

Alumni

newsletter

Edition 26 • Winter 2003



Today's China
Through My Eyes

The School in Print



Acknowledgments

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Website: <http://www.soas.ac.uk>

Front Cover:

Pillow Seller (in front of a stone hut) from a series of commercial prints made by ATO Photographic Association in the 1920s-1930s. [Ref: CWM/LMS China Photographs Box 8/46/22]

Photograph by kind permission of the Council for World Mission (CWM) Archive. The CWM's archives and library have been housed on permanent deposit at SOAS since 1973 and were amongst the resources highlighted during an Open Day of the Library's Archives, Manuscripts and Rare Books Division on Saturday 27 September for 'Archives Awareness Month'.

For further information: on the CWM - <http://www.cwmision.org.uk> and on SOAS archives - <http://www.soas.ac.uk/Archives>

Back cover:

House of the Chief of Djenne, Mali
©James Morris
For alumni who missed the exhibition of large format photographs by James Morris *Butabu, adobe architecture of West Africa* (14 July – 19 September 2003) in the Brunei Gallery, the pictures are featured in a monograph by Princeton Architectural press (November 2003), with text by Professor Suzanne Preston Blier, Harvard University. Black and white photographs by James Morris were subsequently shown (November 2003 – January 2004) at the Zelda Cheattle Gallery, London.

5th Jaina Studies Workshop

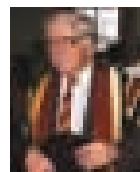


In June 2003, the 5th Jaina Studies Workshop, *Text and Context in Jainism*, organised by Dr Peter Flügel (Lecturer in Jain Studies, Department of the Study of Religions), took place in the Brunei Gallery. Members of the Jain community in Britain, including two visiting nuns (*samani*) of the Terapanth Svetambara Jain order, were amongst those who attended.

SOAS Since the Sixties, a new volume, co-edited by Professors David Arnold and Christopher Shackle, written by senior members of staff, and covering 35 years of the School's recent history, was launched in July 2003. The book is available (price £12.99) through SOAS Bookshop (Bookshop@soas.ac.uk). (See page 8).

Director's Prize for teaching

The prize for 2003 was awarded jointly to Dr Theodore Proferes (Lecturer in Ancient Indian Religions) and Ms Zoë Toft (Lecturer in Linguistics).



Lord Howe

Honorary Fellowship

The Rt Hon the Lord Howe of Aberavon CH QC, who served from 1991-2001 as Visitor to the School, was presented with an Honorary Fellowship by Professor Elisabeth Croll, Vice-Principal (External Affairs) on 29 July 2003 at the School's Graduation Day Ceremony for postgraduates.

New Entrance Hall

Artists impression of the new entrance hall.
(Image reproduced by kind permission of T P Bennett Architects.)

New East Block

Building work has re-commenced on a 4-storey extension to the main building. Scheduled for completion in January 2004, the new block will be dedicated to research activities.

CDPR

In 2003-2004, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED), Ethiopia, has awarded the Centre for Development Policy and Research (CDPR) the Macroeconomic Research and Modelling Project (MRMP), with funding of £375,000. John Weeks, Professor of Development Economics, is project leader, with principle researchers Dr Chris Cramer and Dr Alemayehu Geda (SOAS and Addis Ababa University). For further details: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/Centres>. CDPR Deputy-Director, Degol Hailu is currently Research Associate at St Antony's College, Oxford, till October 2004, researching under the ESRC Cultures of Consumption £5m research programme (further details: <http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk>).

Generous Benefaction for Auditorium

The Khalili Family Trust has generously donated £200,000 for the refurbishment of the SOAS lecture theatre, which will be known as: 'The Khalili Lecture Theatre'. Improvements include seats with fold-away writing facilities, upgraded audiovisual facilities and reflective ceiling panels for better acoustics. Dr Khalili (PhD Art, 1988) is a Visiting Professor of Art and Archaeology at SOAS.

Beyond the Myth

Contemporary Moroccan Art



HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco talks to Hicham Benohoud, one of the artists, at the opening night on 27 May 2003 for *Beyond the Myth: Contemporary Moroccan Art* in the Brunei Gallery.

The exhibition was under the High Patronage of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

For further details on this, and forthcoming Brunei Gallery exhibitions, visit:
www.soas.ac.uk/gallery

£1.25m for six major research projects

Awards of around £1.25m from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) have secured funding for six major research projects on: prison history; modern China; the Mahabharata; pronouns and clitics in Bantu; Jaina law; and representations of the Jews/Zionism in Pakistani/Indian Muslim discourse.

Professor Frank Dikötter and Professor Ian Brown (Department of History) were awarded £186k by the AHRB for a project entitled: *Cultures of Confinement: The History of the Prison in Asia and Africa*. Professor Dikötter has also secured an ESRC award of £232k for a project entitled: *Things Modern: Material Culture and Everyday Life in China* (1870-1950); Dr I Julia Leslie (Department of the Study of Religions) has been awarded AHRB funding of £265k for a project entitled: *Epic Constructions: Gender, Myth and Society in the Mahabharata*; Dr Lutz Marten (Department of the Languages and Cultures of Africa) has been awarded £248k by the AHRB to research: *A dynamic typology of pronouns and clitics in Bantu and Romance*; Dr Werner Menski (Department of Law) has been awarded £226k by the AHRB for research into: *Jaina Law and the Kaina community in India and Britain*. And Dr Tudor Parfitt (Department of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East) has been awarded £110k by the AHRB to research: *Representations of the Jews/Zionism in Pakistani/Indian Muslim discourse*.

Foundation degree in Public Service Interpreting

On 23 September, a co-operation agreement was signed by SOAS and City University to develop courses in public service interpreting. The first foundation degree, to be launched in 2004, will draw on the range of languages offered by SOAS, and City's experience in training interpreters, to provide training for interpreters in public health, law and local government. The two institutions will work with Praxis Community Projects, the re-settlement and training centre for asylum seekers and refugees in Bethnal Green, which has links with many employers.

East Asia separates in two

From August, the Department of the Languages and Cultures of East Asia has become two separate departments. Dr Bernhard Fuehrer is the Chair of the Department of the Languages and Cultures of China and Inner Asia, and Dr Stephen Dodd is Chair of the Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea.

Enduring Love

On 22 and 23 October, a film crew with Roger Michell, Director of *Notting Hill* and *Changing Lanes*, shot scenes from *Enduring Love*, a film based on Ian McEwan's novel, in the Brunei precinct and Woburn Square. SOAS students were invited to be extras.

Nadine Gordimer

On 27 May 2003, as part of the AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures' public lecture series, South African author Nadine Gordimer came to SOAS. Gordimer, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991, spoke and read from her new work, a collection of short stories entitled *Loot* (Bloomsbury Books). A prolific novelist and short story writer, Gordimer is best known for *The Late Bourgeois World* (1966), *Burgher's Daughter* (1979), and *My Son's Story* (1990).

Other speakers welcomed during 2002-2003 include: Nu Buchi Emecheta, Michael Arditti, Luce Irigaray, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Robert Young.

In October, a special issue of the SOAS *Bulletin* (Volume 66, Issue 3) from Cambridge University Press features essays on the Centre's projects. For further information, see: <http://titles.cambridge.org/journals>; to purchase the special issue, contact Andrew Osmond on aol@soas.ac.uk.

For details of the Centre's research, visit:
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/literatures>.



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Nadine Gordimer book signing

This year, the Spring and Autumn issues of the *Alumni Newsletter* have been combined into one Winter issue for 2003. Here is a selection of events from:

Autumn Term (September – December) 2002

Kaiser Haq and **Sarah Maguire** joined as Poets in Residence, funded by Royal Literary Fund Fellowships.

Ms Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Norway's Minister for International Development visited.

Two new centres were launched, one for Law and Conflict; the other for Language Research (CLR).

Tanuf Salim Nuh, a Soqotran poet, came to the UK for a month, to work with Dr Miranda Morris (BA Arabic, 1968-1972; PhD Arabic, 1980) on the oral poetry of Western Soqatra.

The Owa-Obokun appointed Professor J D Y Peel (Department of Anthropology and Sociology) a chief of Ijeshaland, with the title Bapitan - 'father of historians'.

More snow fell in January 2003 in London, than in the previous 12 years...

© Bobby Sancar



In March, the Persian Society and MTO College (the School of Islamic Sufism) held their first Norouz party to celebrate the Persian New Year.

On 14 March, legendary pianist, Maurice El Médioni was the special guest of the AHRB Research Centre for Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Performance, *Roots of Rai*.

Mu-Young – an International Dance Evening, on 24 March, organised by the Department of Music, featured performers from Korea, Thailand, Egypt, Bali, Spain and India.

Summer Term (April – June) 2003

Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, gave the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy annual public lecture.

The Sheringham family and **SOAS** held a reception to mark the 100th Anniversary of Arthur Probsthain's bookshop.

Zoë Toft (Linguistics) gave a presentation of her use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) to support her Masters students. The School is piloting a VLE to complement a small number of existing degree courses. See: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/vle>

In June, Karen Clarke joined as the School's first Diversity Advisor.

The Strategic Priority Team (SPT) presented its first report to the School.

The group was set up to consider future priorities of the School.

900 people visited the SOAS Japanese-style roof garden on Sunday June 8 when it opened for London Garden Squares Day and SOAS's roof garden came 2nd, after Tatton Park, Cheshire, in the *Journal of Japanese Gardening's* survey of 50 Japanese-style public gardens in the UK and Ireland.

Around World Music in 42 Days

Ot Azoy! - Yiddish language and song; *KlezFest* - klezmer music, song and dance; a Chinese and Indian Music Summer School; music from Zimbabwe; Indonesia; Thailand; Greece; and Noh dance from Japan, were amongst a series of world music events in the summer, organised by the Department of Music; the Asian Music Circuit

(AMC); the Jewish Music Institute (JMI); Ingoma; Moosootoo and the Institute of Rebetology.

Students from the Department of Music have launched a website www.worldmusic.london.com 'a forum for musicians to tell people about the instruments they play and the groups they're in'.

On 6 July 2003, Timothy West and Prunella Scales lead a distinguished cast in a dramatic reading of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. The reading, based on Professor Andrew George's Penguin Classics translation, took place in the Brunei Gallery and was organised by the London Centre for the Ancient Near East and the London Middle East Institute (LMEI) at SOAS, in association with the 49e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale.

