

# Collecting materials about George Leonard Staunton and his son George Thomas Staunton and the parts they played in the Macartney Embassy to China 1792-1794.

John Hamilton

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私の研究の主題は、Macartney使節団について重要で読みやすい記録を残したことで有名なGeorge Leonard Stauntonと、中国に向かう船の中で中国人通訳から中国語を学び承德では乾隆帝に膝をついて挨拶をした11歳のGeorge Thomas Stauntonである。

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## 1. THE SUBJECT OF THIS RESEARCH

The subject of my research has been George Leonard Staunton, who wrote the famous account of the embassy, which is an important and very readable book in the original, and his son George Thomas Staunton, who aged 11 studied Chinese from the interpreters on the boat going out to China, and knelt in front of Emperor Qianlong in Jehol.

After the embassy, George Thomas Staunton (Tom) returned to England where it seems he continued to study Chinese, and it was on the strength of this that he got a job as a Writer and later as a Supercargo (1804) in the East India Company. When he came back to England in 1820, he bought the Leigh Park Estate and was a Member of Parliament for various constituencies, finally Portsmouth. He advised Palmerston, who was also a Member of Parliament for



Portsmouth, on Chinese affairs. He can be considered one of the founders of Hong Kong having visited it in 1816. There is a Staunton Street named after him in Mid-Levels above Central.

I have also been trying to learn more about the empire of Emperor Qianlong (乾隆帝) who was Emperor of China for 60 years during the 18th century. Last year, 2012, in May, I visited Chengde (承德) also called JEHOL, his summer capital, and the garden and park there called Bishu Shanzhuang (避暑山庄 'Escaping the summer heat') and in Beijing I went to Yuan Ming Yuan (圆明园) the old Summer Palace where the Embassy stayed on the way there and on the way back. In July 2012 I visited Mongolia, including the temple built by Emperor

Qianlong and his predecessor Emperor Yongzheng, on the Mongolian Russian frontier called AMARBAYASGALANT KHIID.

In May 2011 I had visited Xinjiang (新疆) in particular the oasis cities of Aksu (阿克苏) and Kashgar (喀什). This part of China used to be called Eastern Turkestan, and was the westernmost province of Qianlong's empire.

## 2. VISIT TO CHENGDE IN MAY 2012

The train from Beijing to Chengde took 6 hours and cost about 40元, about 4 English pounds. The park of Bishu Shanzhuang (避暑山庄) was, to my surprise a little bit like the Staunton Country Park. I am sure this is just a coincidence. There is an area with buildings, then a garden round a lake with

beautiful views - the plastic boats on the lake make it rather less beautiful now - and then a large hunting park surrounded by a wall. I walked right round it. ( The park has a wall around it and there is quite a lot of security. This is not the case at Staunton Country Park in Havant.) In the kiosks they were selling Areca nuts. I think that these are for exercising the fingers, and that these were the nuts in the silk purse given to young Staunton. I am not sure about this. Maybe they were walnuts. They looked like walnuts but were more solid.

### 3. VISIT TO MONGOLIA IN JULY 2012

In July I went to Mongolia . Before the conference which was about another subject, I was able to visit Amarbayasgalant Khiid which is a Lama Buddhist temple built by the Chinese in a remote place up near the Russian frontier.

After the conference we were taken in a minibus to a kind of museum out in the grasslands and had lunch in a magnificent Geru (tent or yurt) similar to that from which I imagine Emperor Qianlong greeted the Macartney embassy in Jehol.

### 4. VISIT TO HONG KONG IN DECEMBER 2013

I went there for a long weekend in December. On my first day I visited the museum attached to Hong Kong University. By chance they had a special exhibition there of valuable books from the university library. And the most valuable, which is now their one millionth e-book, was the

five volume 1798 edition of G.L.Staunton's Account of the Embassy. I had had no idea that it existed. I think it is just an expanded version with lots more pictures of the two volume version, with a volume of maps and pictures, that I had been reading. I went next door to the library, and Edith Chan who is in charge of the special collections sent me the link to the e-book.

The link to the e-book is: <http://library.hku.hk/record=b3553541>

### 5. STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK AFTER CHRISTMAS

After Christmas I went to Staunton Country Park and met Jenny Chivers in the shop who suggested I should go and talk to Lorna Unsworth at the Havant Museum, and they both suggested I meet Steve Jones at Waterlooville library and Russell Cleaver in Winchester. They mentioned David Willetts's involvement at the time of the restoration of the green houses in 1997 and they also spoke of Chris Bailey the Head Horticulturalist. I had a cup of tea with Chris and he talked of Jodi Eastberg at Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA

On Sunday afternoon January 13th, 2013, Chris and Tatiana Bailey came to visit me at Lordington in West Sussex and we went through the materials we had both collected.

Chris brought some very good photographs \*The picture of George Thomas Staunton with his mother and a Chinese boy painted by John Hoppner in 1794. Apparently this is now at SOAS in London.

\*A watercolour of the LION and the fort saluting to each other at the entrance to

Canton River

\*The Macartney Rose. *Rosa Bracteata*

(He talked of the magnificent wisteria on the hospital at North Gate in Chichester and how maybe Tom Staunton had procured it....)

\*Lovely paintings of Leigh Water with its follies by Joseph Gilbert, and also photographs of the garden in beautiful lights (These would all make good postcards for the shop at The Country Park.)

\*Several pictures of Nicolas Maclean, the Chinese ambassador ( or Cultural Attache) and David Willetts MP and others at the opening of the greenhouses in 1997.

\*Gardeners (one in a bowler hat) photographed with an Areca palm.

\*The Amazon Water Lily, beautiful yes, but with vicious thorns on the backs of the leaves, he said.

\*The ornate interior of the Gothic library as it was.

We talked about the Asian Water Buffalo called "Mr Plum" which had been in the zoo (ferme ornee) at Staunton.

