, scrolls, illuminated manuscripts, maps, photographs and other 'artistic and cultural treasures' from the School **Library's Special Collections**, are to go on display in the Brunei Gallery in a permanent but rotating exhibition.

Li Zhensheng, photographer and author of *Red-Color News Soldier* spoke about his life and work (Centre of Chinese Studies in association with The Photographers' Gallery, London).

Summer Term

April – June 2004

Professor E Ulrich Kratz gave his Inaugural Lecture *'Light Matters'*.

Dr Michael Hutt was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures from 1 August 2004, taking over from **Professor Graham Furniss** who stepped down in July 2004.

11 May: **The Rt Hon Clare Short MP** gave the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy Annual Lecture on: *Justice and Equity – the route to a safe and sustainable world*.

13 May 2004: **The Centre of Islamic Studies** launched: *The Qur'an: a new translation* (OUP) by Professor M A S Abdel Haleem (right).

Main speakers: HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan (left) and Professor David Ford, University of Cambridge.



The **Swahili Manuscripts Project**, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, was launched. It is an on-line catalogue of the collection of Swahili manuscripts held in SOAS Library www.swahilimanuscripts.soas.ac.uk

Mr Zhang Xinsheng, Chinese Vice-Minister of Education, visited SOAS.

The Learning and Teaching Unit updated colleagues on the opportunities available for using **'Blackboard' Virtual Learning Environment** in the School. A pilot was launched in September 2003.

SOAS was in **4th position**, after Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial in *The Guardian's* University guide (May 2004) for would-be applicants, and 11th in *The Telegraph's*.

East Asian Studies was ranked in 2nd place nationally and **Anthropology** 4th place in *The Times Higher Education Supplement's* survey of individual disciplines.

Consultants from the **Centre for Development Policy and Research (CDPR)** are carrying out a European Union study, on the Implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategies in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

1,224 visitors came to the **Roof Garden** when it opened for the weekend of 12 and 13 June for the London Garden Squares Weekend. The garden is open during Brunei Gallery opening times.



Samani Pratibhaprajna, who has enrolled for an MA in Indian Religions, with a major in Jainism, is the first Terepanth Jain nun to study outside India.

The 5th Jaina Studies Workshop, *Text and Context in Jainism*, organised by **Dr Peter Flügel** took place in the Brunei Gallery. Members of the Jain community in Britain, including two visiting nuns (*samani*) of the Terapanth Svetambara Jain order, were amongst those who attended.

The **World Music Summer School** took place from June-August 2004, with music and dance master classes, concerts and lectures from many traditions, including: Bulgarian and Macedonian, Chinese, Cuban, Greek, Indian, Japanese, Jewish, Kurdish, Mongolian, Thai and Zimbabwean.



On 22 July, it was Graduation Day.

19 July: A symposium accompanied the Brunei Gallery exhibition *The Indigenous and the Foreign: Art and Architecture of 17th-Century Ethiopia*.

New **MA degrees** in 2004-2005, include: MAs in: *Cinemas of Asia and Africa*; in *Critical Media and Cultural Studies*; in *Global Media and Postnational Communication*. Also, MAs in *Gender Studies*; in *Languages and Cultures of South Asia*; and in *Theory and Practice of Translation (Asian and African Languages)*; and a new interdisciplinary MA in *Israeli and Jewish Diaspora Studies*, taught by the staff of the Near and Middle East Department, with major contributions from the Music Department and the London School of Jewish Studies. For further details visit: www.soas.ac.uk

British Academy Fellowships



Congratulations to (from left to right): **David Arnold** (Professor of the History of South Asia), **Craig Clunas** (Percival David Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art and SOAS alumnus) and **Richard Fardon** (Professor of West African Anthropology) from the Arts and Humanities Faculty, who are three of thirty-five scholars from the whole of the UK, who were elected Fellows of the British Academy this year. The British Academy, established by Royal Charter in 1902, is the national academy for the humanities and the social sciences. It is an independent fellowship of c. 750 scholars. Fellows are elected for distinction and achievement in their academic disciplines.

There are now **nine British Academy Fellows** on the current staff at SOAS. The six others are:



© Paul Fox

J David Hawkins
Professor of Ancient Anatolian Languages.



B George Hewitt
Professor of Caucasian Languages (photographed in traditional Caucasian costume with his wife, Zaira Khiba).



Christopher Howe
Emeritus Professor, Department of Financial and Management Studies CeFIMS.



John D Y Peel
Professor of African Anthropology and Sociology.