Professor Peter Robb

(Professor of the History of India) took over as Pro-Director from Professor Christopher Shackle who stepped down in July 2003.

On 29 July 2003 it was Graduation Day.

Autumn Term 2003

SOAS becomes the first UK institution to offer taught Masters programmes in all major East Asian literatures: Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Other new degree programmes include an MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies; an MA in Buddhist Studies; and a BA in Arabic Cultural Studies.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, RH Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, gave a lecture on 22 September in the Brunei Gallery, entitled: *Islam and the Ummah: Re-Examining and Re-Inventing Ourselves in the Face of New Challenges*.

Professor Craig Clunas joined as Percival David Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art.

Forthcoming in 2004

Blue and White for China: *Porcelain Treasures in the Percival David Collection*, June-December 2004, in the Percival David Foundation. Telephone: 020 7387 3909 for further details.

Interconnections: The Thirty-First LACUS (Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States) Forum, will take place on 27 - 31 July 2004 at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). For further information, contact Dr David Bennett (Department of Linguistics, SOAS and Chair, LACUS Conference Committee) on db@soas.ac.uk

Obituaries

The School regrets to inform you of the death of:

Gordon Innes (Member of Staff, West African Languages, 1953-1984) who died on 5 April 2003.

Professor J B Segal, FBA (Professor Emeritus in the Department of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East and Honorary Fellow) who died on 24 October 2003.

Dr Katherine Whitaker (LAI Po Kan), Reader in Classical Chinese (31 March 1912-2 April 2003).

Today's China

Through My Eyes

by Xinran Xue

I don't think I am qualified to talk about China today because:

1. China has 56 ethnic groups, with totally different histories, languages and cultures. Its geographical area is 42 times the size of the entire British Isles. Its 5000 years of history have nourished wealth like that of modern Europe and poverty as severe as that of the Sahara Desert; about 1.4 billion people are making things, trading, and loving, too, in hundreds of accents in different languages. This is why different people hear such different news and stories about China.
2. I have been away from China for over six years, while tremendous changes have been taking place on a daily basis. In today's China, the eastern regions are developing so fast that people find themselves unable to provide accurate maps for their visiting friends.
3. What I have experienced in China, whether in terms of place, the times, the environment or the situation, can only be representative of a minuscule proportion, like a drop of water cannot be used to explain the ocean, but only a spoon of tea or a bowl of soup.

If you want to be able to understand about today's China, I think, no matter from what perspective, you must work from one premise, which is that in the past, four social phenomena which are accepted all over the world have never really been accepted or put into practice there: religious belief, public communication, the legal system and sex education.

Religious belief

Over the last 3000 years, the Chinese regarded their emperors and leaders as their god, whose every word could mean the difference between life and death. In the early 20th century, China was plunged into chaos as feudalism came to an end, and in all this bloodshed, the role of saviour was taken over by the warlords. They all understood that the Chinese could not do without their gods, as props to their spirits. No matter how different were the theories of democracy, socialism and communism - represented by Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong - in the period from 1920-1980, most ordinary Chinese did not look on them as political leaders but as new emperors with modern names, and as their gods. This is why the cult of the individual was able to continue, and also the reason why the Chinese revolution is not the same as the French



Xinran Xue

Public communication

The only information ordinary Chinese could obtain from the public media: radio, television and newspapers, were the orders of those emperors and the political Parties. If you were born blind, no matter how others described the beauty of colours to you, you would still have no way of imagining the difference between yellow and blue. For people who have lived all their lives in China without any chance to travel anywhere, it is impossible to imagine the right to read, watch and listen freely to what you like, and to communicate with the rest of the world. The drab, drained information they can get has numbed the natural desires of most Chinese for information. Thus, they will take their private pleasures and topics of conversation from one secret, a single mistake or a piece of gossip. As I once said to a western friend, do not mock the bitter taste of our tears, because we have never tried anything that is truly sweet.

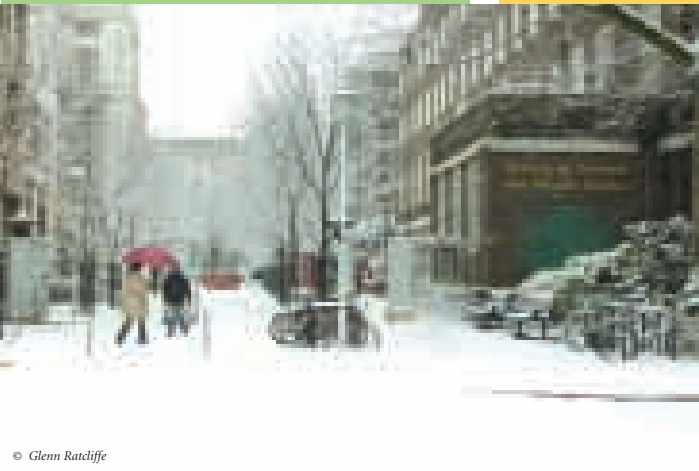
Sex education

Sex, which is regarded by the rest of the world as a basic part of human nature, was a defining characteristic of delinquent behaviour or hooligans in China until 1983. Touching or hugging someone of the opposite sex could lead to criticism or even imprisonment. Even at home, pillow talk between couples could be used as proof after a quarrel for one of them to inform against the other, which could result in imprisonment or dismissal from their job. Because of the lack of sex education, very many Chinese men and women did not know the difference between men and women, or what sex was. This is no joke. They are human beings, but the physical part of their nature has been destroyed by political brutality and the ugliness of society. Principles from a thousand years of history are like a prison, in which Chinese people's love and sex are locked away. The only heroes are in novels; the only ardent lovers are in pictures, and the ones who succeed in love are often acting out a tragedy.

Apart from these four issues, from 1920 to 1985, the Chinese education system never had a chance

“What I have experienced in China, whether in terms of place, the times, the environment or the situation, can only be representative of a minuscule proportion, like a drop of water cannot be used to explain the ocean, but only a spoon of tea or a bowl of soup”.

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Spring Term (January – March) 2003

Law, Human Rights and Peace Building in the Middle East became the focus of a major Law Department research initiative, made possible by support from Sir Joseph Hotung; Professor Edward Said of Columbia University gave the Sir Joseph Hotung International Human Rights Lecture on *Memory, Inequality and Power: Palestine and the Universality of Human Rights*.

Mapping the Treasures of Arabia

(28 January – 21 March 2003) opened in the Brunei Gallery.

to improve, or to build itself up to international standards, because of about:

15 years of military rule by War Lords (1920-1935)

8 years of war with Japan and The Second World War (1935-1945)

4 years of Civil War (1945-1949)

3 years of the Korean War (1950-1953)

10 years of the Countryside Revolution (1956-1963)

10 years of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

For this reason, the last two generations of Chinese to enter middle age have had insufficient knowledge or experience in these fields. They have lost their way in the struggle between human nature and the political system. However, I find that the new generation is just the opposite. It has come into the world with all their parents' sexual hunger, and swiftly, ravenously, taken on everything in their society that can fulfil their human needs. They imitate lifestyles from abroad in a search for a real "human" existence, even at the cost of the loss of their families or possessions.

Like a starving child, China as she opened up would eat everything she could lay her hands on, indiscriminately. We saw her afterwards with a flushed and smiling face, but she herself did not realise the harm that this would do to her long-starved system. The China the world sees is just a child wearing new clothes, who is no longer crying out with hunger.

But have people considered:

- What is the educational background of the current batch of policy-makers and managers?
- Are Chinese people getting a rounded education from their families, society and school?

Personally, I believe that it will take two or three generations for China to build up a benign cycle of education, where more and more Chinese young people can grow up in a healthy educational climate, and only then will they be able to understand China's place in the world, what is special about it and what is universal. Only then will they have the ability to develop China more reasonably and efficiently; only then will China be able to truly understand the world, and work together with it.

I believe that it is not until people get to know China more widely and deeply that they can understand why so many Chinese are chasing after money and desire; why so many Chinese youth are losing their way; and why China's political and economic reforms are so much more difficult than in other countries.

Try to understand China and the Chinese more, please, because China and the Chinese love this world as you do.

Xinran Xue's book, *The Good Women of China*, which was published in 2002 in the UK, and has since appeared in 27 languages, is about the lives of the ordinary people she encountered during her career as a radio broadcaster and journalist. Her second book *Sky Burial* (Chatto Bodley Head & Cape) has recently been translated into English and other languages. It is due out in July 2004

When Xinran Xue came to the UK, one of her first jobs was at SOAS. She joined the Language Centre in 1997 and taught here for about four years.

How did you first come to teach at SOAS?

One of my friends knows Dr Lian-Yi Song who was the Chinese course leader in the Language Centre, therefore I was introduced to him, and then I was given an interview by three heads of the Language Centre.

What was it like to teach, having worked for so long as a broadcaster?

In China, I was guest professor for some universities when I worked as a radio presenter and magazine columnist. There is a big difference between Chinese classes and those at SOAS: teachers and students come from very different, world cultures; we tried to exchange points of views about our daily life. I learned a lot from my colleagues, students and many of the staff who worked at SOAS. This is why I still have so many friends there. Some of my students always come to see me when I am on my book tour in their countries. I loved it and I still do.

I got so much positive and warm encouragement; and also help from people every single day when I had just moved to this strange country.



Untitled: carte-de-visite type commercial studio photograph, c. 1910.
Photograph by kind permission of the Council for World Mission (CWM) Archive. [Ref: CWM/LMS China Photographs, Box 6/31/17]

Studying in Beijing

“Yes, we are very happy here”



SOAS students in Beijing with Cui Yan (centre), Lecturer in Chinese, Department of the Languages and Cultures of China and Inner Asia

© Geng Yanfu

Discovering sex education in Beijing

by Alessandra Aresu



(MA in Chinese Studies, 2000)

Chinese language and culture is something that has attracted me like a magnet in the last ten years. The study of Mandarin, which I began in 1993, stimulated my curiosity and my desire to learn

about this fascinating culture, something I am pursuing to this day. It was with this enthusiasm that I left Italy in 1999 to embark

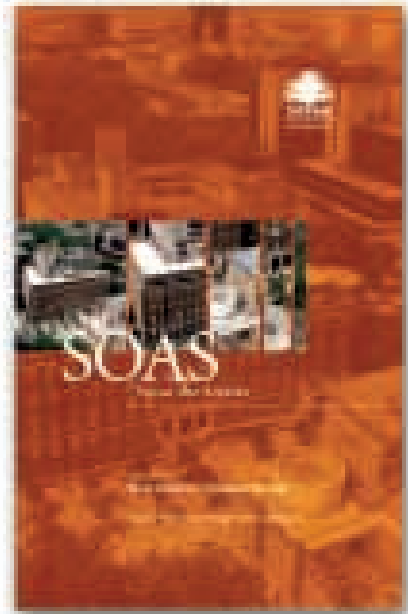
on my 'one year adventure' at SOAS, where I developed the interest for my actual research, which focuses on the development of sex education in contemporary urban China. This is quite a delicate subject and, at the same time, a very attractive and challenging one. Information on this theme has not been easily available either inside or outside of China and I would not have been able to conduct my research without the help of Mr Stuart Thompson while I was a SOAS student, and the support of Dr Harriet Evans since I started my PhD in 2000 at the University of Westminster.