He showed me the Gardeners Chronicle from 1845 with an article in it about the greenhouses and the plants in them.

He also pointed out the site of the Staunton Rose Garden which is now the maze. I thought that maybe the rose garden should be resurrected on another site. After all the China Rose transformed rose breeding in Europe in the 19th century. David Austin's roses all have Chinese ancestors.....

We looked at Internet printouts of Chinese Gardens outside China in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and talked about "Friendship Gardens" and "Twinning".

I thought of Zhou Zheng Yuan , one of the great gardens in Suzhou, 5 hectares of bridges and pavilions, bamboo groves, lotus ponds, great carp, cobbled paths, beautiful rocks.....all with their literary and historical associations.....That garden is indeed like a dream.....but it would be very expensive and take a long time to create something like that in England. Actually it is not possible to create a garden like that in England. It has to be there in Suzhou.

We talked about the Opium War which Staunton supported, or did he? My first thoughts were that we should apologise for all that. We should be very sorry. But on reflection, if there is a permanent Staunton exhibition, it should contain the letter about the Kowtow in Chinese and English, the letter from King George III to Emperor Qianlong in Chinese and English, the letter from Emperor Qianlong to King George III in Chinese and English, a description of the Amherst Embassy that was sent away by Emperor Jiaqing, and the letter from Lin Zexu (林 则 徐) to Queen Victoria (it is on the Internet in both languages) and the story should be presented clearly and fully in English and Chinese so that readers can judge for themselves.

There was a meeting at the Staunton Country Park on January 14th.

Those taking part included:

\*Tim Speller. Estates Manager of Staunton and the Queen Elizabeth Park above Petersfield

\*Mark Pitchforth. Archivist with a knowledge of Latin

\*Steve Jones from Waterlooville library. He was an apprentice gardener at Staunton

aged 16. He knows a lot about the place (and loves it!)

\*Kerry Bailey who was working out of the Gothic Library, offering a variety of educational activities - It was her "Getting to know" pamphlet, I think. She kindly gave me the draft of a lecture given by Jodi Eastberg from America (which looked rather interesting.)

\* Tracy Viney of Portsmouth Water. Apparently they have written a report on the park and garden.

\* Chris Bailey. 16 1/2 years at Staunton (He talked of the Chichester Market Cross in shells and pebbles at the Staunton Country Park, and also of Mark Page the beekeeper)

\*Gareth Siu from Winchester with HongKong connections, and an interest in drama, poetry and painting.

\*Angela Qiu from the Chusan Islands off Zhejiang (an important stopping off place for the Macartney ships. Macartney had wanted "a small island near Chusan for the residence of British traders, storage of goods, and outfitting of ships." Angela could read the Chinese version of the Macartney letters (from the RAS). The characters are not the new simplified ones. Angela came from the Multicultural Centre (?) in Fareham. She spoke hopefully of Xi Jinping the new leader of China who did very well (fighting corruption) as Governor of Zhejiang Province.

\*Tara Fisher who asked good questions (about the Stauntonia Hexaphylla fruit.) Can you eat it ?

The answer is that you can, but I am going to do some more study on this to give her a good answer. Martyn Rix also wants more information about it.)

Some things were new to me:

1. That Tom Staunton's portrait hangs in the British Embassy in Beijing.
  2. That later when he was working in Canton, Tom Staunton sent the first Earl Grey tea to England (Did he? )
  3. The good portrait of Tom Staunton used at the Country Park is in the Shee Government Art Collection in the USA.
  4. The stained glass windows of the Gothic Library were taken out during the war and lost. In them were pictures of Staunton's ancestors. I wondered if there are any photographs of these windows.
  5. Internet materials about the HINDOSTAN and the LION. The Lion was built in Portsmouth.
  6. That GTS's botanical friends included Joseph Banks and William Hooker .....
  7. That GTS imported roses from France
  8. Angela felt that signs at the Staunton Country Park should be in Chinese as well as in English
  9. I noticed that Hampshire and West Sussex are very separate worlds.
- Very few people in West Sussex, even historians, know about Staunton Country Park's connection with China.

## 6. VISIT TO THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY IN LONDON

The RAS used to be charmingly housed in Paddington. You could walk in and take books off the shelves, maybe even take them home.

The present address is :

Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way,  
London NW1 2HD

Telephone 0207 7388 4539 Fax 020 7391

9424

It is three minutes walk from Euston Square underground station. And security is tight, as though you were entering a bank. If you want to see a book now you have to ask the Assistant librarian to go down to the strongroom to fetch it.

But the Assistant librarian, Helen Porter, is friendly and efficient. There is a list of books and other items relating to China given by George Thomas Staunton to the RAS in 1823 which she was able to send to me in China in PDF form, which was very helpful. Some of the books on the list are missing and it says that some of the Chinese language materials have been given to Leeds

University which has a Chinese department. I found interesting things there and asked for them to be photocopied. It cost a pound a copy, but I felt I got my money's worth. Nevertheless, to make a lot of copies would be expensive.

It struck me that if Staunton Country Park becomes serious about China, then it would be possible to hold exhibitions of RAS materials, welcome guest speakers from there, and offer their books for sale in Hampshire.

## 7. TRIP TO THE WEST OF ENGLAND IN THE SNOW

The first destination was Martyn Rix and his wife Alison who live at Rose Ash near to Tiverton.

Martyn, among many other things, is the editor of Curtis's Botanical Magazine. The magazine was founded in 1787 by William Curtis who was actually a Hampshire man who trained as an apothecary at what is

now the Chelsea Physic Garden.....Since William Hooker took over as editor it has always been associated with Kew.

It just so happened that Volume 29, Part 3, September 2012 contains an article by Maarten.J.M.Christenhusz "An Overview of Lardizabalaceae" containing many pages with beautiful illustrations of the Stauntonia species (Named by a French botanist after George Leonard Staunton). Martyn recommended the website [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org) for further exploration of this subject. I have been wondering why there were no pictures of the fruit of Stauntonia Hexaphylla (郁子Mube in Japanese).