Christopher Shackle
Professor of Modern Languages of South Asia.



Nicholas Sims-Williams
Research Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies.

Promotions

From 1 September 2004, staff promoted to Professor include: Paul Gifford (African Christianity), Michael Hutt (Nepali and Himalayan Studies), Philip Jagger (West African Linguistics), Werner Menski (South Asian Laws), Machiko Nissanke (Economics) and Tudor Parfitt (Modern Jewish Studies).

From October 2003-September 2004, **Dr John Carpenter**, Department of Art and Archaeology, was appointed Visiting Associate Professor of the Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan.

Dr Stephen Hughes, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, has gone from January 2004-August 2005 to the Netherlands Foundation for Scientific Research, Amsterdam, to participate as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in a research project on: *Modern mass media, religion and the imagination of communities*.

From January 2004-2005, **Professor Massoud Karshenas**, Department of Economics, became Visiting Professor at the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague.

On 29 June 2004, **Dr Lucia Dolce**, Department of the Study of Religions, was the first Western scholar to be awarded the Nakamura Hajime Prize for her study of medieval Japanese Buddhism.

The Staff Common Room **Summer Party** was held on 7 June 2004, with this year's leavers as guests of honour. Over 200 staff attended the party at which Professor Bundy paid tribute to those retiring: Professor Richard Tapper

(Department of Anthropology and Sociology), Professor Andrew Harding (Department of Law) and Dr Kathryn Dean (Department of Political Studies). Also retiring or leaving in 2003-2004 were: Dr Amrik Kalsi, Ms Diana Flint, Dr Hiroto Hoshi, Ms Sarah Jones, Mumtaz Jivanjee and Ken Martin.

Studies on Growth, Inequality and Poverty



From left to right: Professor Giovanni Andrea Cornia, Professor John Weeks, Rolph van der Hoeven and Professor Robert Wade.

On 25 June 2004, the Centre for Development Policy and Research, SOAS sponsored a launch of two books by Giovanni Andrea Cornia, former Director of the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER).

Forthcoming Conference

From Thursday 7 July - Saturday 9 July 2005, an international conference will be held at SOAS, entitled: *Epic constructions: gender, myth and society in the Mahabharata*. The conference is part of a three-year research project of the same name, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board. For further details concerning the conference and the project, visit: www.soas.ac.uk/Religions/mbhconf/home.html or email: mb18@soas.ac.uk

Obituaries

The School regrets to inform you of the death of:

David Whitehorn Arnott (SOAS, 1948-1949; PhD African Languages and Cultures, 1955-1960; Professor of West African Languages, 1966-1977) 23 June 1915-10 March 2004.

Jack Carnochan (formerly Professor of Phonetics; and Head of the African Department, from 1972 -1982) 'used to say [of SOAS] that he was hired for ten weeks but stayed 40 years' (Obituary notice, *The Times*) 6 March 1918-7 May 2004.

Doris M Johnson (Editorial Secretary, SOAS *Bulletin*, 1955-1978; Chairman of Editors of Indonesia Circle (later Indonesia and the Malay World, 1978-2004) 1924-2004.

Dr Julia Leslie (Reader in Sanskrit and Hindu Studies, and Chair of the Centre for Gender and Religions Research) 23 January 1948-24 September 2004.

It was Julia's wish that the Epic Constructions Project, including next summer's *Mahabharata* conference, continue as planned. A Memorial Fund has been set up to honour her life and work. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please contact Sian Hawthorne (sh79@soas.ac.uk)

Professor Ben Pimlott, member of Governing Body, who died on 10 April 2004.

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www.soas.ac.uk/gallery

Brunei Gallery



Jinx Rodger, widow of George Rodger, and Ian Berry are pictured here at the opening night, 13 April 2004, of *The First London Exhibition of The African Photographs by George Rodger and Living Apart: An Exhibition of Photographs of South Africa by Ian Berry*. The exhibition, which was organised by Magnum Photos in association with SOAS, took place 13 April – 25 June 2004 in the Brunei Gallery.

Photo stories by Ian Berry and George Rodger appear in *Magnum Stories* (Phaidon, November 2004), which explores the photo story through sixty-one master classes with the members of

the Magnum agency. Each of the sixty-one photographers featured is represented by a photo story of their choice, and a newly commissioned text.

