



Anthology and Workshop *Yangzhou – A Place in Literature*

A Yangzhou Club Activity
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International Workshop

Yangzhou – A Place in Literature

The Local in Chinese Culture From the Late Imperial Through the Modern Era

- Venue: University of Zurich, Institute of East Asian Studies
Time: 31 August – 3 September 2011
Main Organizer: Prof. Dr. Roland Altenburger (Adjunct Professor, University of Zurich, Institute of East Asian Studies)
Co-organizers: Dr. Vibeke Børdahl (Senior Research Fellow, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen); and Prof. Margaret B. Wan (Associate Professor, University of Utah, Department of Languages and Literature)

1 Concept: Context, Theme and Motivation

Recent scholarship on late imperial and early modern China across many disciplines has paid increasing attention to the local. The workshop “Yangzhou – A Place in Chinese Literature” will bring together scholars from around the world to examine the rich cultural history of the city of Yangzhou (Jiangsu province, China) from an interdisciplinary perspective. The workshop and subsequent anthology will contribute to our understanding of the relationship between the local and its manifestation in literature, history, and art.

The workshop, to be held at the University of Zurich, Institute of East Asian Studies, on 31 August – 3 September 2011, will be the second meeting of an informal international network of scholars named the “Yangzhou Club” (www.shuoshu.org). This network of scholars who share a research interest in Yangzhou was originally initiated by Vibeke Børdahl and Lucie Olivová, who convened the workshop “Lifestyle and Entertainment in Yangzhou”, held in October 2005, in the city of Yangzhou itself. The papers written for this workshop were later published in the volume *Lifestyle and Entertainment in*



Yangzhou, edited by Lucie Olivová and Vibeke Børdahl (Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2009; NIAS Studies in Asian Topics, vol. 44). In a very fruitful way, the “Yangzhou Club” network brings together senior scholars, who are leaders in their field, with junior scholars at the beginning of their academic career. Moreover, it interconnects scholars from several continents, and in particular scholars of Chinese Studies in the western world with their Chinese colleagues. The “Yangzhou Club”, due to its regional focus, is interdisciplinary and includes specialists of various disciplines, predominantly in literature, history, and art, with a particular interest, shared by several members, in the study of Yangzhou’s local traditions of performed literature, such as storytelling, opera, and singing. The “Yangzhou Club” represents a unique concentration of expertise on the literature, history, and art of Yangzhou.

In September 2010, the “Yangzhou Club” network, further strengthened by several new members, embarked on a new project, an anthology of translated texts, entitled “Yangzhou – a Place in Literature: An Anthology of the Late Imperial through the Modern Era”. It is designed as a survey collection of literary texts of some stature that are directly or indirectly related to the city of Yangzhou and its rich cultural history. The volume is meant primarily to serve the promotion of knowledge about Yangzhou’s literary legacy and local cultural history. It will be more than a textbook, as it includes expert introductory articles to each text, and thus also substantially contributes to scholarly research on Yangzhou’s literature. The book will be particularly suitable for higher-education classroom teaching. This anthology comprises around twenty individual texts, or extracts from texts, including some well-known texts, but also lesser known ones that nevertheless deserve exploration. In terms of genre, it encompasses a wide range of literary genres and styles, from elite to popular, from the serious topographical essay to the rambling city narrative, including genres of semi-oral and oral performed literature. Each text will be accompanied by an introductory essay and textual notes provided by its translator. The volume also features a general introduction by the editors on place and localism in Chinese literature: the role of the local in historical, cultural, literary, and linguistic terms.

The workshop to be held at the University of Zurich’s Institute of East Asian Studies will primarily serve the completion of this anthology project. The workshop will provide the opportunity to discuss each contribution to the anthology, focusing primarily on the introduction to each text. The introductions to the texts will seek to point out how each text (and author) is rooted in the context of local culture. Each participant will also serve as a discussant to another’s contribution. Moreover, the organizers of the workshop, who will also act as the editors of the anthology, will present their joint introduction to the future volume and propose a general framework for the various aspects and issues of the local in traditional Chinese literature in general, and in writings on, and from, Yangzhou in particular. Moreover, the organizers have invited two keynote speakers from China to address the workshop. Liu Yongqiang, from Peking University, Department of Chinese Literature and Language, will present a general outline of the interactions between literature and the local in pre-modern China. Wei Minghua, Director of the Yangzhou Culture Research Institute, a leading authority and prolific author on the cultural history of Yangzhou, will present his outline of the local context of literature in the case of Yangzhou. Translated versions of these contributions will also be included in the anthology.

The workshop attendance will encompass a group of fifteen contributing participants (as listed below), and a number of invited guests. Attendance will also be open to a wider circle of interested scholars



as well as students. In particular, the workshop will be held in cooperation with the University of Zurich's University Research Priority Program (URPP) "Asia and Europe". The actual workshop program (cf. below) is preliminarily scheduled to last two-and-a-half days (1–3 September 2011). Workshop languages will be English and Chinese.

For the funding of this workshop, we have submitted complementary applications to the Swiss National Science Foundation's "International Exploratory Workshops" funding program, to the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHSS/SAGW), and to the "Hanyuqiao" program of the Hanban (Confucius Institute Headquarters, Beijing).