In the last three years this research has absorbed most of my time and energy, especially during my one year of fieldwork in Beijing, where I collected the majority of the data. I was based at the People's University, where I was warmly welcomed by Professor Pan Suiming, the director of the Institute of Gender and Sexuality, and his students. Professor Pan has been a patient and generous guide in my research from the beginning of my stay in Beijing. He opened the doors of his house and his library and introduced me to some

of the key people in the field of sex education. The most difficult part of my fieldwork was to be accepted as a participant-observer at sex education classes in schools and universities. Students and educators were quite curious about my research but, at the same time, they were understandably suspicious about me asking questions on sex and sexuality. For this reason, while several universities in Beijing gave me permission to attend their sex education classes for several months, it was practically impossible for me to enter into primary and middle school classrooms. At the end of my fieldwork, in August 2002, I managed to come back to the UK with more than ten boxes of books, sex education manuals and pamphlets that, together with the information I collected among young people, parents and educators, are the basic material for my thesis. Probably, these few lines are not sufficient to express the value of what I have been exploring while doing this research, but I hope they are enough to give the reader a general idea of this experience.

The School in print

Four books with a
common link: SOAS



From 1967 to today:
a new History of SOAS

SOAS Since the Sixties

On 25 July 2003, a new history of SOAS was launched, which brings the School's history up to date from Sir Cyril Philip's earlier account, published in 1967. Co-edited by Professors David Arnold and Christopher Shackle, and written by senior staff, four of whom have been associated with the School throughout all the decades covered, *SOAS Since the Sixties* describes the achievements of successive Directors, the expansion and evolution of academic expertise, the School's internationally renowned library and archives, the SOAS estate, and finishes with a personal account by alumnus Professor Hugh Baker (BA Chinese 1958-1962; PhD 1967) a long-standing member of academic staff.

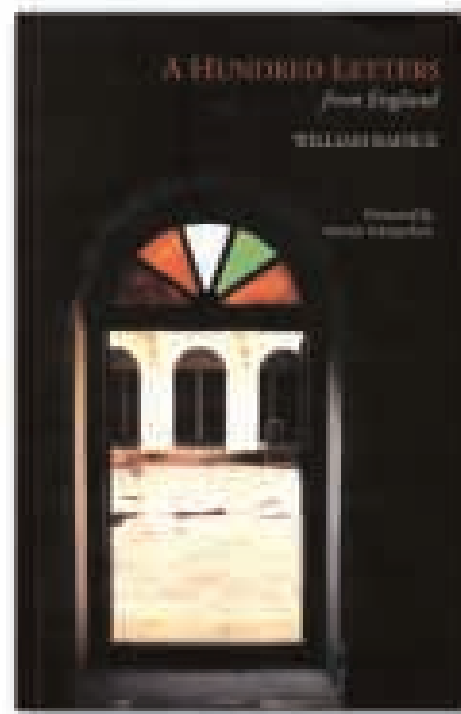
A Review of: A Hundred Letters from England by William Radice

A Hundred Letters from England puts between covers for posterity, a diverse, erudite but accessible series of columns, which Dr William Radice wrote, from 1998 to 2002, for the *Statesman* in India. Combining the interests and intellectual background of a poet, scholar and translator, with more lightweight and transient topics, his columns range far and wide - and swoop from the particular to the wider picture, analysing and commenting with the same level of enthusiasm and application, whether he is writing about Tagore, or railway tickets; his work as a SOAS Head of Department, or going to see the pantomime *Cinderella*; being Chair of Examiners for GCSE Bengali or meeting anti-globalisation protester Richard Moth (a SOAS alumnus). For those who were working or studying at SOAS, during the 4 years in which the column was written, there are numerous references to people and events at the School. The book has the immediacy of a 'diary' or chronicle - many of the accounts are written soon after the event - but, unlike the transience of most diaries, will surely hold long-term interest. Readers in India will have enjoyed the book in the form in which it first appeared, as a weekly column. 'The best way to savour the delights

of this book is to make it a bedside book to be dipped into at random', writes N S Jagannathan. Whilst Martin Kämpchen, in his Foreword, states: "The publisher as well as the author obviously realise that these texts form a strand of cultural history. No matter how topical and fleeting this strand may have seemed at the time, it is more than worthy of preservation in its totality, worthy of a place on one's bookshelf".

(*A Hundred Letters from England* by William Radice (Indialog Publications Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 2003) is available through UBS Publishers' Distributors Pvt Ltd at mkkalsi@ubspd.com or visit: www.gobookshopping.com)

Book cover: designed by Uzma Mohsin
[Visual Vibe] with kind permission of the publishers.
Indialog Publications, New Delhi.



'The range of subjects dealt with is mind-boggling. English and Bengali literature, theatre, cinema, music...' (N S Jagannathan in the Literary Review section of *The Hindu* (1 June 2003)).

The Zanzibar Chest by Aidan Hartley

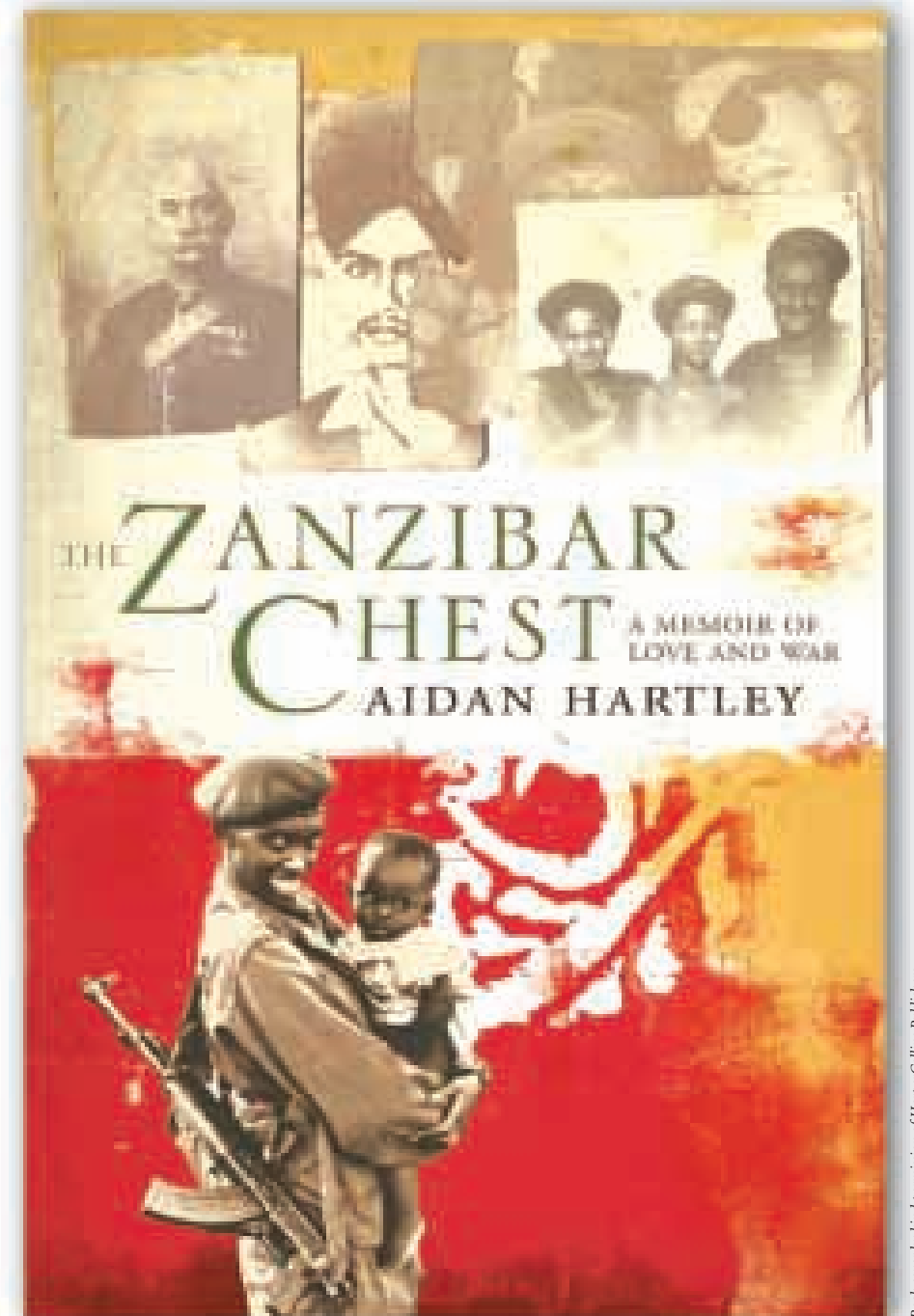
(MA Area Studies, Africa, 1987-1988) is reviewed by **Alex Bigham**, who is currently in his 3rd year studying for a BA in Politics.

The Zanzibar Chest is not for those who are looking to read a light introduction to the politics and history of sub-Saharan Africa. The intertwining of family memoir and historical reportage combines to ensure this is a fine example of the war correspondent's tale - vivid, harrowing yet creating such pace and curiosity as to leave one enthralled.

The book intertwines three stories, those of Peter Davey, a political officer in Aden in the 1940s, the author's father, who was a colonial officer in Africa, and Hartley's own tale of two decades of journalism describing his encounters with varied barbarism in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

The most interesting aspect to the book is Hartley's own tale. Raised in Kenya, but schooled in England (which he describes as cold, grey and miserable), Hartley faces a fascinating crisis of identity as someone who is visibly European but feels most at home in East Africa. This comes home to him when he travels to the Balkans and is interrogated by his supposed fellow Europeans, Serbian militiamen. "Trapped in my skin, I was a stateless colonial, a freebooting hack. Was the Africa I missed my home, or was this Europe my home, or at least the only one I deserve?"