Other recent exhibitions include:

Persian Steel – A Mirror of Life in Iran; and *12 Photographic Journeys – Iran in the 21st Century* (15 October – 12 December 2003)

The Spirit of Wood – Salutation to a Living Art: an exhibition of Malay woodcarving (19 January – 19 March 2004)

The Political Body: Posters from the People's Republic of China in the 1960's and 1970's (15 April – 25 June 2004)

The Indigenous and the Foreign: Art and Architecture of 17th century Northern Ethiopia (19 July – 17 September 2004).

10th Anniversary of the Brunei Gallery

2005 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Brunei Gallery, which was opened on 22 November 1995.

© George Rodger / Magnum Photos

Tanzania: Children from the Wagogo tribe wear special headgear for the circumcision ceremony. 1947.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

January-March 2005

Two Cameroonian Photographers: Photographs by **Samuel Finlak** and **Chila Joseph**, over 30 years as the resident photographers, in Atta and Mayo Darle, Cameroon.

April-June 2005

Concept and Practice; The Barefoot Photographers of Tilonia presented by the Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, India.

The photographs, selected from an archive of over 100,000 images - black and white and colour, negatives and slides - were taken in villages around Tilonia, Rajasthan, by men and women with no formal training in photography, who became 'one-day' photographers to document their lives. Over the last three decades, the Barefoot College, which founded the first night schools in Rajasthan, north-west India – one of India's poorest, drought-prone regions – has enabled children (about two thirds of them girls) to study at night. Following the ideals of Gandhi, the Barefoot Colleges now exist across India; out of these have arisen Children's Parliaments, which elect their own Ministers, and which have a say in matters concerning their villages from the supply of water and electricity, to community health, traditional communication, empowerment of women, technology, the environment and social change. (For further information: www.barefootcollege.org.)

Brunei Gallery Exhibition Transitions

Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe 1960-2004
19 January – 18 March 2005
Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Creativity, variety and individuality in the visual arts are highlighted in this exhibition of paintings, sculptures, prints and installations

from five southern African countries. Organised by the **Africa Centre**, *Transitions* is part of the Africa 2005 programme in London and then tours to regional venues in the UK.

Most of the artworks were produced at the **Triangle Arts Trust** Workshops, which have taken place in all five countries since the early 1980s.

The workshops are artist-run and facilitate the exchange of ideas and skills amongst artists from around the world.

Images are reproduced here by kind permission of **Robert Loder**, Director of the Triangle Arts Trust, from whose collection of artworks the exhibition has been selected.



1



2



3



4



5

- 1 © Reinata Sadhimba:
Mother Giving Birth
1995 (57cm length, clay.)
Mozambique
- 2 © Shadreck Simukanga:
Painting Thapong
1990 (100 x 150cm,
acrylic on canvas.)
Zambia
- 3 © Marvellous Mangena:
Hippos
1993 (148 x 178cm,
acrylic on canvas.)
Zimbabwe
- 4 © Rashid Jogee:
Marondera Pastoral
(Panel One of a Triptych)
1990 (240 x 173cm,
acrylic on paper.)
Zimbabwe
- 5 © Tapfuma Gutsa:
Untitled (Delfina)
1993 (63 x 123 x 23cm,
mixed media)
Zimbabwe

Travels in PR China

by Matt Bowden



- 1 Roadside Card Game, outside Beijing Normal University, Beijing.
- 2 Chinese Chess in Beijing's Hutong, Xuanwu District, Beijing.
- 3 Kashgar Cobbler, Sunday Market, Kashgar, Xinjiang Province.
- 4 Vegetable Seller, Haidian District, Beijing.
- 5 Coppersmith's Apprentice, Coppersmith's Bazaar, Kashgar, Xinjiang Province.
- 6 Roadside Barber, Sunday Market, Kashgar, Xinjiang Province.
- 7 Sharpening Knives, Kashgar, Xinjiang Province.
- 8 Golden Smile, Old Town, Kashgar, Xinjiang Province.

All images © Matt Bowden
bowdenio@yahoo.com



Matt Bowden (3rd Year BA Chinese and Politics) travelled through North-west China for nine weeks in February and June/July 2004 with Marie Edery (also 3rd Year BA Chinese & Politics). The February trip took Matt to Sichuan province, where he spent most of his time in the far west of the region.

During June and July, Matt and Marie went first to Gansu province, followed by Qinghai province and then back through Gansu up to the westernmost end of the Great Wall and the edge of the Gobi Desert at Jiayuguan. They then went on westwards to Xinjiang province, stopping at Dunhuang on the way.