It snowed during the night and the next morning Martyn's garden was looking quite beautiful. I remember the cracking of branches breaking under the weight of the snow. We only just managed to get away up the hill....

The next destination that connects with the Staunton project was to Christopher Bullock and his wife Liz who live near to Launceston. The purpose of the visit was to see them. The story goes like this. When Macartney was in Beijing he met a Chinese or Manchurian general who was not particularly friendly. This general in 1790/1791 had been fighting against the Gurkhas on the Tibet / Nepal frontier, and men wearing hats had been seen amongst the enemy . Were they British?

Macartney had no idea about this. Christopher Bullock was a Gurkha and has written the book "Britain's Gurkhas". It seems that the British were not officially involved in Nepal until twenty years later, though there may well have been unofficial



British up there fighting against the Chinese. Staunton, in the authentic account, dwells in some detail on this subject.

The last destination of this trip in the snow was to Nunney near to Shepton Mallet. We stayed in a beautiful house which curiously is still owned by the Coutts family of Bank fame. George Thomas Staunton I learned from Jodi Eastberg banked with Coutts.....And near to Nunney is Mells. We couldn't get there because of the snow. In the churchyard in Mells is the grave of the writer Siegfried Sassoon. The Sassoons were originally a Jewish family from Baghdad who made a fortune selling Indian opium in China during the 19th century, at least, that was how part of their fortune was made. Siegfried was a grandson of David Sassoon.

#### **8. VISIT TO BEIJING (January 26th -February 2nd 2013). This was just before the New Year rush. Chinese New Year was on February 11th**

It was very foggy in Beijing and the fog was even thicker in Tianjin. But that was no problem. There is a new underground line just opened so I was able to get all the way to my friends' courtyard without any hassle. Also the escalators were working which matters if you have a heavy suitcase, because the underground is deep. I came out of the underground at Beihai Beizhan (北海北站). Many people were skating on the pond there. In winter Chinese people go to the park and skate on the ponds. I dumped my bag and made a quick visit to Beihai Park. I wanted to take some pictures of the trees and the way they are pruned. What is it that makes a Chinese garden look

Chinese? At the north end of Beihai Park is the palace of Emperor Qianlong built around a small pond garden with many rocks. I took photographs of the curving walls, a circular doorway, the carp in the pond, and the cobbled paths.

The next morning I went to see Prof. Zhang Haiyang at Minzu Daxue (民族大学) the University of Nationalities. Most of China's 1300 million people (almost 95%) are Han Chinese, but the other 5% belong to 'minority nationalities' as they are called, and that is quite a lot of people. Half the land area of contemporary China is lived in by that 5%, and incidently it is the half which contains many of China's natural resources (oil and minerals). The China of Emperor Qianlong, whom Macartney and the Stauntons went to see, had expanded to include all these minority peoples during his reign. The best known of these minorities are the Tibetans in Tibet and neighbouring provinces, the Mongolians inside China (and during Qianlong's reign the Mongolians in Mongolia) and the Uighurs of Xinjiang, but there are also large groups like the Yi in Southern Sichuan, and the Zhuang in Guangxi and the Koreans in Jilin, and lots more. Zhang Haiyang is head of the Institute for graduate students of this university.

How the Chinese Government takes care of the minority peoples today is still a number one issue. Every time a Tibetan monk sets fire to himself, or there is a riot in the bazaar in Kashgar, or people are throwing stones at Chinese lorries in Xilinhote one is reminded that there is a lot of work to be done to get it right. Zhang Haiyang and his graduate students know a lot about this subject. He told me that this year he hoped

for a whole new range of policies to put things on the right track.

The next destination in Beijing was Alex Pearson in Sanlitun. Alex runs the Bookworm which is a bookshop, library and Internet cafe in Beijing. There are also branches in Suzhou and Chengdu and one or two other cities. It is a brave venture. Basicly her shops are for foreigners living in China and their Chinese friends. She mentioned that Jane Macartney had been in Beijing until recently writing a work about her illustrious ancestor. I guess she will have to spend time in St Petersburg, the Caribbean and India as well , It is rather a big project for her because for him China was just a postscript.

The connection between the Bookworm and the Staunton project is that Alex' s father and mother live in Emsworth, ten minutes from the Staunton Country Park. He was the Naval Attaché in the embassy in Beijing during the early 1980s. Alex' s mother is Dutch, and as a child was in a Japanese internment camp in Djakarta. Alex knows most of the foreign community in Beijing, if not through the Bookworm, then through a choir she sings in. And she said that in Emsworth there is also a descendant of the famous Reginald Johnston who was the tutor to the 'Last Emperor' Pu Yi. I asked about the picture of Staunton hanging in the embassy and she gave me the name of someone who works there.

The next day I had lunch with Han Qi of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. I had met him with Kuzuya sensei on the escalator at Aichi University in Sasashima. Han Qi knew a lot about the Stauntons, and to my surprise was coming to a conference in London two

weeks later. (More about that). One subject that does interest him is the presents that the Macartney embassy brought, scientific instruments which could have changed China in a very short time if only they had been opened!

After lunch I went and took some photographs of Yuan Ming Yuan in the fog. Yuan Ming Yuan (the old Summer Palace) was looted and burned by British and French soldiers during the Second Opium War in 1860. Today it is a beautiful park. Actually if all the buildings were still there today I think it would not be so beautiful. The Forbidden City for example has too many buildings and too few trees.

The next day in the afternoon I went to Nankai university in Tianjin. It used to take four hours on a bus. It now takes half an hour on a high speed train.. It took Macartney several days going the other way.