Hartley faces similar difficulties when he discusses Rwanda, which he describes with uncompromising honesty. He describes not only the failure of the international community, but also the failure of perspective



Book cover by kind permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

that journalists suffered from. “We were like ants crawling across the hide of an elephant.” Some of the most harrowing aspects of Hartley’s journalistic experiences can be found in the tales of Rwanda and Burundi, such as when he describes a mother with an infant strapped to her back attacking another woman, also carrying an infant, with a machete. He faces a common dilemma for journalists between the necessity to produce a scoop and the desire to do something worthwhile, “I watched a person die and however strange I felt about it I still had to sit down and tap out a news report if I wanted to do my job well and beat the competition.”

Even the hopeful story of the book, *Lazarus*, the tale of a child rescued from a pile of corpses in a refugee camp in Goma, seems only to end happily in the imagination of other journalists. It is perhaps not surprising that Hartley describes his experiences in Rwanda as like a “tumour leaking poison into the back of my skull.”

Hartley’s Father is as fascinating a figure as the author. An “old testament patriarch”, whom the author seems to idolise as “the centre of my world”, was a journeyman in the literal and metaphorical sense. He spent his whole life walking across Africa and Arabia, and shifted his career from being a colonial administrator, to working for aid programmes in the 70s (which Hartley describes as “white elephants”), to a volunteer for Oxfam. Hartley’s life seems to parallel his father’s journey towards disillusionment with colonialism, which ends with the elder saying “we should never have come here” whilst on his deathbed. The author’s frustration at journalism becomes increasingly palpable towards the end of the book, such as after a tragedy in Somalia, where several of his colleagues and friends were killed by a mob following an attack on civilians by American forces.

For those keen to see what the author made of his time at SOAS, there is only passing reference to the institution, when he describes it as “formerly a famous training ground for those who wanted to make their lives elsewhere, and now a hotbed of dissidents from the Third World.” This is perhaps the space where Hartley best fits in – the son of a colonial officer who makes a career out of observing the new generation of revolutionaries. However, he often becomes intimately involved with the story, which makes for stirring reading, such as when he rides in to Addis Ababa with the Ethiopian rebels following the fall of Mengistu’s regime. “For two nights we slept together in a heap with the other rebels at the palace and ate sloppy lentils and *injera* bread... Yet we both sensed a barrier had suddenly gone up between us, ending the intimacy we had won in times of danger... Apart from Carlos, to me the journalists appeared both cynical and vulgar in comparison to Grimay and his bright-eyed comrades, but the hacks were my own kind.”

The Zanzibar Chest is an explicit account of an author who thrives off the thrill and comradeship that comes from the shared experience of horror and exposure to risk. The enjoyment and in a sense ‘peace’ that comes from the intimacy of danger is illustrated in the description of Hartley’s long-standing relationship with a photographer named Lizzie. The author devotes a substantial amount of the book to their mutual experiences, which vary in quality depending on the context and its corresponding level of hazardousness. “Mogadishu was our Paris: gunfire, flares at night, Huey rides, razor wire, heat and deadlines. I’d look into Lizzie’s eyes after a morning out in the city and see her pupils were dilated.” This romantic excitement is not sustained in times of relative peace, though, such as when they are in their house in Kenya, “I snarled and yelled. Lizzie ran out cackling or in a torrent of tears, gathering up her things to vanish. I felt starved of intimacy.”



Aidan Hartley © Saskia Spender

“We were like ants crawling across the hide of an elephant.” Some of the most harrowing aspects of Hartley’s journalistic experiences can be found in the tales of Rwanda and Burundi

This lack of purpose is felt whenever Hartley is away from the story – which means the book is most successful when describing the horrors of Somalia and Rwanda, and relatively less exciting when he is exploring the story of Peter Davey, a colonial officer in Aden and friend of Hartley’s father. This can be seen when he interviews one of Davey’s contemporaries in Yemen, “Here I was at the bedside of a man ...who had personally witnessed the events of a story played out on the

edge of the desert half a century before. I hoped for an eloquent valediction, so I asked him what he remembered. He shrugged. “It was so long ago.” It seems that every time Hartley is on the verge of a revelation and a bit of ‘colour’ for Davey’s life he stumbles. Even when he finds the controversial story of Davey’s wife he fails to find many clues to the mystery, and this part of the book seems ultimately unfulfilling. Despite this, a large part of the book is devoted to Davey – even the title ‘Zanzibar Chest’ comes from his father’s old camphor box in which he discovers Davey’s diaries. But the diaries prove to only hint at interesting events, rather than explicitly describe the Arabian adventures that the colonial officer must have experienced. Perhaps this is the central drawback – While the *LA Times*’ suggestion that the book “reflects the journalist’s inability to string more than a couple of paragraphs of narrative together,” is far too harsh, there is a sense in which Hartley seems to skip from anecdote to anecdote without an overarching theme or purpose.

One message, however, might be the one of the journalist as ‘storyteller’, which Hartley excels at. He tells the story of the ‘little heroic people’ who touched his life. They are a variety of journalist foot soldiers from the Somalian stringers to Rwandan aid workers, whose stories would otherwise be forgotten. In a sense, the author becomes like the character in the Tennessee Williams play, dependent on the kindness of strangers. He tries to repay this debt by recounting their tales, such as that of Mohamed Afrah, a brave Somalian stringer who worked tirelessly for Reuters, and later appears at a corporate event. “Afrah spat as he spoke and the corners of his mouth became flecked with foam. The manager clutched his wineglass and stared at the carpet. I looked up at the famous Reuters correspondents, wondering how Afrah fitted in to all this. No Reuters official history will ever mention Afrah, his loyalty to the agency, his news, or who he was. In fact, the instant that the manager turned away to engage in chitchat in safer, more corporate territory, our Mogadishu stringer was all but forgotten.”

The Zanzibar Chest is a deeply personal and psychological account of the second winds of change in late 1980s and early 1990s Africa, where you could “almost whiff the tear gas in the air of Nairobi”. He successfully compares the historical role played by white settlers in Africa and the Middle East with his own peripatetic probing as a reporter of the new African revolutions. It is exhilarating and beautifully written in many sections, but occasionally feels more like a therapeutic exercise of the embattled war correspondent than a genuine history of a troubled continent.

The Zanzibar Chest is in the bestseller lists in USA, Canada and South Africa. Reviews: <http://www.groveatlantic.com>
The author will be giving a talk at SOAS in 2004.

The School in Print: continues on page 15.

Bobby Sardar



Listening

© Bobby Sardar

Alejandra V Millan La Rivera



Pigments

© Alejandra V Millan La Rivera

Alejandra V Millan La Rivera is a Chilean, semi-professional photographer who is in her 2nd year of a BA in Development Studies and Economics. She won first prize in the Equities and Diversity Photography Competition, 2003, in Dagenham. In 2002, she showed her work in Faristol Gallery, and Candil Gallery, Catalonia, Spain. mlrav@yahoo.com



What

© Bobby Sardar

Bobby Sardar is in his 2nd year studying for a BA in Economics. More of his photographs can be seen at: www.myperspective.co.uk

SOAS Global Image Group

Global Image held their Second Annual Photographic Exhibition in 2003: ‘Images from around the world captured by students of SOAS’. Photographers of the exhibition supported *Enlighten*, that facilitates computer learning in Palestinian refugee camps.

News in Brief

Summer Ball

On Friday 13th June, the Students Union held a Summer Ball Masquerade at Glasshouse, Mermaid Theatre Building, Puddle Dock off Upper Thames Street, London EC4.

Literary Society

The Literary Society held a number of ‘Open Mike’ nights during the year and produced a poetry magazine, *Burning Bright*, edited by Jane Kinninmont with a forward by Ghazal Tippu, Literary Society President.
world_literature_society@hotmail.com

Rowing club

Soasrowing@hotmail.com would like to hear from alumni who are interested in joining a rowing club, which meets twice a week at the University of London boathouse in Chiswick, West London.

The latest staff photograph was taken in June 2002.



SOAS Staff Photograph



Photograph courtesy of Ede and Ravenscroft. For copies or further details, please contact: photography@edeandravenscroft.co.uk

Mandu Noa Sen (Yale University) contacted us for archive information on SOAS alumna, Dorothee Metlitzki, whose life she has been researching. ‘She was a remarkable character’, she writes, ‘and one of the most inspiring teachers at Yale. Her topic was the influence of Arabic literature on English Medieval literature – she also spent several years in Israel, where I will be for a while, doing research on her life.’

Dorothee Metlitzki, a student at the School of Oriental Studies between the years 1933-1939, passed away on April 2001. The many and varied people who attended her memorial service are a testament both to her scholarly achievement and fascinating life. She was born in Konigsberg, once in Germany and today Russia, in 1914, to a Jewish family. World War I and the Russian revolution meant years of turmoil for her family; finally they settled in Memel, Lithuania, where she lived until the age of 18 and went to a German school. Wishing to shield their daughter from the increasingly hostile environment in continental Europe, her

parents sent her to London to study. Dorothee Metlitzki studied Arabic at the School of Oriental Studies and English at University College, London. She later combined her two interests and her Masters degree focused on the meeting of the two subjects.

In 1939 she left for Palestine, and there started to work as an English teacher. Her work took her also to Cairo. In 1944 she met and married Paul Krauss, a fellow Arabist. But that marriage was as tragic as it was brief: a few months after their marriage Krauss, burdened by great personal troubles, professional difficulties and perhaps also a sense of isolation as a Jew in Cairo, committed suicide. Her second marriage was to another Orientalist, Bernhard Grdseloff, but it too ended in tragedy when he died rather suddenly of an illness. By then the State of Israel had been declared, and Metlitzki, a passionate Zionist who befriended future leaders of the state such as Moshe Sharett and Abba Eban, started working in various official capacities. Thus, in between the years 1947-1953, she was the secretary for Arab Women’s affairs at the Zionist Labor Federation, using her knowledge of Arabic to try and create bonds between Arabs and Jews and to decrease what was already a considerable inequality between the two groups. This proved to be an exceedingly difficult and often frustrating task. At the same time, she worked as a press officer for the Israeli Foreign Office. In this capacity she travelled abroad often, explaining the Israeli government position and essentially being a spokesperson for Zionism.