2 List of Participants

Participants (in alphabetic sequence)	Institution	Country
Altenburger, Roland	University of Zurich	Switzerland
Børdahl, Vibeke	Nordic Institute of Asian Studies	Denmark
Breuer, Rüdiger	Ruhr-University Bochum	Germany
Chan, Yuen Lai Winnie	University of Oxford	UK
Finnane, Antonia	University of Melbourne (on leave)	Australia
Kafalas, Philip	Georgetown University	USA
Kuzay, Stefan	University of Helsinki	Finland
Li Mark, Lindy	California State Univ. East Bay (retired)	USA
Liu Yongqiang	Peking University	China
Mackerras, Colin	Griffith University (retired)	Australia
Matteini, Michele	Reed College	USA
Olivová, Lucie	Palacky University	Czech Republic
Wan, Margaret B.	University of Utah	USA
Wei Minghua	Yangzhou Culture Research Institute	China
Zhuang, Sue (Chuang Su-o)	Taipei National University of the Arts	Taiwan

Guests to be invited (among others):

Behr, Wolfgang	University of Zurich	Switzerland
Hrdlickova, Vena (retired)	Charles University, Prague	Czech Republic
Karlsson, Kim	independent scholar	Switzerland
Riemenschmitter, Andrea	University of Zurich	Switzerland
Xiao Shufen	Yangzhou University	China

3 Program (preliminary)

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

Arrival day, check-in at hotel, final preparations for the workshop

19:00 Welcoming dinner



Thursday, 1 September 2011

- 09:00 Opening ceremony
Welcoming addresses by representatives of the host institution:
Peter Fröhlicher, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Zurich;
Christian Steineck, the Head of the Institute of East Asian Studies;
Andrea Riemenschmitter, the Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, and the
Director of the University Priority Research Program *Asia and Europe*
Introductory words by Vibeke Børdahl, the co-founder of the “Yangzhou Club”, and by
Roland Altenburger, the workshop’s main organizer
- 09:30 First keynote speech:
Liu Yongqiang (Peking University):
“Literature and the local in pre-modern China – a general outline” (in Chinese)
- 10:30 Coffee/tea break
- 11:00 Second keynote speech:
Wei Minghua (Yangzhou Culture Research Institute):
“The local context of Yangzhou literature” (in Chinese)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Margaret B. Wan (University of Utah):
“Introduction: Yangzhou – a place in literature: issues from a tentative framework”
- 15:00 Philip Kafalas (Georgetown University):
“Zhang Dai’s *Tao’an mengyi* (The dream memories of Tao’an, 1670s)”; discussant:
Lucie Olivová
- 15:30 Coffee/tea break
- 16:00 Rüdiger Breuer (Ruhr-University Bochum):
“Wu Weiye’s *Liu Jingting zhuan* (Biography of Liu Jingting)”; discussant: Vibeke
Børdahl
- 16:30 Roland Altenburger (University of Zurich):
“Shi Chengjin’s *Yuhua xiang* (Rain-flower scent, 1726)”; discussant: Margaret B. Wan
- 19:00 Dinner

Friday, 2 September 2011

- 09:00 Lucie Olivová (Palacky University):
“Wang Zhong’s *Guangling dui* (Answers [to questions] about Guangling, 1787)”;
discussant: Philip Kafalas
- 09:30 Yuen Lai Winnie Chan (University of Oxford):
“Li Dou’s *Yangzhou huafang lu* (Chronicle of the painted barques of Yangzhou, 1795),
part I”; discussant: Colin Mackerras
- 10:00 Lucie Olivová (Palacky University):
“Li Dou’s *Yangzhou huafang lu* (Chronicle of the painted barques of Yangzhou, 1795),
part II”; discussant: Yuen Lai Winnie Chan
- 10:30 Coffee/tea break
- 11:00 Colin Mackerras (Griffith University):
“Jiao Xun’s *Huabu nongtan* (Peasant chats on flower theatre, preface 1818)”;
discussant: Lindy Li Mark



- 11:30 Roland Altenburger (University of Zurich):
"Lin Sumen's *Hanjiang sanbai yin* (Three hundred verses from the Han River, 1808)";
discussant: Antonia Finnane
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Margaret B. Wan (University of Utah):
"*Qingfengzha* (Qingfeng Sluice, 1819)"; discussant: Roland Altenburger
- 14:30 Lindy Li Mark (California State University East Bay):
"*Pi Wu guo nian* (Pi Five celebrates the New Year, originally 19th century)";
discussant: Colin Mackerras
- 15:00 Antonia Finnane (University of Melbourne):
"Jiaodong Zhou Sheng's *Yangzhou meng* (The Yangzhou dream, 1840s)"; discussant:
Stefan Kuzay
- 15:30 Coffee/tea break
- 16:00 Michele Matteini (Reed College):
"Ling Xia's 'Yangzhou ba guai ge' (Song of the eight eccentrics of Yangzhou, 1896)";
discussant: Sue Zhuang
- 16:30 Stefan Kuzay (University of Helsinki):
"Li Hanqiu's *Guangling chao* (The waves of Guangling, 1909-1919)"; discussant:
Rüdiger Breuer
- 19:00 Farewell dinner

Saturday, 3 September 2011

- 09:00 Antonia Finnane (University of Melbourne):
"Zhu Ziqing's 'Shuo Yangzhou' (Speaking of Yangzhou, 1934)"; discussant: Philip
Kafalas
- 09:30 Sue Zhuang (Taipei National University of the Arts):
"Feng Zikai's 'Yangzhou meng' (The Yangzhou dream, 1958)"; discussant: Michele
Matteini
- 10:00 Vibeke Børdahl (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies):
"Wang Shaotang's 'Wode xueyi jingguo he biaoyan jingyan' (My artistic education and
experience of performance, 1961) and 'Wu Song da hu' (Wu Song fights the tiger,
1961)"; discussant: Rüdiger Breuer
- 10:45 Final discussion and concluding remarks
- 11:30 Closing ceremony

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