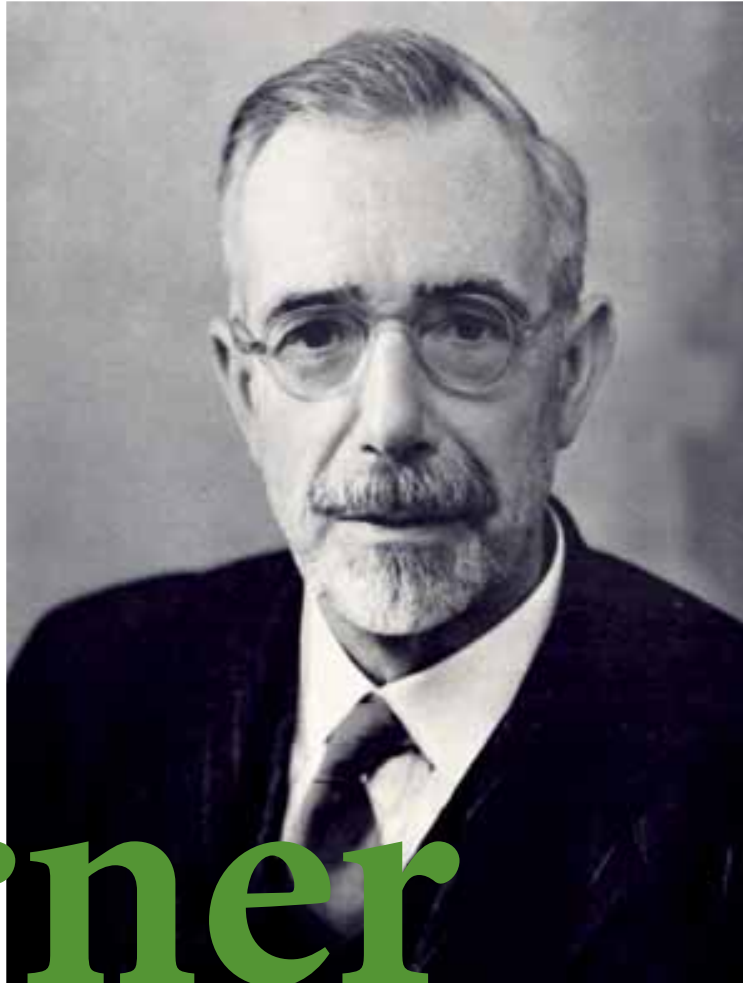
In Xinjiang Province, they visited Turpan, Lake Hanas in the far north of the province and the ancient Silk Road town of Kashgar, China's westernmost city, before heading back to Beijing and then, finally SOAS for their September re-entry exams.



Bertha & George Turner



Sir Ralph Turner



Jean Gillett and her granddaughter Eleanor Trathan, a graduate of University College London, pictured here in March 2004 on their visit to SOAS, where they met with the current Director and were able to see the portrait of Jean's uncle, Sir Ralph Turner, which now hangs in the Staff Common Room, on the first floor.

Ralph Lilley Turner (Linguist and former Director of SOAS) 1888-1983 is remembered fondly by his niece Jean Gillett

Ralph Turner was one of three brothers, their father being mayor of Cambridge from 1915-16 and a Governor of the Perse School from 1907-1927. Ralph's elder brother, Laurence (my father)

was a fellow of King's College Cambridge and in World War II worked at the Admiralty Signals Establishment helping to develop radar. Ralph's younger brother, William was a scholar of Christ's College Cambridge and became director of Indian House Accounts (1943-1956).

Between them they produced eleven children and the three families of cousins holidayed together every year for a month in Wales. There were usually fifteen to twenty of us and we swam, climbed mountains and played hockey on the beach. Uncle Ralph brought along the green canvas carrier bag containing our hockey sticks – ancient curved sticks, not proper hockey sticks from a shop. Ralph was a very fair player. He was also very inventive when children's games and stories were concerned. He invented many things for us including a curious creature called a “gwinny-dog” which lived in the sand dunes and was delightfully terrifying. Ralph also had a spotted lurcher dog, which he called Boas to rhyme with SOAS.

When I was seven I lived with Ralph's family in

Bishops Stortford and went to school for a time with Ralph's eldest daughter, Kathleen. We had marvellous times playing in the large rambling garden Ralph had created, including making a tennis lawn. He worked hard in the garden, particularly in making and maintaining huge compost heaps, which had to be turned periodically. The heaps were out of bounds to children, who on no account were allowed to climb on them. To this day (when I am 83 years old) I still retain an immense respect for compost heaps!