By that time, however, her daughter Ruth was born, and she was longing to return to her academic work. Her visits abroad acquainted her with the American Studies department at Yale University, and in 1953, after successfully applying, she enrolled on a PhD program there. Her dissertation was on Orientalism, in the old sense of the word, in Herman Melville’s work, and was later published as “Melville’s Orienda”. During the 1960s she taught at Berkeley, California, and indeed got tenure there, but returned to Yale with her then husband the Assyriologist Jacob Finkelstein whom she later divorced. In 1976 she published her most important work, *The Matter of Araby in Medieval England*, which explored the meeting of the two cultures.

Friends testify that when asked where she was from, Dorothee never knew quite what to answer. She was a part of many cultures and personally touched by very different historical events. But it was precisely her familiarity with so many worlds that made her the remarkable academic that she was. She was familiar with the philology and history of about eight languages, and her general knowledge was as broad as her travel. She was ever an invaluable source of knowledge for students in their academic pursuits.

Dorothee Metlitzki is survived by the daughter of her second marriage, Ruth Grdseloff, of Berkeley, California.

© Mandu Noa Sen

In a Sea of Knowledge: British Arabists in the Twentieth Century (Ithaca Press, 2002) by **Leslie McLoughlin**

“SOAS figures prominently from the date of its foundation, and indeed from before 1916. I describe the thinking which led to the decision to found SOS, as it was originally.”



Leslie McLoughlin took his BA as an External Student from Beirut, having originally been a student of History at Manchester University with the late Professor Charles Beckingham. He first learnt Arabic at Durham (1960-1961) and then at MECAS, the Foreign Office’s Middle East Centre for Arab Studies in Lebanon (1961-62), before teaching Arabic (1962-64) to the Army in Aden, where he married. In 1971 he was working as Principal Instructor at MECAS. There he succeeded the late David Cowan, formerly SOAS Reader in

The School in print

(continued from p8)

Arabic.

Before retirement, Leslie McLoughlin was the interpreter in Arabic for HM The Queen and British Prime Ministers, and is still called on to interpret for Ministers. He is now a Fellow of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies in the University of Exeter where he lives with his wife and son and daughter. He broadcasts regularly in Arabic on the BBC Arabic Service and on Arabic satellite TV stations, in addition to teaching Arabic at the University.

He has published Ibn Saud – *Founder of a Kingdom*, Macmillan, 1993 and *A Nest of Spies...?* (Alhani, 1994), in addition to numerous modern language textbooks and translations of Arabic literature, including Dr

Ghazi Algosaibi’s novel: *An Apartment called Freedom* (KPI, 1996). To accompany his book on King Abdul-Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in 1999 he wrote and presented an Arabic television documentary on the King’s life. Recently, he has published: *In a sea of Knowledge - British Arabists in the 20th Century* (Ithaca Press, 2002). He is currently preparing an encyclopedia article on the Arabic language and researching modern Saudi history.

Leslie McLoughlin visits the Arab world regularly for lectures and conferences and is also a Visiting Lecturer on cruises in the Arab world and elsewhere.

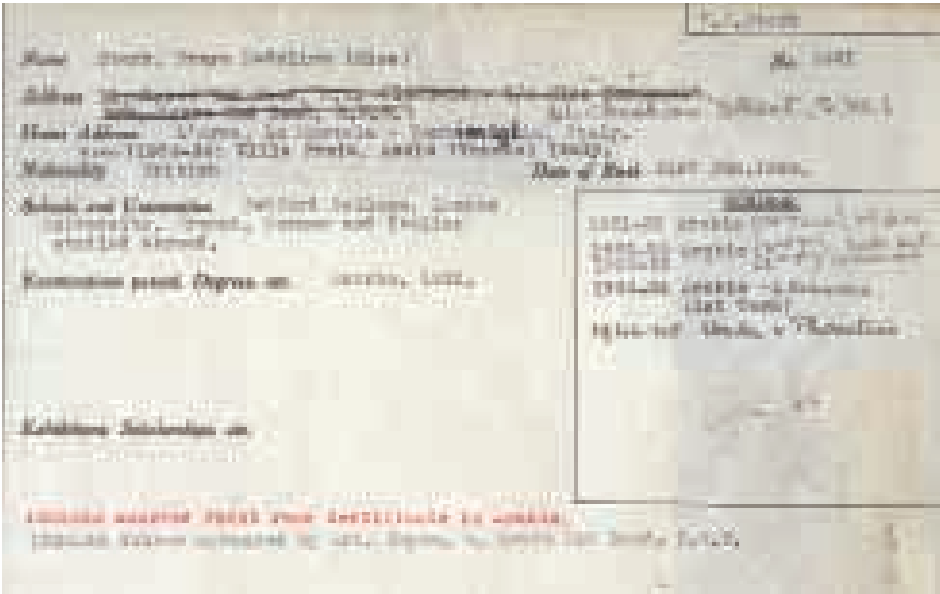
Leslie McLoughlin
(BA Arabic, 1971)
lesliemcloughlin@aol.com

Paths Crossing

SOAS Alumni **Dorothea Metlitzki, Freya Stark and Leslie McLoughlin**

Registry Record

In the same year, 1933-1934, that Dorothee Metlitzki was enrolled to study ‘Arabic for Intermediate students’, travel writer **Dame Freya Stark** - whose publications include *Valley of the Assassins* (1934); *The Southern Gates of Arabia* (1936); *Iona: A Quest* (1954) and the *Lycian Shore* (1956) - is recorded as having taken four lessons of Arabic in the 1st term. This was the fourth time, over a 12-year period, that she attended Arabic language classes at the School.



Mai Ni Ni Aung (MSc Development Studies, 1998-1999) returned to Burma (re-named Myanmar) after her MSc, and soon found a post with an NGO where she worked in

projects to help street children and working children, and in rural development schemes. At the same time she used her skills and her spare time to promote the welfare of her own ethnic group, the Chin people of Burma.

She set up the Sone Tu (Chin) Cultural

Preservation Project, initially to record traditions and rituals of the community that were beginning to fall into disuse. The project encompassed the preservation of costumes, ornaments and traditional artefacts, selecting items for museum collections, and compiling a written history of the Chin people. Compiling a history meant that the participants had first to establish consensus on which of the many Chin dialects to use as the lingua franca - the groups are located in valleys separated by high mountain ranges, and their dialects have diverged considerably.

As the project progressed it became clear that the Sone Tu were in urgent need of help with education, development and income-generating activities, so the project grew to address these needs as well. It was at this time, when Mai Ni Ni was rushing from meeting to meeting,

setting up committees, cajoling, coaxing, inspiring, that she noticed that almost every day she was making use of something she had learned on her course at SOAS.

Mai Ni Ni’s abilities did not go unnoticed. She was soon drawn into helping with sexual health programmes, with a UNICEF child labour project, with translating and interpreting duties, and - just three years after she had returned to Burma - she was selected for a fully funded scholarship to Notre Dame University in the USA, to attend an MA course in International Peace Studies at the Joan B. Kroc Institute with a small and select group of other students from all over the world.

By now some of her plans for Chin development had begun to bear fruit. As one way of helping to preserve Chin culture she had set up weaving centres, where older women

were given the opportunity to recall the traditional back-strap weaving skills they had begun to forget, and to learn marketing skills that enabled them to sell their colourful fabrics in Rangoon and further afield. Younger women had had no incentive to learn traditional weaving and pattern design, but when they saw that a steady income could be made from weaving they too came along to be taught the technique. The income thus generated not only helps to raise the standard of living of the community, but also contributes to the provision of educational facilities for the village children.

While still maintaining the tough study schedule demanded by the MA course, Mai Ni Ni contrived to put together a business plan for marketing the products of the weaving centres. This she submitted for a competition sponsored by the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in the USA, and her efforts won her the “Against All Odds Award”, a new award created specifically to recognise her initiative. The publicity this generated, and her own untiring efforts to encourage donations from public and private sources, have helped to raise the funds that the Project still badly needs.

Just this year Mai Ni Ni has been awarded another grant. This time it is to conduct research on establishing peace education in her native land. The research is to be supervised by faculty at Notre Dame and at the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University.

This abridged summary of achievement may summon up a picture of a totally committed and unnervingly serious personality. When you meet her, you find that Mai Ni Ni is just the opposite. Her capacity for hilarity and her delightful company make her much in demand at parties and other social events - which she attends with glee. No doubt her forthcoming research will produce valuable results. We wish her well as she embarks on the next stage of her remarkable career.

John Okell, Lecturer in Burmese, (retired)

Persons wishing to make donations to the project can contact Mai Ni Ni Aung via alumni@soas.ac.uk

New appointment

Congratulations to HE **Dr François Barras** (PhD Legal Anthropology, 1983) who has been appointed Consul General in Hong Kong, having completed his tenure as Ambassador of Switzerland in Abu Dhabi

Kevin Berkowitz (formerly Kevin Berk) (MA Near & Middle East, 1993-1994) I'm now a volunteer with the US Peace Corps in the Republic of Macedonia, working for the municipality of Resen, in southwest Macedonia, on the shores of Prespa Lake. Among various projects, I'll be working on “Prespa Park”, a joint effort between Macedonia, Greece and Albania to preserve

and develop this beautiful and historical region. See www.prespa.org.mk and www.resen.gov.mk
kcberkowitz@yahoo.com



Professor Muhammad Amjad Butt (BA History, 1958-1961) retired as Chairman of the Department of History at Government College, Lahore in 1990, where he served as a teacher of

History for 37 years. He was also on the Board of Governors. He plans to visit SOAS in the near future. His last visit was in 1973.

