

Manawatu Branch

New Zealand China

Friendship Society

September Newsletter 2019

Next Meeting

7:30 pm Friday 4th October

In the ETC (English Teaching College), 1st Floor, BNZ House,
140 the Square, Palmerston North.

An Introduction to
the Understanding of
Chinese Acupuncture

Speaker:

Heiko Lade



Heiko became interested in Chinese culture in his teens when he was introduced to tai chi and kung fu. In his last year of high school, he discovered acupuncture and then went on to complete a master's degree in TCM at the University of Technology, Sydney. In 1984 he lived in Hangzhou, China working in a TCM hospital. Upon his return he worked in Sydney's Chinatown before moving to New Zealand in 1999. He taught acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine in Christchurch and Auckland before moving to Hawkes Bay. He has been an NZCFS member, Executive Member and National Secretary for many years and in 2019 became the Central Region Vice President. He will briefly cover the history of acupuncture and its basic principles before describing its applications in modern medicine.

Heiko will also demonstrate some acupuncture skills in collaboration with a local acupuncturist.



Teachers required

at Shandan

Bailie School



NZCFS seeks suitably qualified people to fill the position of English teacher each year. A degree or teaching qualification is required. Salary offered is 4500 rmb (around US\$700) per month. Airfares and accommodation are provided as part of the package.

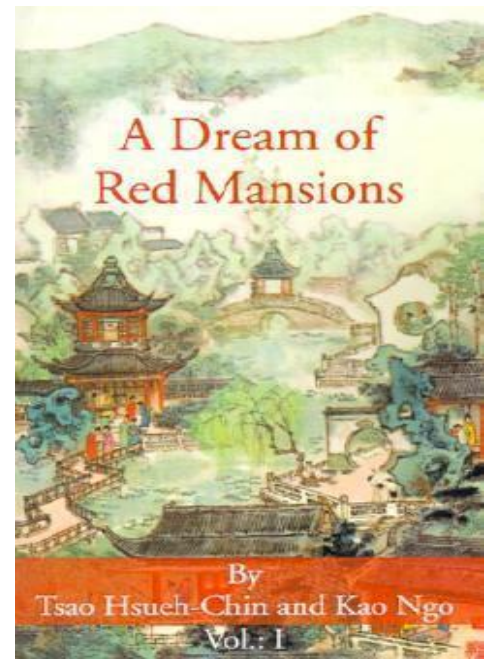
[Shandan Bailie School](#) has a unique nature through its legacy with Rewi Alley, and the educational approach of 'hands and mind together' – combining academic and vocational training. NZCFS has had a long term relationship with this school, and teachers living and working here can enjoy the benefits this brings. Shandan is in Gansu province, on the "Old Silk Road", and experiences hot summers and cold winters. The position requires an adventurous person who will enjoy the opportunities of the school and be stimulated by the demands of the location. Those interested please contact

president@nzcfs.com

At Our July Meeting

Flora Wang introduced us to one of the four great classics of Chinese Literature “A Dream of Red Mansions.” Flora is a graduate of Beijing University where she studied library science.

It was written in the mid of 18 century by Cao Xueqin whose family served the Emperors of Qing dynasty as royal textile commissioners for 60 years. The book is semi-autobiographical. It is concerned with the life of the wealthy Jia family who lived in luxurious, gardened mansions along with the daughters of other influential families. Eventually however, the Jia family fell into disfavour with the emperor and the mansions were raided and confiscated; as happened to the author’s family in real life. The novel provides detailed poetic descriptions of aspects of Chinese culture at that time including dress, textile weaving, cuisine, music, mythology, religion, literature and architecture. It has a strongly feminist theme and highlights the transitory nature of material values.



The novel has over 400 characters (outnumbering the complete works of Shakespeare) and is notable for its complex portraiture of the numerous young women characters and their tragic fates. It is contemporary in nature, recording daily happenings, realistic rather than legendary or romantic. Most Chinese are familiar with this novel since it has been made into operas, dances, TV

series and movies. The study of the novel and the author’s background is known internationally as “Redology”. To avoid criticism at the time of writing, Cao, the author, used many allegories and puns such as using “Jia” for the family name which is a pun for fictitious or untrue. The poem in the opening chapter of the novel reads:

*Pages full of idle words; penned with hot and bitter tears:
All men call the author fool; none his secret message hears*



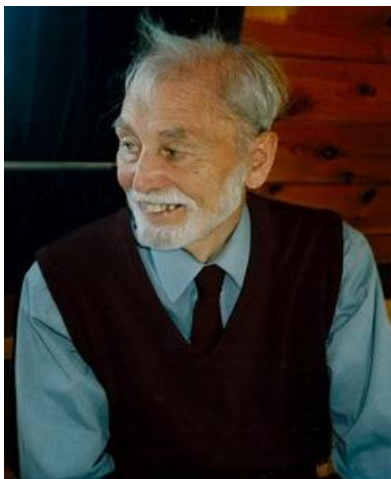
Here is a link to the TV series:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onPV8r5sV5Y>,

Chinese Language Week

To celebrate Chinese Language Week the Branch organised the erection of Chinese signs in the City Library, and the showing of the Rewi Alley documentary. On Saturday morning, Flora Wang expanded her talk on Chinese literature to include information on some of the English translators. There have been many partial translations of what many consider is the greatest of all Chinese novels 'A Dream of Red Mansions' but its length and complexity have made complete English translations difficult. The author's prose, utilizes many levels of colloquial and literary language and incorporates forms of classic poetry that are integral to the novel.



Flora mentioned how David Hawkes, a gifted linguist and translator of Chinese literature has become best remembered for two highly important works. The first was an anthology of early Chinese poetry *Songs of the South* and the second was a rich and versatile re-creation of *The Story of the Stone* (also known as *A Dream of Red Mansions*). David graduated from Oxford in the 1930's and studied at Peking University in the 1940's. He later gave up his job as Professor of Chinese at Oxford University to undertake the first complete translation of *Red Mansions* which he considered was one of the world's greatest novels. It occupied five volumes which were published between 1973 and 1986.



David Hawkes, 1923-2009
was one of the greatest
translators of Chinese
literature of his time

A second major translator of Chinese literature was Yang Xianyi who also studied at Oxford in the 1930's and married an English woman Gladys Tayler. Together they returned to China and worked in Beijing for many years producing a number of quality translations including classical Chinese poetry, the Unofficial History of Scholars, some of Lu Xun's stories, and a complete translation of *Dream of the Red Mansions*. Both Yang and Gladys were jailed for four years during the cultural revolution but after release in 1972 they went on to complete their own version of *Red Mansions*. Despite the heavy consumption of wine and cigarettes Yang lived to the age of 94. A documentary of the life of the couple was shown.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ96RcRZijIage>

Co-translators Yang Xianyi and Gladys
Yang at home in Beijing



Maurice Alley / Flora Wang
September 21st 2019