I also remember having to be pretty quiet near Ralph's study when he was working on his dictionary of the Nepali language during World War II and his study was also out of bounds. The completed sections of the dictionary were buried in a concrete pit near the sitting room window. The dictionary was later published.

To me, as a child, Ralph was one of a number of uncle's who were fairly awesome but good fun too. In later life I came to know of his impressive achievements as a linguist and as head of SOAS.

A Tale

From the Obscure Reaches of the Library

by Dr Vivienne C Bradwell



My life as a PhD student at SOAS often felt quite depressing. My daily sojourns in the library were not exciting. With my research materials located in obscure reaches of SOAS Library where few other humans ventured, life seemed to be embodied by the stone *bixi* (pictured below); a mournful confined existence isolated from the world. How I envied fellow students who in coffee breaks, could be heard talking passionately about their study of some exciting aspect of a fascinating culture and of amazing study-related trips. My subject was Chinese law it was true, but it was still law and it was library-based. Much to my amazement though, I too had the opportunity to have an amazing study-related trip.

It all began with an enquiry I made at the British Council as I approached the end of my thesis. I was looking for a post-doctoral short-term job in China to revive my rusty Chinese language. Any clerical job would have been acceptable. However, on learning I was a lawyer who could speak some Chinese, the Council advised me to apply for a one-off EU-China law programme to be held in 2003 for ten EU

lawyers. With the encouragement of my supervisor to seize this unique opportunity, I applied and was to my surprise selected as the only British participant. So it was, clutching my nearly completed thesis, I arrived in January 2003 for a nine-month stay in China.

Based in Beijing, the first ten weeks were a complete shock as we worked through an intensive course of “legal” Chinese language. Rising at 6.30am in order to make the 8am start for classes on a different campus, I returned home every day to face a mountain of homework. With my brain imploding from a stratospheric learning curve and the winds outside blowing straight in from Siberia, SOAS library suddenly seemed like a wonderful place to be. However, after those ten weeks we started our Chinese law classes, which were conducted in Chinese, and all the hard work paid off. Classes too were a quick sprint across campus and spring arrived. Life was good.

Then one day in April, the SARS situation in Beijing erupted into a public crisis, just as our only 10 days of holiday began. I had already planned my trip with a visiting friend. Inspired

by a former PhD student at SOAS, Dr Lilla Russell-Smith, and her thesis on the Buddhist cave paintings in the Dunhuang area, North-West China, we had planned to travel the Northern Silk Road to visit the caves then go onto Kashgar. After checking that the provinces we would visit were SARS free, we set off for the three-day train trip to Dunhuang. It was an extraordinary train journey. The train was packed full, all of us mask-wearing “refugees” from SARS in Beijing, not knowing when or where we might be stopped and thrown into quarantine. We arrived safely, though, and after being tested and declared SARS free we were able to travel on. With few others tourists at the caves and the other historic monuments we visited, we were able to enjoy them in peace and quiet, a rare event in China. Me, I was in Tang dynasty heaven!

After completion of our law course and with the SARS crisis over, the programme sent me to Shanghai for a month's work experience in a local law firm. The firm was co-founded by two of the many Chinese lawyers who have studied at SOAS under the Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme for Chinese Lawyers. It was hard work but immensely rewarding. Then it was back to Beijing, via a weekend in Xi'an, (the capital of the Tang Dynasty) to write my programme dissertation on Chinese law.

The programme and the opportunities it offered me, both as a lawyer and PhD student, were not only unique but also truly amazing. My understanding of technical legal terms and the practicalities of the Chinese legal system were immeasurably enhanced. I also had the opportunity to meet people in high academic and professional circles, which was wonderful. I returned to SOAS with valuable new research material and subsequently completed my PhD. I, too, had managed to combine my studies and my passion and have a great study-related trip. So I guess in the end (the very end!), life as a PhD student at SOAS was not too depressing!

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viviennebradwell@yahoo.com



I danced tarantella on a bed of upturned nails
I tattooed a picture of my face onto my face
I swallowed Japanese puffer fish whole
with porcupine soup
I stripped in the fire and tangoed with the flames
I covered myself in honey and ran naked through the beehive
I tore out my eyes and replaced them with permanent fireworks
I lay in the snow and drew maps with my blood
I wove myself a dress of nettles
I wore it to your wedding and smiled and smiled

Jane Kinninmont was born in 1981 in Falkirk, Scotland, and now lives in South London. She took an MSc in International Politics at SOAS in 2003, specialising in Middle Eastern politics and the 'war on terror'. While at SOAS, she edited student poetry magazine *Burning Bright* and organised a series of open mike nights showcasing the finest of SOAS talent, with performances ranging from Zimbabwean drumming and rap to translations of 14th century Chinese poetry. She now performs poetry widely and is one of *Apples and Snakes' Furnace* young poets' group. In the daytimes, she is a political analyst specialising in the Middle East. Her first poetry collection, *Seven League Stiletto*s was published in June 2004 by Ragged Raven Press.