At Nankai I made contact with Li Zhian (李治安) who had spent a year in Japan more than twenty years ago. He had forgotten almost all his Japanese.. He is a Yuan dynasty historian. When I visited Nankai in the 1990s he had told me that it was possible to visit the ruins of Xanadu (元上都). Thanks to his advice I tried, and was arrested and spent six hours in a police station in Zhangjiako (张家口). At that time Zhangjiakou was a closed city. I didn' t know that. I talked to all the people in the police station, using my Chinese to its fullest extent. They had never spoken to a foreigner before and were delightful to be with. I never got to Xanadu, but actually I had a very happy time in that police station. It was certainly more interesting than



the ruins would have been. In the end the Military police 公安 arrived and I was sent back to Beijing.

This time in 2013 Li Zhian arranged a lunch and brought along a Qing dynasty historian Du Jiaji.

Neither of them spoke English or Japanese, but we had a good lunch with plenty of wine, and went through all my photographs relating to Staunton. And they scribbled down enthusiastically what I could not follow in my notebook.....

The last meeting relating to Staunton was in Beijing with Yeh Nienxian, the elder brother of my friend Yeh Nienlun. He lives on the other side of the same hutong courtyard. Nienxian is by way of being the President of the Beijing Esperantists who gather in the courtyard several times a year to speak Esperanto or welcome guests from abroad. But he also speaks English very well. I explained what I was doing and asked him - in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee - to give me a quick translation of the article which Jodi Eastberg had sent via Kerrie Bailey. Nienxian didn't think much of the article. But then he reached onto his bookshelf and pulled out a Chinese translation of 斯汤吨 (Si Tang Dun's) Authentic Account of the Macartney embassy to China. It seems that this book is much better known in China (in Chinese) than it is in England (in English).

While I was in Beijing I read through Jodi Eastberg's notes for her lecture at the Country Park which she had left with Kerrie Bailey. She is working on a book about Tom Staunton and these notes suggest it is going to be a good one. It is

interesting that she also is building the story around pictures, which I found to be the best way to introduce the subject in China, and actually in England too. And now she is going through GTS's bank accounts with Coutts&Co.! But why not?

And I can see why she was especially interested in the way George Leonard Staunton was educating his son.....according to Enlightenment principles. She quotes from Tom Staunton's memoirs: "I must affectionately record, that from this moment (when my father first saw me) down to the latest period of his life, the master purpose of my father's mind was my education and welfare." The father wanted his son to have hands-on experience, but with rigorous study, reading and mixing with intellectual society. She says that the focus was on language study (Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, German, English and Chinese) and scientific knowledge (especially botany and astronomy)..... That father and son only spoke to each other in Latin was important, especially so when young Tom began to learn Chinese from Mr Plum through Latin. But it couldn't have been planned.....! Also I was interested that Tom Staunton was able to continue his Chinese study after he got back, with the help of the Chinese boy. Is it explained anywhere how he went about it, or who the Chinese boy was? (People in China ask me who was the boy and what became of him.)

Also Jodi notes the quality and value of the gifts. I think Han Qi is interested in the gifts too. And Han Qi went to the Collegium Sinicum in Naples I think. (Apparently it has become one of the leading universities in Italy today for Chinese Studies, the other

one being Ca Foscari in Venice.) I didn't know about the Neptune incident of 1807 and the trial of the four seamen. I did know of Tom Staunton's translation of the Qing legal code into English, and about his translation of the treatise on vaccination into Chinese, and I notice that the translations were in different directions. Both of these may be available in the Royal Asiatic Society collection of his papers. I note that it was GTS's intention to found an Anglo-Chinese College. (It is not too late to try again and would be timely....) As a politician he stood for diplomatic engagement and protection of East India Company trade, Jodi says. Jodi seems to think that he was against going to war to sell opium in China and that he represented the diplomatic approach. I am looking forward to her book, but what hard work it is going to be to write it, and can it be done without looking at all this from the Chinese side.

## 9. THOUGHTS FOR THE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK

1. Since 1997 when the greenhouses were restored and the Chinese ambassador (or Cultural Attache) came down and stood in a line with worthy people from Havant including David Willetts the MP, also Nicolas Maclean, not much has been done at the Staunton Country Park to tell people about Staunton's Chinese connections.

On the other side of the world in China over these 15 years the Chinese economy has doubled in size.

China today is a catch-up economy with a population of 1300 million people and it has still got a lot of catching up to do. If

there is no war and political stability can be maintained (which is quite possible) it has about fifty years to go before it has caught up and the economy matures.....

2. Havant is a long way from Winchester. It doesn't have a cathedral and a theatre like Chichester, and it doesn't have the interest and vitality of Portsmouth and Southsea. It just has a station surrounded by expensive and not very beautiful car parks.

3. But Havant has a secret and it has been a very well kept secret, so much so that nobody knows about it. It is Havant's connection with China.

The Staunton Country Park seems to me to consist of the Park with quite a lot of forest land, Leigh Water with its follies and beautiful trees, the zoo with its stable block and tea rooms, and the Gothic Library. There are no books in the library because they all went to the Royal Asiatic Society in London and some of them are still there.

I think it would be good to start a project AT VERY LOW COST. If it doesn't start, it will never happen.

\*The LIBRARY building should be tidied up inside and maybe painted white.

(Personally I don't like Gothic so I don't think it should be restored, but some people do like Gothic, so restoration might be a project for the future.)

In the meantime, paint it white and hang up some pictures. With explanations underneath them -the ship which went from Portsmouth to Tianjin, a map of the journey, the carrying of the presents overland in China, the meeting with the Chinese Emperor in

the tent, King George III 's letter in English and Chinese , the letter about the Kowtow (with detailed commentaries) the journey by the Embassy across China back to Macao.....a picture of Hong Kong today (the places that GTS visited in 1816)....and make the library comfortable with free cups of Chinese tea. Make it a meeting place where people can sit down and talk comfortably.

\*Next I think there could be a website STAUNTON INSTITUTE: EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CHINA operating out of the Gothic Library.