Adel A Dajani (LLB 1975-1978) is founder of the International Maghreb Merchant Bank, the first licensed investment bank covering the markets of Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco (1996) and a partner in Maghreb Venture Partners, a private equity operation covering the Maghreb and South Mediterranean.

dajani.aa@planet.tn



Luther P Gerlach (PhD Cultural Anthropology, 1957-1960) Professor emeritus, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55449

In 2000, I retired as a

Professor of Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, where I also was active in graduate programs in Public Affairs, Water Resources, and Conservation Biology. As Professor emeritus, I continue to teach introductory social and cultural anthropology through distance learning (internet), and I am preparing a new course on ecological anthropology also to teach through distance. Preparation includes filming and production of 14 video cassettes/ DVDs and writing of text and study guide. I have also just completed writing a 50-page essay on *Public Response to Electricity Transmission Lines: The Significance, Organization, and Arguments of Opposition*. This will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming (2004) Encyclopedia of Energy, Elsevier/Academic Press. These recent activities are rooted in my education at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the University of London. I attended SOAS from 1957-December 1960, receiving certificates in

African Law, with Islamic Law option, and Swahili, and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology, For the doctorate, I conducted field research among the Digo of the Kenya coast, focusing on how their then ongoing conversion to Islam, and incorporation of Islamic law, affected their social organization and ecological adaptation. While doing this, I also learned how the Digo, horticulturalists, interacted in trade and market systems with neighbouring Duruma pastoralists and Arab and Shirazi fishing and rice growing agriculturalists, exchanging the products of their respective ecological niches. I continued these interests in sociocultural change and in ecological adaptation in professorial roles in the USA, especially the University of Minnesota. I presented the Kenya findings in print, film and video. From the late 1960s through the mid-1980s, I led students in studies of social movements, including in the USA, and particularly of movements to change religion, to promote civil rights, and to change how people interacted with the biophysical environment. From the mid-1980s, with students, I examined efforts to manage ecological risk and environmental change on regional and global scales. As usual, I presented findings about change and management in film as well as print. These efforts include changing ecological adaptive strategies, organization (social, political, economic), and systems of ideas and meaning, or cosmology. In short, they involve what I began learning about from the people of the Kenya coast many years ago, prepared by my studies at SOAS.



Dr Franklin E Huffman (Occasional student, South East Asian Studies) received the PhD in linguistics, anthropology and South East Asian Studies from Cornell University in

1967. From 1967-1972, Huffman was Assistant Professor of South East Asian languages and linguistics at Yale University, responsible for instruction in the Thai and Cambodian languages. From 1972-1985, he was Associate Professor and then Professor of Linguistics and South East Asian Studies at Cornell University, teaching Cambodian, Vietnamese and South East Asian linguistics.

In 1985, Dr Huffman joined the diplomatic service of the United States and served as Assistant Information Officer in London (1986-1987), Assistant Public Affairs Officer in Rangoon, Director of the American Cultural Center in Marrakech, Morocco (1989-1990),

Director of Programs in the US Information Service in Paris (1990-1993), Policy Officer in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at USIA in Washington (1993-1994), Public Affairs Officer in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (1995-1997), and Public Affairs Officer in Wellington, New Zealand, before mandatory retirement from the diplomatic service at age 65 in 1999. Following retirement, Huffman served brief tours for the Department of State in both Chad and Cambodia.

During his academic career, Huffman authored nine books and numerous articles on South East Asian languages and linguistics. He has spent some 10 years in residence and research in Asia, and has worked and travelled in more than 70 countries. He currently lives in Washington, DC, where he is working as a writer and consultant.



Patrick Knight (BA Chinese Studies, 1983) After graduation, I worked in London for two years at Foyles Book shop; as a labourer for a construction company; and then at Shell Coal and the

Sino-British Trade Council. I then had five years in Taiwan mainly teaching English and improving my Chinese. In 1991, I returned to England and began doing gardening and odd jobs.



Dr Carl Max Kortepeter (PhD Middle East and Ottoman History, 1962)

I am currently recuperating from a bout with prostate cancer and also hip replacement surgery. I continue to

write articles and hopefully soon a book on the current Middle East crisis.

cmakortepeter@post.harvard.edu

Joseph Tse-Hei Lee (MA in African and Asian History, 1994; PhD, 2000) is currently Assistant Professor of History at Pace University in New York City. He has just published *The Bible and the Gun: Christianity in South China, 1860-1900* (New York and London: Routledge, 2003). jlee@pace.edu.



Mrs Carol Yu Chiung Leong

- née Colby - vijjānandī (ordained name) (Chinese language, 1954) As I'm 70 years old, only two of my teachers are still alive. I think my classmates have

scattered to the four corners of the earth – but, just in case... For the last two years, I've been a Buddhist nun in Burmese Theravadin (Mahāsi) tradition. At present under Thai Forest Tradition (Ajahn Mun). I travel frequently between Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. I would be interested in getting in contact with any of my old classmates!

motherhen33@yahoo.com



Blair Lockhart (LLM, 1997-1998)

I am the President of Dunbar Law Corporation, providing advice to natural resources companies. The majority of clients are

engaged in mineral exploration for gold, diamonds and precious metals in Canada as well as Asia and South America. My LLM courses (international environmental law, natural resources law, and law and development, and legal history) have been instrumental in both my professional development and personal goals. We (my husband, Tony Fogarassy, LSE 1998) welcome visitors to Vancouver!

blockhart@swgold.com



Joana F Olusanya - née Oladeinde - (BA African History, 1963-1966)

I returned to Nigeria in August 1966 and later headed for a postgraduate diploma course in education at

the University of Lagos, Nigeria, graduating in June 1967. In 1969, I joined my husband in the USA and taught in some schools in the US before returning finally to Nigeria in 1976.

I continued teaching in many secondary schools in Nigeria and became a school principal in 1980. From 1980 to December 1999 when I retired voluntarily from public service, I was a school principal in five different government secondary schools in Ibadan, Oyo State capital.

I have been a poultry and fish farmer ever since my retirement.

amolusanya@yahoo.com

Honorary Fellow, **Brother Richard Phelan** (Occasional student, Indonesian, 1976-1977) has published *The Traditional Legal System of Sabah* (Yayasan Sabah, Pusat Kajian Borneo – Centre for Borneo Studies - Malaysia, 2003)



Lilla Russell-Smith

(BA Chinese, 1989-1992; PhD, Art & Archaeology, 2001) After the completion of my PhD on “Uyghur Patronage in Dunhuang Art”, I was working at

the Department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum co-ordinating the Mellon digitisation project of the Stein Collection. In stage one, the priceless Dunhuang paintings (dating between 8th - early 11th centuries and painted on fragile silk and paper) were photographed using the new digital technology, which enables the viewer to zoom-in and study small details or script.

These images are available at the Study Room of the museum and a selection, with a guided tour I wrote, can be seen on www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass. At the same time, a joint catalogue of the Hungarian-born Sir Aurel Stein's photographs and manuscripts kept in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest was also completed (I catalogued the photographs together with John Falconer), and a Stein Study Day was held at the British Museum. I stopped work a month before my younger daughter Isabella was born in October last year. My older daughter Alma has just started school, so life is busy! As well as editing a book on Central Asian art I am now also beginning to rewrite my PhD dissertation to be published by Brill next year. russellsmith@btinternet.com

Saira Shah (Arabic and Persian Language, 1986) has published: *The Storyteller's Daughter: Return to a Lost Homeland* (Michael Joseph, 2003)

Frank Knox Scholarship



Congratulations to **Joanna Skinner** who has been awarded a 2-year full scholarship from the Frank Knox Memorial Trust to study for an MA in Regional Studies East Asia, focusing on Chinese. ‘My BA in Chinese degree at SOAS was so enjoyable that I have decided to continue my studies and in September I will be moving to Boston to attend Harvard University.’ skinner@fas.harvard.edu

Harold M. Tanner (MA Area Studies, Far East, 1984-1985) I am Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of History, University of North Texas in the city of Denton, Texas (just north of Dallas and, mercifully, south of Oklahoma, for those not familiar with the geography) where I have been since 1994. Since graduation from SOAS (and later from Columbia University), I have published a bit of research on various aspects of criminal justice in 1980s-1990s China, including *Strike Hard! Anti-crime Campaigns and Chinese Criminal Justice, 1979-1985* (Cornell East Asia Series, 1999) and an article, *The Offense of Hooliganism and The Moral Dimension of China's Pursuit of Modernity, 1979-1996* (Twentieth Century China, 26:1, pp. 1-40, November 2000). My current research agenda involves the military conflict between Communist and Nationalist forces between 1927 and 1949. An article on this subject, *Guerilla, Mobile, and Base Warfare in Communist Military Operations in Manchuria, 1945-1947* has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Military History* (publication tentatively scheduled for October 2003). HTANNER@PO7.CAS.UNT.EDU

ALUMNI OBITUARIES

The School regrets to inform you of the death of: **Wahidar Anwar** (SOAS Library staff, 1973-1982) who passed away on 29 August 2003 in Jakarta. Our condolences to her daughters Dewi Fortuna and Desi Fatimah who were both students at SOAS. Her husband, the late Dr Khaidir Anwar, was a Lecturer in Indonesian at the School. **Professor Dr J G de Casparis** (Reader in Early History of South and South East Asia, 1958-1978) who died in June 2002 aged 86 years old. **Mike Gorrie** OBE (see tribute by Kenneth Wilson, Singapore Association, page 23) **Dr Aliya Sousa** (MA Area Studies, 1971), Historian, who died in the explosion at UN headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003.

David Stormer (MA History, 1995-1996) lectures part-time in Japan and, extramurally, is director of Soccerphile.com, a website that he, **Philip Beech** (MA History, 1995-1996) and three others started working on for the benefit of visiting soccer fans when Japan co-hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2002. He adds: we are now focusing on the Portugal 2004 European Football Championships, preparing coverage of the event and Portugal itself. I

intend staying two more years in Japan before moving either back to my native New Zealand, or Australia. I would love to hear from any former SOAS friends. stormer@soccerphile.com. For David Stormer’s and other alumni profiles, please visit <http://www.soas.ac.uk/alumni> (See under ‘Alumni Initiatives’).