Seven League Stiletto is available mail order (£7.00 postage and packing free) from: Ragged Raven Press, 1 Lodge Farm, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 www.raggedraven.co.uk/collections.htm or from their distributors: www.inpressbooks.co.uk

Facing down wind in a dust-storm,
wrapped up in his cloak
and wearing a hat that can't make him vanish –

this skinny man
scans the horizon,
gathering - but not quite yet - flowers
until the moment you meet

(... but stuck in this narrow alleyway
among mountains of rubbish
he longs to lift up his beak
unfurl his wings
and take flight...)

© Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi

Translated by Hafiz Kheir and Sarah Maguire

Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi was born in 1969 and grew up in Omdurman, Khartoum. His first poetry book, *Songs of Solitude*, was published in 1996 (second edition 1999). He also published *The Sultan's Labyrinth*, 1996 and *The Far Reaches of the Screen...*(1999 and 2000).

Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi is one of the most exciting young poets writing in Sudan today; he is widely admired for the delicacy of his tone and his understated lyricism.



From left to right: Shu Yi, Michel Hockx (Professor of Chinese), Cui Yan (Lector in Chinese) and Professor Colin Bundy (Director and Principal, SOAS).

Lao She was one of the most prominent Chinese writers in modern history; during his forty years writing career, he produced fifteen novels, more than seventy short stories and fourteen plays. From 1924-1929, Lao She taught Mandarin in the East Asia (China and Inner Asia) Department at the School of Oriental Studies, now SOAS.

Faber & Faber celebrated its 75th anniversary this year. The publishers, originally based at 23-24 Russell Square, donated the building to the University of London, when it moved to its present site at 3 Queen's Square, London WC1.

Sarah Maguire is founder and director of **The Poetry Translation Centre**, which was set up in February 2004 at SOAS to translate contemporary poetry from non-European languages into English, through collaborations between leading international poets and poets based in the UK.

Sarah began working as the Royal Literary Fund's Writing Fellow at SOAS in 2001, leading poetry translation workshops in languages ranging from Assamese to Somali. The Centre, which evolved from the workshops, was initially funded by a generous grant of £65,000 from the Arts Council, London and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Board Centre for Asian and African Literatures at SOAS.

Most of the initial funding is going towards translating six contemporary international poets who will be invited to take part in a festival next autumn: Martin Orwin is translating the Somali poet, Maxamed Xaashi Dhamac 'Gaariye', Hafiz Kheir is working on the Sudanese poet, Al-Saddiq Al-Raddi, and Tom Boll is translating the Mexican poet, Coral Bracho with the British poet, Katherine Pierpoint.

This is an extremely exciting development for poetry in Britain. For more information visit: www.poetrytranslation.soas.ac.uk

Sarah Maguire, Director of the Poetry Translation Centre, was interviewed by Pat Ransford (whose profile appears on **page 16**), for the poetry magazine *Magma* (issue 27).



On 12 May 2004, **Vikram Chandra** gave a reading from his forthcoming, as yet unnamed, novel at the AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures after the workshop, *The city and literature: urban bodies*. The book, a gangster novel, is centred on the city of Bombay/Mumbai. The talk was chaired by **Dr Rachel Dwyer** (South Asia, SOAS) who covers Bollywood in *Indobrit*, a British Asian lifestyle magazine, launched in February 2003.

For up-to-date news from the Arts and Humanities Research Board **Centre for Asian and African Literatures**, visit:
www.soas.ac.uk/literatures



On 10 June 2004, **Samia Serageldin** (MSc Politics) gave a lecture *Reflections and Refractions: the new role of Middle Eastern literature in the diaspora* and talked about her new book *The Cairo House* (Harper Collins, 2004) in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS.

On 22 July 2004, The Royal Africa Society in association with the Africa Centre presented The **Caine Prize for African Writing 2004** to the winner, **Brian Chikwava** (Zimbabwe) for *Seventh Street Alchemy* (Writing Still, Weaver Press, Harare 2003) in the Khalili Lecture Theatre. **Dr Nana Wilson-Tagoe**, Senior Lecturer in African Literatures, was on the panel of judges.