The institute could have exhibitions and meetings with Chinese themes - Chinnery's paintings, dance performances by 'minority peoples', Chinese cooking classes, Chinese language classes (there are exceedingly good courses with recordings), Tai'chi in the early mornings (maybe this already happens.....)

The Staunton Country Park should be on the map to welcome Chinese visitors to Havant.

And they will come, and money will come too once a project is underway. I would like to be a supporting member of the institute. Other people who should be asked are Jodi Eastberg from America and Han Qi from China, and there are many many more.....

\*And there should be a CHINESE GARDEN. Personally I think that there is already a Chinese garden. If Leigh Water was planted with a few more willow trees and clumps of bamboo, a few flowering plums pruned in the Chinese way, it would be pretty good. To this could be added a peony garden in the walled garden by the greenhouses (Do

they like chalk?) and a restored rose garden to illustrate the impact of the Chinese stud roses in Europe. There should definitely be a Macartney rose - Rosa Bracteata somewhere near to the library. I happen to like the very Chinese combination of forsythia and lilac. There are many things which can be done step by step which don't cost a great deal of money. There is the best advice to be had. Martyn Rix has offered to help, and Roy Lancaster (I have his latest on my shelf in Japan) lives in Hampshire. The garden has to look Chinese and it may be necessary to employ people from China who know how to prune trees in the Chinese way. Also things happen in a Chinese garden. In winter people go skating on the ponds (Maybe it is not often you could do that in Havant, but there is a photograph in the Havant Borough Council leaflet of people skating on Leigh Water). And in summer there might be firework displays beside the lake. In Tianjin I took photographs of the trees all lit up with fairy lights. This also could be done sometimes at Staunton and not only at Christmas time. Of course it would be possible to repair the Chinese bridge, and restore the Hexagonal Summer House and other follies, but security is not very good so people say, so it would probably be best to do things that are less expensive and more robust, like planting bamboos.

\* Just a word about Chinese people. Angela and Gareth who came to the meeting on January 14th are good examples. They are perfectly decent people. Once you are through the language barrier there isn't so much mystery. They are great people to work with through ups and downs.

Prof. Dr HAN QI'S VISIT TO THE

## STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK

Prof.Dr HAN QI of the Chinese Academy of Sciences visited the Staunton Country Park on February 17th.

I got back into Heathrow at 3.00 pm on February 16th and I had an appointment to meet with Han Qi at Havant Station at 8.00 pm, and I made it. And he made it.



And the next morning , Sunday, we went to the Staunton Country Park and were welcomed by Tim Speller, Steve Jones and Chris Bailey. It was a beautiful early spring day. We took photographs in front of the Gothic Library and then went for a walk round the garden. I was glad I had brought Han Qi a pair of gumboots because he and Chris Bailey plunged into the muddiest corner of the garden while Tim Speller and I watched the peacocks scratching about

under the Tulip Tree. It must be one of the finest Tulip Trees in England. We walked round onto the lawn. The yellow willow branches were quite beautiful catching the sunshine. Gradually the park was beginning to fill up with people. On a day like that, the first day of spring, it is a popular place, mothers with prams, lots of children playing on the swings, peering into the cages with

the goats, everybody happy to be there. We had a cup of coffee, looked at photographs and then went to the greenhouses. I had had no idea that Chris Bailey grew that giant Amazon Water lily from seed every year. We went over the road to the Lake garden and saw the Stauntonia up in the tree (it was too high up to check it was one), and the Chinese bridge and the Beacon, and the Chichester Market Cross shell house.....In the evening, Han Qi looked

at the photocopies of documents I had been given at the Royal Asiatic Society in London. One of them is indeed written in Chinese by George Thomas Staunton, and it is signed by him. His calligraphy is really beautiful. (Thomas Staunton is written using characters different from the ones used today). Mr Plum must have been a very good teacher. The other is the letter from King George III to Emperor Qianlong, probably written by Macartney in English, translated by George Leonard Staunton into Latin and translated by Mr Plum from Latin into Chinese and ending "your little brother George III". If an archivist is employed to put together all the material they have on the Stauntons, he or she is going to need help with Chinese language.

One thing that impressed me about the park was that it not only had trees and plants. It also had animals and birds. So this aspect of the park could be focused a little more on China too. Already there has been a water buffalo there called Mr Plum. They told me there is a herd of water buffalo somewhere in Hampshire (for making Mozzarella cheese ?) so it would be quite easy to get one, though how easy they are to look after, I don't know. There also could be Lady Amherst pheasants, and golden pheasants, which apparently also come from China. There is also the history of the chicken to explore.....Many of the chicken breeds came from East Asia. There are people in Hampshire who know a lot about chickens, also there are the ornamental carp enthusiasts.....,

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The books I have been reading:

\*An authentic account of an embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China by Sir George Leonard Staunton (two volumes with a volume of maps and pictures) published in 1798.

\*Leigh Park A 19th century Pleasure Ground by Derek Gladwyn

(This book is unfinished. The writer was run over near the British library while researching it in 1990. His wife finished it off and published it privately. It is no longer available but the Country Park seems to have copies.)

\*The Collision of Two Civilisations by Alain Peyrefitte (originally in French)

This is a superb study of the Macartney embassy. Alain Peyrefitte is well respected in France. (But personally I enjoyed reading the authentic account more than Peyrefitte's analysis from a French point of view. Another point is that there are no Chinese characters in his book. They would be useful for people's names and also beside the place names on the maps.)