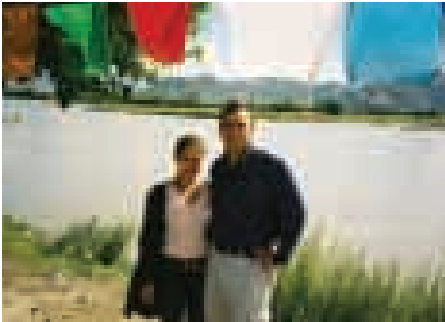


Prayer wheels on the Nangkhör Kora Pilgrimage Circuit, The Jokhang, Lhasa, Tibet © Nicole Wright

A Flying trip to Tibet

Nicole Wright and I made a flying trip to Lhasa in mid-August this year. After much hard work trying to persuade Mainland consular officers in Hong Kong that we needed not only China visas, but also Tibet Special Permits, I finally gave up and paid a travel agent to do the legwork for us. It cost an arm and a leg. After an uneventful trip to Chengdu in Sichuan Province to collect our Tibet Special Permits we fought tooth and nail through the crowds at the new domestic airport to board our plane to Lhasa. The captain managed to get the entire back section of the aeroplane screaming in fear (me included, although Nicole was rather more demure) as he cut a passage through heavy turbulence. The views of Everest from the cabin were quite spectacular. Lhasa and its environs are breathtaking in every sense of the word, at 3,600 metres above sea level. A visit to the Potala Palace is awe-inspiring. I particularly enjoyed shopping in the Barkhor Square for a felt Fedora, which I insisted on wearing for the rest of our trip as I thought it made me look very debonair. Nicole did not agree. She bought an enormous repousse prayer wheel and a melodious brass prayer bowl, which made up for the fact that she

had to walk around with a Mr-Man look-alike. On the last day of the trip I managed to catch a nasty flu – which was made worse by the altitude. As I lay in bed with only an oxygen pillow and a high temperature for company, Nicole insisted on staying with me, rather than finishing our tour. I proposed with a thermometer in my mouth. We are going to be married in 2005. **Jonathan Silver** (BA Chinese and Art/Archaeology of Asia 1991-1995) **Nicole Wright** (BA Chinese 1991–1995) nicolewright@netvigator.com



Nicole and Jonathan, Tibet



Untitled (oil pastel, chalk and pencil, 75 x 175 cm) by Elizabeth Adeola Adegunle (MA in African Studies, 1999-2000) was exhibited in a solo exhibition of her work, in the Alphabet Bar, Beak Street, central London, August – September 2003.

The Artist

I went off to boarding school in Kent at a very early age. I took a keen interest in painting and found my first “proper” art teacher stimulating and creative. It was funny because, looking back, I always found my mother’s African wood carvings incredibly beautiful. In my teens, Benin bronze heads and African textile prints were one of the most satisfying art forms I’d seen. Then while at SOAS, I was given the opportunity to study African art in more detail during my Masters. There is a rawness about them... A boldness that does not hide and is unafraid. It is here that I take my inspiration, a combination of old and new, unafraid and bold – Raw and Real.

Studying as a Mature Student

I have always been a rather confused individual. When I first went to university, I remember how it took forever for me to decide which subject I would study. Eventually, I chose to study Psychology. However, after my first year of study, I knew I was not happy and decided to leave my course. I returned home, got on with life, and never thought to return to university for the next three or four years. I just felt, after my first experience, that university was not for me. It was not until life dealt some unexpected changes that I began to reconsider studying for my degree. Four years had passed by and I had not done much with myself in that time. I chose to study for a BA in Arabic at SOAS (and later combined it with the Study of Religions) and actually making the decision to return to university was hard as I was now a mature student. I remember that, at the time, all I could think about were the four long years of study ahead of me and how old I would be when I finally graduated! I decided that, rather than look at the length of the course, I would just take

each day as it came, which is what I did. The next four years passed by quickly and after I graduated I was thankful that I had persevered and now had a degree to show for it. I could easily have spent four years doing nothing at home, or working, without actually having something to show for it in the end. Last year, I accepted a teaching post in Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia. As part of my contract, my employer provided me with an apartment on the school complex. I spent the academic year teaching English and Islamic Studies. This experience opened up a whole new world for me. Living in a new country, learning about the way of life, meeting new people has altered my own life greatly (for the better). Teaching was a challenge, and thoroughly rewarding. Now, I only teach English but I have found that my degree in the Study of Religions still plays a large part in my life. Through it, I learned about different cultures and ways of life. Sometimes, my students and I will be reading a text from a culture that I had studied at SOAS. As a result, I am able to give my students more knowledge about that particular culture. I find that I am able to open up a whole new world for them, where they are fascinated to learn about the beliefs and traditions of those in other parts

of the world. Just last week, we read a text about an African tribe, which I had studied at SOAS and my students were all fascinated to hear about what I had studied. Thus, although I do not teach Religious Studies any more, my degree still features in my life and has given me knowledge and an insight into other cultures, which I can share with others. My working in Saudi Arabia has created in me a desire to further my education. I am now in the process of applying to study on a Masters programme back in England, which will help me to progress in my career in Saudi Arabia. I often remind myself that a few years ago I couldn’t imagine spending four years at university and now I’m hoping to return to university in order to gain a Masters qualification. Without my degree from SOAS, I would not have been able to work in Saudi Arabia and I would not have met the many new people who have come into my life since coming here. My degree has truly opened many doors for me, both professionally and socially, and has taken me to places and given me experiences that I would never have otherwise known. **Nafeesah Sunghar** (BA Arabic and Study of Religions, 2002)

Alumni Research India

Reflections on Satyajit Ray

In the late 1980s, I was writing a biography of Satyajit Ray when I received a magnificent letter about him from another great film director, Akira Kurosawa. “The quiet but deep observation, understanding and love of the human race which are characteristic of all his films, have impressed me greatly. They can be described as flowing composedly, like a big river. Mr Ray is a wonderful and respectful man. I feel that he is a ‘giant’ of the movie industry.”

“Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon,” Kurosawa also once said. And it is true: Ray’s films, as warm and sensuous as sunshine and as beautiful and mysterious as moonlight, really do illuminate our ordinary existence and make us feel more alive. As was proved by the palpable buzz of excitement at the first-ever complete Ray retrospective held in 2002 at the National Film Theatre in London.

In 1963, *Time* magazine’s survey of world cinema had asked: “Will Ray redeem his prodigious promise and become the Shakespeare of the screen?” Some film lovers, and I include myself, would say that such a comparison is not far-fetched, when one looks at the whole span of Ray’s thirty-plus feature films.

First, there is the depth and subtlety of his probing of human relationships. For the Nobel laureate V S Naipaul, Ray’s period film about the British Raj, *The Chess Players*, is “like a Shakespeare scene. Only three hundred words are spoken but goodness! - terrific things happen”. In my view, there is no director in cinema who can express what is going on inside

a character’s head - his or her psychology - more acutely than Ray. Second, the exceptional range of milieu, period, genre and mood in Ray’s work, from the celebrated Apu Trilogy of the 1950s to his swansong film *The Stranger*, completed in 1991, recalls that of Shakespeare. There are films about almost all strata of society and walks of life: the upper class, the middle class and the illiterate working class. Films about the village, about small-town life and the metropolis of Calcutta. And films about the distant past, the past within living memory and the immediate present. There are also comedies, fantasies (two musicals with songs by Ray), a ghost story, and detective stories, mainly but not only for children, set in Calcutta, Rajasthan and Benares. And this is not to mention Ray’s five documentary films, one of them on his legendary artistic mentor Rabindranath Tagore. Taken together, Ray’s films seem to encompass an entire culture - that of the Bengalis: an

achievement no other film director can match. Of course, critics differ about which are the major and minor Ray films, but most agree that there are very few duds by Ray, unlike the films of even classic names like Renoir (a major Ray influence).

Behind the camera, Ray has a strong claim to be the most versatile of all film-makers. He was personally immersed in every aspect of production. He wrote the scripts of all his films, which were often original or near-original screenplays. He designed the effortlessly convincing sets and costumes down to the smallest details. He acted out the roles for the actors and actresses with, by their own admission, consummate nuance. After 1963, he operated the camera throughout the shooting. He edited each frame of the films. He even composed the music after scoring it in a mixture of western and Indian notation, for all but his earliest films.



Rainbow, photographed from the corner of Tavistock Square, April 2003.
A statue of Mahatma Gandhi is in the centre of the Peace Garden in Tavistock Square.

© Glenn Ratcliffe

Thus Ray was the very model of a film *auteur*, something which amused him, given the studious distance kept from his work by the *Nouvelle Vague* critics and film-makers like Truffaut who first promoted the *auteur* concept in the 1950s. Ray liked to work the way he did, not mainly because it helped to keep his budgets within manageable limits given his comparatively small home audience, but because then he could truly call his films his own.

So why, if he was so astonishingly gifted, are Ray’s films not more widely seen outside of Bengal? One reason has been the lack of high-quality prints, clear and accurate subtitles and promotion by their original producers in India; a situation gradually being rectified, not least by the ongoing restoration programme of the

Hollywood Academy’s Film Archive launched after the award to Ray of an Oscar for lifetime achievement just before his death in 1992.

Another reason is that many movie goers have been indifferent to India, except for films with western central characters; Truffaut notoriously walked out of Ray’s first *Apu* film because he

Ray’s films seem to encompass an entire culture - that of the Bengalis: an achievement no other film director can match.

was not interested in Indian ‘peasants’. Most Indians, perhaps now even more than in the 1950s, prefer the fantasy world of Bollywood.

But I think the main reason for Ray’s relatively low profile in cinema today must be that genius takes time to be fully appreciated. Ray was an artist genuinely, not superficially, at home in both East and West. The first time we talked, in 1982, the breadth of his knowledge staggered me; now, as I complete a second edition of my biography, I find it unique.

Andrew Robinson (MA in Area Studies, South Asia, 1984-1986), is the literary editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. The second edition of *Satyajit Ray: The Inner Eye* was published by I B Tauris and OUP India in January 2004.

Tehmina Ansari

(MSc Finance and Development, 2002-2003)

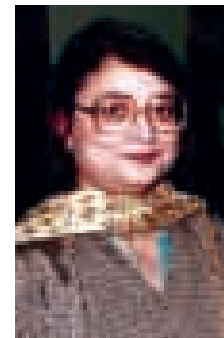
I decided to focus my thesis on recent research on patterns and levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India and China: how they have evolved over the last two decades and what accounts for the differences. FDI is an important feature of an increasingly globalized and integrated economic system. FDI comes from different sources, into different industries and has various implications for the host economy, including importantly that of technology transfer. My study attempts to compare potential spillover effects in India and China and gauge their economic impact. Analysis shows that spillover effects vary depending on the source of FDI and industry of destination.

In the manufacturing game, China has beaten India hollow. However, India has beaten China in the services game, especially IT. Both countries are progressing towards becoming market economies, and despite serious problems, the long-term prospect remains optimistic. The long march towards attracting FDI into India and China is of strategic importance for their development and economic prosperity. Both countries can learn from each other’s experiences, though for India, replicating China’s success will be a tough battle to win.