Informal contacts

Welcome to two new Alumni Informal Contacts,
Ms Regina da Rocha Tencati in Brazil and
Mr Zilane Zini Chiweta in Malawi.

Brazil



Regina da Rocha Tencati (MSc Development Studies, 2004): I'm currently living in the city of Uberaba – Minas Gerais – Brazil. I'm preparing myself to work with poor and excluded communities in Uberaba from January 2005, as well

as lecturing in Social Development in the local University.

Mobile: 0055 34 9194 7937
reginatencati@hotmail.com

Malawi



Mr Zilane Zini Chiweta (Law, 1981): I was at SOAS in 1980-1981 studying Comparative Law (and living in Streatham, then Lambeth). When I came back to Malawi, I continued to work for the Ministry of Justice at various centres,

namely Mchinji, Blantyre, Mulanje then Mzimba. I then joined the Judiciary in 1988 as Assistant under Sheriff and in 1996 I started working for a private legal firm as Legal Assistant. I have just enrolled on the new Diploma Course in Law with the University of Malawi (Chancellor College). I am married to Grace and we have five children, three daughters and two sons.

PO Box 507

Mzuzu, Malawi

The following Informal Contacts are particularly keen to hear from alumni interested in alumni get-togethers. Please drop them a line:

Egypt: Sherif Hesham El-kholy (MSc in Finance and Development, 2003)
selkholy@alumni-universityoflondon.com

France: Nick Barniville (MSc Political Economy of Development, 2000)
nick.barniville@alumni.insead.edu

Greece: Stephanos Panderimalis (MA Area Studies - Middle East, 1999)
s_panderimalis@hotmail.com
Mobile: +306972090040

Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur: Valerie Lynn (MA Economic Development South East Asia, 1999)
valllynn@hotmail.com
Tel: 6012-2094-1813

Thank you to **Barry Morgan** (Ghana), **Marco Gentili** (Shanghai, People's Republic of China), **Ian Rowland** (Indonesia), **Robert Law** (Uganda), **Chris Boucek** (USA) and **Vernon Bevan** (USA) who have now stepped down. If you are interested in becoming an Informal Contact, please contact the Alumni Relations office: alumni@soas.ac.uk. It would be great to hear from you.

Thank you to all our Informal Contacts and Associations who have hosted events for alumni or for visiting academics during the past year, 2003-2004.

SOAS Staff who are planning research or other trips abroad, please contact us on: alumni@soas.ac.uk, so that we can put you in touch with our contacts.

Alumni ID Library Cards

If you plan to visit the SOAS Library, please complete and return the postal application form for a card, printed on the reverse of the address form on your newsletter. The swipe card gives entry to the School (Library and Bar) for the cardholder only. We regret that, at present, cardholders are not entitled to sign in any guests. Once you have received your card, you will need to register your form at the Library Membership Desk.

Alumni in Austria, Belgium and PRC: Shanghai

Visit 'What's New' and 'Worldwide Associations': www.soas.ac.uk/alumni

Pakistan: Karachi: Muna Khan (BA Politics with Urdu, 1994)
e-mail@munakhan.com

Saudi Arabia: Bridget Cowper-Coles (Arabic Language, 1971-75)
bridget.cowper.coles@fco.gov.uk

Syria: Abdul-Salam Haykal (MA International Studies & Diplomacy, 2002)
abdul@haykal.com
Mobile: +963 (93) 214778

USA: Washington: Niall Shanbhag (MSc Finance and Development, 2003)
The Washington DC alumni get together on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except during holiday weeks). Any and all are welcome, just contact Niall or Mat Mathews (MA International Studies and Diplomacy, 2001).
niallshanbhag@yahoo.com
mtmathews1@yahoo.com

Award for Newsletter

On 8 June 2004, Patrick Quow, SOAS Print Services Manager, accepted an award for 'best design and print of a magazine/newsletter' for the SOAS *Alumni Newsletter*, from the UK University Print Manager's Group at their annual conference, in Bournemouth. The award-winning issue, number 25, was designed by Hudson Fuggle and printed by Linneys Colour Print and was the last of the twice-yearly newsletters. The newsletter is now sent out annually, in February, and is free to all SOAS alumni.

Change of Address

Alumni – please stay in touch!
Keep us informed of any change of address.
alumni@soas.ac.uk

Recruit the Best for Less

Does your company or organisation need bright individuals but doesn't know where to find them?