Other books:

Barbarians and Mandarins Thirteen Centuries of Western Travelers in China by Nigel Cameron. Chapter 13 is about Matteo Ripa and the Chinese College in Naples opened in 1731, which lasted 150 years and trained 106 Chinese priests. Apparently this college has developed into another - a leading centre for Chinese studies in Italy..... Chapter 14 is about the Age of Enlightenment and Voltaire. How little the Enlightenment philosophers knew about China! And Chinoiserie was a very European



art form, he says. The MS of Part II of GTS' s unpublished diary is at Duke University library, Durham, N.Carolina. In 1780 the first consignment of 'foreign mud' (opium) reached Canton. The East India Company did not carry opium. But it was grown in India on territory under the jurisdiction of the company. In large parts of Benares and Bihar cultivation was compulsory. The East India Company permitted its sale to others. The opium trade was not mentioned when Macartney visited Peking, but it was already there. In 1793 Heshen was at the height of his powers. Was he not already being enriched by the opium trade ?

Both British and Chinese traders did very well out of the opium trade. Men like Karl Gutzlaff were selling opium and at the same time handing out translations of the gospels. The Chinese refused permission for the hot air balloon to ascend over Peking. Neither Hickey nor Alexander, the two artists with the embassy, were allowed up to Jehol.

I have yet to get:

1. The letter from King George III to Emperor Qianlong
2. Little Tom Staunton' s transcription of the list of presents
3. The letter little Tom Staunton transcribed about the Kowtow
4. The letter from Emperor Qianlong to George III
5. The letter from Lin Zexu ( 林 则 徐 ) to Queen Victoria

In 1839 Lin Zexu was sent to suppress the opium trade. 20,000 chests of opium were destroyed.

This was the beginning of the Opium War. On August 29th 1842 the Treaty of Nanking (an unequal treaty signed under duress) was

signed. 5 ports were opened. An indemnity in silver was exacted for the destroyed opium stocks. Hong Kong was ceded. There was an extraterritoriality clause (British citizens were subject only to British law)

For this research I must thank Bill Tam who put me up on the 23rd floor of one of his blocks in Hong Kong. It was a novel experience coming from Japan where I live at ground level.

In Hong Kong I stumbled quite by chance on the 5 volume Account of the Embassy.

It was Bill who introduced me to the idea that the Sassoon family were selling opium all over China (David Sassoon 1792-1864 and some of his 8 sons)

And thanks to Yeh Nienlun and Cuicui for having me to stay in their courtyard in Beijing, in the newly made attic room. Also thank you to George Yeh for switching the Chinese keyboard on in my iPad (and Hebrew! not relevant to this study at the moment.)

And thanks also to Naomi Kitto and husband Adec in Nagoya Japan, who introduced me to her friends in Darkhan in Mongolia. It was those friends who took me to the great temple Amarbayasgalant Khiid in the thunderstorm in July 2012. It is an extraordinary place and one of the northern outposts of Emperor Qianlong' s empire.

And finally special thanks to Mayinu Shanatibieke from Ili in Xinjiang (she and her sister Aynur in Aksu are of Kazakh nationality) and to Dai Qifu from Liangshan in the very south of Sichuan (He is of Yi



nationality) for helping me to see Zhang Haiyang of Minzu Daxue in Beijing this February.

But not finally.....thank you for the warm welcome at the Staunton Country Park. I taught for a term at Oak Park School across the road.

I didn't know anything about George Thomas Staunton then.

### Stauntonia

Stauntonia Hexaphylla is called 'mube' 郁子 in Japanese. It is a creeper that climbs into big trees. It flowers in April and May, and there are fruits in October. The fruit looks like a small pink sausage. It likes warmth,

so is to be found mainly in western Japan and on the coast facing the Pacific Ocean. In the mountains of Naganoken, people have no idea what it is.

I first came across Mube fruits in the tokonoma at a tea ceremony in Ikedo sensei's house in Kasugai near Nagoya. I suppose it was there as a kind of harvest thanksgiving offering.

This last year I have been researching the lives of George Leonard Staunton and his son George Thomas Staunton. Both took part in the Macartney embassy to China 1792-94. The father was the second in command and wrote the Authentic Account of the embassy. The son, aged 11 in 1792, was the page of Lord Macartney. The son studied Chinese from the interpreters during the voyage out to China and it was



he who knelt in front of emperor Qianlong in Jehol. The Mube, in Latin 'Stauntonia Hexaphylla', is named after the father, Sir George Leonard Staunton, 1st Baronet 1737-1801. Maybe it was named after him because he took part in the embassy and wrote the famous account. Or maybe it was because he was a doctor, because Mube is important in Chinese medicine.

I took this photograph of the Mube fruit in the autumn of 2012 at a restaurant called Oribetei 織部亭 in Ichinomiya near Nagoya. I don't know a better restaurant in this part of Japan incidentally. I imagined that the owner, Oshima san, had climbed a tree and harvested the Mube himself, but his wife told me that they had been given the fruit by a friend. I sent this photograph to Martyn Rix as a Christmas card.

In January we went to visit Martyn in Somerset and he gave me the September 2012 edition of Curtis's Botanical Magazine with all the articles by Maarten Christenhusz. There were lots of nice photographs and illustrations of Stauntonia Hexaphylla in it. I had had no idea that anyone else was interested....But curiously the photographs and illustrations were all of flowers, and there were no photographs of the Mube fruit.

Maarten Christenhusz described the Mube as 'a woody vine, forming dense mats covering other plants, frequently climbing into the canopy of trees.' He says that Philip Franz von Seibold introduced it to the Netherlands in 1860 and that Robert Fortune visited his garden at Narutaki near Nagasaki and may have got it from him, and

that probably it was Fortune who brought it to England.

In February this year in England Audrey H gave me a Stauntonia Hexaphylla for my birthday (February 5th 2013). It was a beautiful plant. But it seemed to have only three leaves. It didn't look like a Hexaphylla which should have had six leaves. So we rang up the supplier and complained! The supplier was

Marcus Dancer  
Kilcreggan,  
Aldersholt Road,  
Saddle Heath,  
Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire,  
SP61PT.