My study concludes that policy is the most potent determinant shaping FDI inflows in both countries, although other factors like infrastructure, literacy, legal and regulatory framework also have a bearing.

Dr Simanti Dutta

(PhD History South Asia, 1990)



The book launch for Dr Dutta’s *Imperial Mappings – In Savage Spaces: Baluchistan and British India* (B R Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2003) was given by Professor Robb (SOAS) and took place on 26 March 2003 at the Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, in the company of Mr Girish Karnad, Director of the Nehru Centre and Minister for Culture (UK) for the Govt. of India. (Further details: www.soas.ac.uk/alumni - Authors)

Sayantani Jafa

(MSc Development Studies, 1998-1999)

Uncertain Identities: Craftwork, Women and Patriarchy in a village of Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Progressive Publishers, Calcutta [Kolkata], India, 2003)

Exploring the theme of home-based work in conservative rural societies this book focuses on Muslim women in the troubled Faizabad-Ayodhya region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. (Further details: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/alumni> - Authors)

The book is available from: Progressive Publishers, 37A College Street, Calcutta [Kolkata] 73, India. Price: UK £10 (hardback), £7 (paperback).

Dr Julia Leslie, Senior Lecturer in the Department of the Study of Religions has published: *Authority and Meaning in Indian Religions: Hinduism and the Case of Valmiki* (Ashgate, 2003) “An interesting and important book... It breaks significant new ground in a rigorous and illuminating manner, accessible to all. I warmly recommend it.” John Brockington, University of Edinburgh. info@ashgatepub.co.uk

Worldwide alumni groups

Several groups have been busy this year, with successful events in Belgium, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Hong Kong Association was re-launched and activity in France has increased. A 2003 Masters graduate has launched an Egyptian SOAS Alumni Association in order to increase awareness of SOAS in his country. For more details about these and other groups, see the website www.soas.ac.uk/alumni or contact Rosalind Griffin on rg28@soas.ac.uk

Informal Contacts: Update

Canada: Toronto

Elana Yellen

(MA Social Anthropology of Development, 1995-1996)

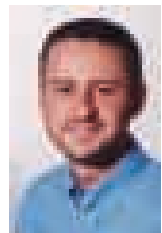
eyellen@canada.com

India – Chandigarh

Anil Malhotra (LLM 1985) and Ranjit Malhotra (LLM 1993) are founder members of the Chandigarh Chapter of the Association of British Scholars. The Association has 12 Chapters over India, a combined membership of c. 2000 individuals who have the common experience of having studied in the UK. Malhotrasunilindia@yahoo.co.in

Italy

Olga Mattera is our main Informal Contact. Welcome, also, to our new contact:



Alessio Loreti (MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, 2002)

I am currently working on a research project - sponsored by the Italian National Academy "De' Lincei" of Rome - about European settlements in North Africa at the turn of 20th

British and Japanese policy-making processes and some useful suggestions regarding Japanese structural reform.

The annual party was held at an Italian restaurant, "Pendio Rosso" in Akasaka, where 31 people gathered including Mr Fujimori, Mr Michael Coxall, a SOAS faculty member who was on one of his regular visits to Tokyo, and Professor Paul Snowden from Waseda University.

In addition to these events, there are also regular drop-in parties and year-end party. Information is available on the SAIJ mailing list. Anyone related to SOAS is welcome to join the SAIJ and membership is now free - but donations are always welcome.

For registration:

www.egroups.co.jp/group/SOAS-Alumni-in-Japan

Yoko Nagao

President

SOAS Alumni Association in Japan

We were able to enjoy the sunshine whilst eating our lunch in the beautiful gardens and then explored the grounds before a final Q&A session.

For more information about BBC Monitoring and its services, visit their website www.monitor.bbc.co.uk

The LSAA is a group of SOAS Alumni living or working in and around London who organise events, dinners and lectures. For more information or to join the group, please see the website www.soas.ac.uk/alumni or contact the alumni office on rg28@soas.ac.uk

Nepal



For the last six years, I was with a European Commission funded multi-disciplinary project in rural western districts of Nepal as an Environmental Manager. I was responsible for carrying out environmental

protection, conservation and awareness programmes at grass roots level with active community participation. Since last August (2003), I have been with a USAID funded project namely Infrastructure for Rural Income (INFRIN) as a Social Mobilization Specialist. My responsibility in the project includes organising and enabling the socially and economically deprived rural people to help themselves to build their potential to improve their quality of life, social and economic well-being.

Khagendra S Jabegu

(MA South Asian Studies, 1993-1994)

jabegu@infrin.wlink.com.np

Association and Informal Contacts: Update

India – Kolkata

Nayantara Palchoudhuri (MA Area Studies SA, 1984-1985) is our main Informal Contact Poppet@cal2.vsnl.net.in

Welcome, also, to our new contact:



Sayantani Jafa

(MSc Development Studies, 1998-1999)

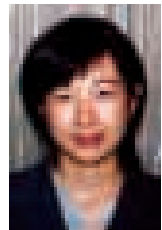
Sayantani Jafa is a civil servant with the Government of India and has worked in numerous capacities including a stint

with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. She is also a freelance writer and critic and has contributed to leading newspapers, periodicals and academic journals on gender and developmental issues. Her first book *Uncertain Identities: Craftwork, Women and Patriarchy in a village of Eastern Uttar Pradesh* was published in August (see page 21) sayantani@yaho.com

century. In the academic year 2003-2004 I will be a part-time student at Birkbeck College (London) for a PhD in History of Colonialism. I would be pleased to meet and keep in contact with other former students of SOAS. My interests are: news and creative writing, literature and cinema from Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East, history of emigration through the Mediterranean. Also, I would be happy to meet and provide any help to people coming to Italy!

loretialessio@yahoo.it

Japan



Yoko Nagao became President in 2003. Our thanks to Tatsuo Ihara who stepped down in 2002.

The SOAS Alumni Association in Japan (SAIJ) held a seminar and a party in June, which proved to be

a great success. Fifteen people attended the seminar with Mr Katsuhiko Fujimori, who lived and worked in London 1996-2000. His lecture included an interesting comparison between



Ros Griffin and Youssef Taha

On 20 September, more than 80 members of the London SOAS Alumni Association (LSAA) visited Caversham Park, Reading, home of BBC Monitoring. LSAA member

Youssef Taha who is Editor in the Middle-East Department at BBC Monitoring kindly agreed to organise a tour of his fascinating workplace. BBC Monitoring is part of the BBC World Service and it provides a service of international news and comment gathered from the mass media around the world.

Several of Youssef's colleagues gave their time generously to answer our questions and tell us about their work monitoring the world's media for their clients, which include journalists, UK and other governments and private companies.

Singapore

SOAS Alumni have so far enjoyed two events in 2003. The first was held in June courtesy of the Deputy High Commissioner, Paul Madden, who studied Japanese at SOAS in 1986-1987. Twenty-five alumni attended at the residence of Paul, his wife Sarah and three children, whose hospitality ensured that we were well looked after, fed and wined. Paul provided a brief talk about his new book - *Raffles: Lessons in Business Leadership*, which examines the life of Singapore's founder and the British East India Company through the prism of present day commercial management, and includes analysis of Sir Stamford's strengths and weaknesses as a leader and the relevance of his experiences to modern business practice.

In July, a team of six SOAS graduates entered into the British alumni inter-varsity general knowledge quiz organised by the British Council and held at the High Commission. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all in the informal atmosphere of the Crown & Anchor pub where the fish and chips and Boddingtons went down a treat. The SOAS team came 8th out of a field of 16 and it was particularly pleasing to beat the only other London University team present, Imperial College.

A concerted effort was made to update the membership list this year and while this task is still ongoing we now have details of some 90 graduates, former researchers and staff. We believe that our networking efforts may eventually yield the names of as many as 150 people in Singapore who have had an affiliation with SOAS.

With plans for another reunion do in November, 2003 promises to be a particularly active year and something we aim to repeat in 2004.

Unfortunately, I have to conclude this dispatch with the sad news that our oldest alumnus, Mike Gorrie OBE, who studied Malay at SOAS during the 1940s passed away on 14th September at the age of 79. Mike and his wife, Joan, had attended the June reunion during which he described to me his impressively long and varied career in the Far East which began in 1949 when he joined the Malayan Civil Service and served as the Private Secretary to the Governor of Singapore, Franklin Grimson, till 1951. In 1960, he left the Civil Service and pursued interests in the business world with the Straits Steamship Company and was Chairman of the British Association of Singapore and Founder Member of the Singapore Institute of Personnel Management, National Productivity Association. Mike remained an active member of the local community in his later years, being President of the British Club, twice Chieftain of the St. Andrew's Society and Provost of the T E D Huaxia Management Studies School.

Kenneth Wilson

(BA Geography, 1980-1983)

gasoil@singnet.com.sg

Paul Madden (Japanese, Occasional Student, 1986-1987) has published *Raffles: Lessons in Business Leadership* (ISBN 981-4062-00-6)

Syria

Abdul-Salam Haykal (MA in International Studies and Diplomacy, 2002) abdul@haykal.com

USA, Washington

Welcome to new contact, Niall Shanbhag (MSc Finance and Development, 2003) niallshanbhag@yahoo.com and thanks to **Chris Boucek** who has now stepped down.

Vietnam

Please tell alumni and soon-to-be alumni that we offer work experience placements in Vietnam.

Adam McCarty

Chief Economist, Mekong Economics

<http://www.mekongconomics.com>

Yemen

Thank you to **Dr Isam Ghanem**, our Informal Contact in the Republic of Yemen, for generously donating: *Finance for Exporters to Yemen* (Obadi Studies and Publishing Centre, Sana'a, 2003) to the School Library. In 2003, Dr Ghanem was awarded the International Bar's Professional Postgraduate Diploma in International Mergers and Acquisitions.

Prize Draw Winner

Thank you to all alumni who completed and returned Alumni Questionnaires. Your profiles, photographs and classnotes will feature in future issues of the Alumni Newsletter or on the Website.

The winner of the prize draw is: Mr Kyle K Yee (MSc Financial Economics, 2001) who will receive £100, generously donated by Falconbury.

Retirement

Fiamma Shani (International Recruitment Co-ordinator in the Student Recruitment Office) has retired, after 14 years of service. On behalf of all the alumni worldwide who know her, we wish her all happiness for her retirement.

Alumni

Please continue to send us details of your publications; business initiatives; memories of studying at SOAS and your profiles.