As SOAS Alumni, why not advertise your jobs, internships or volunteering opportunities to current students and recent graduates. You can be specific about the course or skills you require. We will post the vacancy within the college and can hold a detailed job description on file.

An advert of 100 words or less is free.

If you're interested in finding out more please email careers@soas.ac.uk or telephone **020 7898 4115**.

We look forward to working with you

Regards

SOAS Careers Service



News

Development and Fundraising

Annual Fund

The 2003 Annual Fund raised £15,803, with the addition of Gift Aid this figure increases to £16,603. The bulk of the donations were for the Scholarships Fund, with Unrestricted Funds receiving £1,755 and the Library £820.

This is an excellent result, especially since it is the first time SOAS has launched an Annual Fund. With thanks to Ros Griffin who helped instigate this.

International Advisory Board

An International Advisory Board, to provide crucial assistance in the School's development efforts, was established in early 2004. The Board is chaired by Sir Mark Moody-Stuart and its members include: Mr Abdul Bhanji, Mr Stephen K Green, Sir Sydney Lipworth QC, Mr David

Lammy MP, Mr Peter Nightingale, Mr Wafic Said, Mr Bryan Sanderson, Mr David Suratgar, and HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan.

Donations and Campaigns

In 2004, we have received a number of very generous donations:

A donation of £200,000 towards a full endowment of an academic post in **Zoroastrianism**, presented to the School on behalf of Mr Mehraban Zartoshty and his late brother Faridoon. The donation, the second from the Zartoshty brothers, will provide a vital contribution to preserving the study of one of the world's ancient religions.

The Anthropology Department have established the **Haimendorf Fund**, which is to help, amongst others, a second year PhD Anthropology student.

Forthcoming Campaigns

The Development of the Library Terraces

The extension to the North and East Terraces is an exciting new construction project for 2005, which will expand the Library's space dramatically. The development has been designed by the award-



By kind permission of John McAslan + Partners

winning architectural practice, John McAslan + Partners, as part of the plan for the Bloomsbury Campus.

It will expand reader space capacity and provide extra shelving space for our growing collections. The architects' plans remain sympathetic to the late Sir Denys Lasdun's influential 1960's design.

The library is looking to outside donors for help in providing funds to equip the new research and study areas. We need to raise £500,000 over the next year.

Donations, whatever their size, are gratefully received. With your help we can ensure that the library looks to the future, as well as preserves the past.

A **Legacy Campaign** was started in May 2004. In 2005, we will contact you about the **Annual Fund**. On-line giving is being investigated.

Thank you

On behalf of SOAS, the Development and Fundraising Office wishes to thank everyone who has donated. Your gift and your belief and support are greatly appreciated and help to preserve a unique institution.

Urgent Appeal The Poetry Translation Centre

(continued from page 13)

www.poetrytranslation.soas.ac.uk

The Poetry Translation Centre, which translates poetry from non-European languages into English, urgently needs your help. The Arts Council can only fund 50% of the Poetry Translation Centre's needs in 2005.

We are now facing a serious financial crisis and are expecting to have to raise at least £40,000 ourselves. We would be delighted to hear from any SOAS alumni who may be able to help us or who are interested in supporting our vital and unique work. All donations would be gratefully received.

If you would like further details, please visit: www.soas.ac.uk/outreach.

I look forward to hearing from you, soon.

Annette Bullen, Development and Fundraising Office

SOAS, Russell Square,
Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7898 4076
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7898 4069

Prospective Students:

SOAS attends international fairs around the globe. These events are a perfect opportunity for you to discuss your application to SOAS with university representatives. From September 2004-January 2005, visits are planned to Kenya, Taiwan, Japan, USA, Korea, the People's Republic of China, India, and Thailand.

For further information, please contact:

The Student Recruitment Office
Tel: **00 44 (0) 20 7898 4034**
E-mail: study@soas.ac.uk
Website: www.soas.ac.uk/studying

The University of London External Programme

The University of London offers over 90 undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications by distance learning. The Programme began in 1858 and today there are over 32,000 External students in over 180 countries. The Programme offers courses in subjects such as Business, Economics, Law, Finance, Environment and Health. For further information about flexible study, please contact our Information Centre at Senate House, email: enquiries@lon.ac.uk, tel: 020 7862 8360 or visit our website at www.londonexternal.ac.uk



Tibetan Monks on Horseback, near Ganzi, Sichuan Province

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