He said it was a Hexaphylla and he had been supplying them for a long time. We then found on closer reading that Maarten Christenhusz had written 'Hexaphylla means 6 leaves but it is only an average. There are usually between 3 and 9 leaflets. So we owe Marcus Dancer an apology. We kept the plant indoors as a houseplant to begin with and it looked very nice. At the end of March we put it outside. ....And it got hit by the cold wind .....and parts of it turned black. Since then I have been in Japan, but I hope it is still alive.

If it is, we will probably send it up an old apple tree.

Actually there are usually 3, 5, and 7 leaves, and these are lucky numbers in Japan (engi ga ii 縁起 が良い). They bring good fortune. There is SHICHI GO SAN (7,5,3) festival

in November. Girls aged 3 and 7, and boys aged 5 are taken to the shrine in beautiful clothes, kimono and hakama, where they give thanks for their having reached that age and for still being alive. Children used to be considered as 'belonging to God' until they were seven, and if they died, this was considered quite natural.



Since coming back to Japan in April I have found Mube everywhere - at the Hanafesta rose garden in Kani, on a friend, Noriya Ishizaka's fence in Toyota Senzokuchō, in Okazaki and in Inazawa, also on a pergola in the Botanical Garden in Kyoto.....I had never noticed them before. Even many Japanese don't know what they are. With all the cherry blossom and the azaleas, and camellias and then the roses, Mube get forgotten. I even to my surprise had a basket woven out of Mube twigs on my kitchen table, which I have used for several years for fruit, without having any idea what it was made out of.

I wondered why they are called Mube? There is a story that Emperor Tenchi (天智天皇) asked an old couple in Omihachiman how they had lived so long. They answered "Because we ate these fruit". The Emperor then replied "宜なるかな" Mube naru ka na, which means "Of course, I see."

Until recently Omihachiman city used to give Mube fruit along with fish from Biwako as a kenjo 献上 to the Emperor in Kyoto (kenjo means 'gift').

(Emperor Tenchi was his name after he had died. During his lifetime he was Prince Naka no Oe, who is quite well known. He was closely involved with Nakatomi no Kamatari who was the first of the Fujiwara line (about 645 AD).)

In May 2013 I visited Omihachiman. Actually I was waiting for the boat from Horikiri to Nakashima, an island out in Lake Biwa, and went for a walk. Beside the road the bushes were full of Mube in flower, and there were carpets of the flowers on the ground. This did indeed seem to be the centre for Mube

in Japan.

Mube is known as 野木瓜 Yemugua in Standard Chinese. This means 'wild tree gourd'. (It is pronounced Yamokka in Japanese). The stalks, roots and dried fruits are used in Chinese medicine as a painkiller 鎮痛 chintsu, stimulant 強心 kyoshin, and as 利尿 rinnyo a diuretic.

From the Chinese equivalent of Wikipedia, Baidu, I learned that

野木瓜 Yemugua is also known as 铁脚梨 Tie Jiao Li which means Iron leg pear, and 百益之果 Bai Yi Zhi Guo, 100 good effects fruit. It is used in drinks, food, and to make cosmetics and as a dye source. It is also known as 万寿果 Wan Shou Guo 'longevity fruit'. It is good for the stomach, for digestion, as a hangover cure, it lowers blood pressure, helps mothers to produce milk, reduces constipation, and combats intestinal parasites, and it softens arteries and cures strokes. So it is indeed a longevity fruit.

It appears in the Bencao Gangmu 本草綱目 'Compendium of roots and herbs' compiled by Li Shizhen during the Ming dynasty. The first edition of this was published in 1578. It is a 52 volume work.

In my first foray, I got locked into the Chinese Internet and couldn't get out. On my next visit to China I will visit a doctor who is familiar with traditional Chinese medicine.

Just as a postscript, I learned from my neighbour Professor Sugita in Okazaki, Japan that there are many poems (haiku) about Mube. Here are a few examples.

郁子咲けり 捨てて久しき 家の門  
(鈴木元)

mube sakeri sutete hisashiki ie no mon  
(Suzuki Hajime)

Mube in bloom,  
Abandoned for a long time, (not lived in  
for a while)  
The entrance to a house.

It is spring. Maybe the parents are still living there, maybe not. The house looks sad and overgrown. The haiku would look better if it was written untidily with a scribbled picture.

井の上の 雑木にからみ 郁子の花  
(須和田潮光)  
I no ue no zouki ni karami mube no hana  
(Suwada Choko)

Above the well,  
On the tangle of branches and twigs,  
Mube in flower.

This is another spring haiku. I know a wellhead just like this, but it has a tea bush on it with lovely flowers, but later in the year.....

波あかり 夜も郁子熟る 島の果て  
(松尾宇邨)  
Nami akari yo mo mube ururu shima  
no hate (Matsuo Uson)

Light on the waves, (maybe moonlight  
or starlight)  
At night also the mube are ripening,  
At the far end of the island. (where  
nobody goes)



This is an autumn haiku.

塗盆に 茶屋の女房の 郁子をのせ  
(高浜虚子)  
Nuri bon ni chaya no nyoubou no mube  
wo nose (Takahama Kyoshi)  
On a lacqueured tray,  
The teashop lady,  
Places some mube.

This again is an autumn haiku. It fits with the photograph of the mube on the table at Oribetei, though here they were in a China bowl. A friend thought that the teashop, or tea hut, might be on a pass in the mountains, so especially welcome to the people who had climbed up.....

郁子も濡るる 山坂僧の 白合羽  
(野沢節子)  
mube mo nururu yamasaka sou no  
shiro kappa (Nozawa Setsuko)  
The mube are also wet, (from the rain)  
A priest in a white raincoat,  
(is climbing up) The mountain slope.

This could be any season. The main character of this haiku is the rain.

## Macartney letter

This letter was probably written by Macartney to the Emperor in September 1793 before the audience in Jehol. Word by word it translates back into English as:

The English ambassador Macartney requests the Great Officials to convey his

thanks to the Emperor for his favours.

We ask that (English people) may come again (to give), but we are worried (we are afraid) that the King of our country will not believe us, so now again we wish to receive the Emperor's favour, and ask him once more to give us (a letter of) proof (confirmation, evidence) of his favour.

Then we will quickly leave and go back and tell our King.

(If we have a letter) He will have to believe us and will ask his people quickly to come to China again.

For ourselves this time, if we are able, we are looking forward (just wish) soon to attend the celebrations of the 60th anniversary (of the Emperor's accession (his 80th birthday)

But France has recently found itself at war (with us) and we worry that our people coming from there may have difficulties (making the journey).

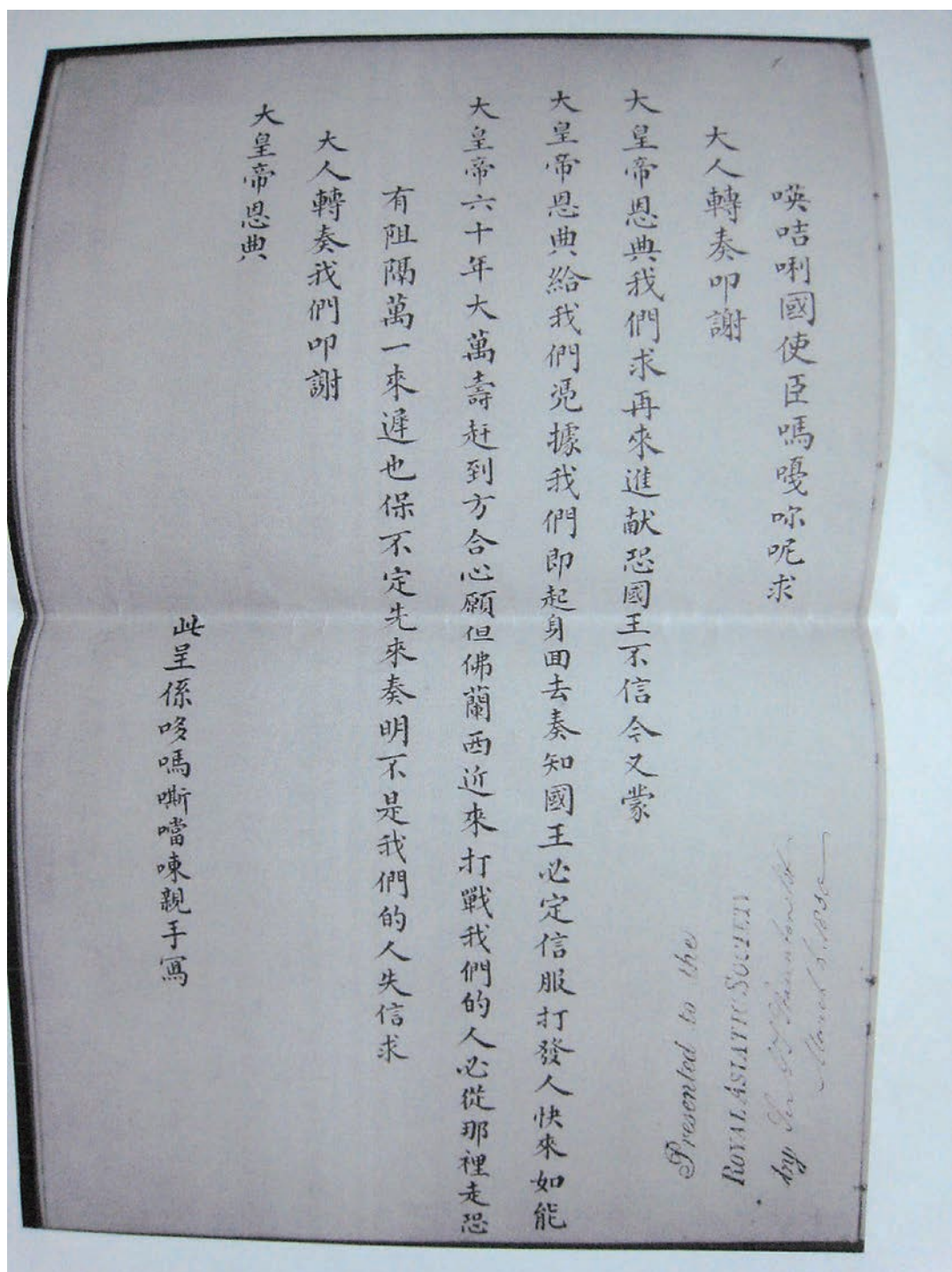
Just in case this happens and they arrive late and it appears that they have broken their promise to come again, we hope that the Emperor will understand the circumstances and forgive them.

We ask the High Officials to convey our thanks to the Emperor for his favour.

This letter is hand written by Thomas Staunton.

I chose this letter from the Royal Asiatic Society library in London because it is short and because it was written by Thomas Staunton (I thought). Actually I think it was not written by him, and what happened was as follows.

The letter was first written in English by



Macartney. George Leonard Staunton then translated it into Latin. The interpreters who came from Italy then translated it from Latin into Chinese. Finally Thomas Staunton

aged 12 copied the letter out and his copy was sent to the Emperor. Maybe today it is somewhere in the archives in Beijing. The letter which Thomas Staunton gave to the



Royal Asiatic Society library in 1830, is the letter which he copied when he was 12 (I think! The calligraphy is too good for a 12 year old.)

It was difficult to translate but I received help along the way from various friends. There is no punctuation though this is not a big problem. And the letter is written in a curious mixture of formal polite language and modern colloquial Chinese. The people who helped were Gao Mingjie and Liu Naihua at Aichi University in Sasashima and Koyama sensei in Toyohashi who is a Chinese literature specialist. Koyama sensei gallantly struggled to put it into English. Wu Xiaoyan at Chukyo who I meet on Wednesday confirmed that it was written before the audience in Jehol. It is an important letter. It is my first attempt and I am hoping to work on some of the longer ones.

