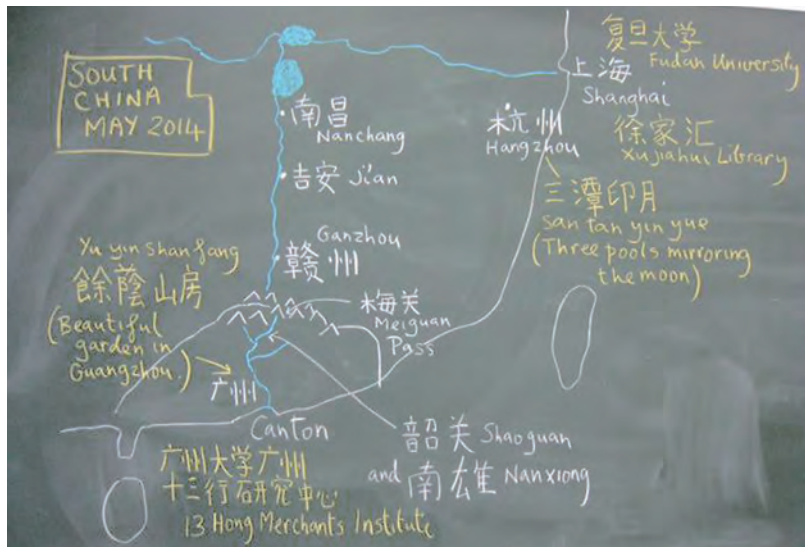


The Macartney Embassy to China 1792-1794, focusing on the part played by GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON. (Golden Week Trip 2014)

John Hamilton

The inspiration for short expeditions like this comes from the long ones undertaken by the Toa Dobun Shoin Students in the 1930's (東亞同文書院の大旅行)....For this short trip I had a lot of help from Aidai people at the new Sasashima campus for which I must say a big thank you.

After I got back to Japan, I put this map on the board in a 補講 (Make-up class). It shows more or less where I went and what I was doing. It was only a very short trip, not like the 大旅行....As always in China, details not directly related to the research, were interesting as well, and have been included in this account.



This paper falls into five parts:

- (1) Before Departure
- (2) The Research
- (3) Days in Guangzhou
- (4) Journey across country
- (5) Days in Shanghai

(1) Before Departure

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to the people in Sasashima, also in Toyohashi, who helped me.

First there was Azuma Michihisa (東道久), travel agent extraordinary (and AIDAI GRADUATE) who got my plane ticket into Guangzhou 白云 and out of Shanghai 浦奈 and a Chinese visa at very short notice and delivered it to Sasashima. (It is always a hassle doing this in London.)

He gets about by bicycle in Central Nagoya.

Next there was Kuzuya sensei (葛谷登先生).....A few months ago, I came off the escalator on the Fifth floor into a crowd of students and there he was with an unknown Chinese. That was Han Qi (韩琦) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (中国科学院自然科学历史研究所). And it was Han Qi who introduced me on this trip to the 13 Hong Merchants Institute in Guangzhou University (广州大学广州十三行研究中心). He also inspired me to visit the Meiling mountains which run along the north of Guangdong Province. He had not been there, he said, so I felt that I must go! And he introduced me to his friend Wang Renfang who is curator of the Xujiahui (徐家汇) library, formerly the Jesuit library in Shanghai.

Then there was Katsura Miyuki 桂三幸, who has been in charge of Aidai's library in Toyohashi, and who for long periods allowed me to borrow the 'Account of an Embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China' in two volumes with a volume of maps. It was published

in 1797 (MDCCXCVII it says inside the front cover). It is one of the treasures of this great library. The volume of maps contains (among many) maps showing the journey of Macartney and the Stauntons southwards from the Yangtze, up the Gan river (赣江) through modern day Jiangxi province and down through Guangdong. I took photographs of these maps with me to China in my iPad. This was the route I tried to follow in reverse during the Golden Week.

Next at Sasashima there was ARUNA - her Mongolian name - (Gao Mingjie in Chinese) who introduced me to Naran Bilik and his wife Yilina 伊犁娜 at Fudan University 复旦大学 in Shanghai. Aruna is really a 'living treasure'. She has friends, and friends of friends in every small town in China and can pick up a telephone in Sasashima and talk to them just like that!.....And then there will be a welcome waiting. Truly thanks to people like her, Aidai is China's entrance hall (中国の玄関) in Central Japan. That is very important.

And I would like to thank the students at Sasashima, also Toyohashi, Japanese and Chinese, who turned up to the make-up classes I have to give. Actually I enjoy these small classes very much because there is a chance of two way communication which is quite difficult with larger numbers. Especially I remember Tajiri Tomoyuki - working in a Sushi shop in Toyohashi, Mayu Mizushima - mother of three children with roots in Iwateken, Shioi Haruki - who had spent the holiday camping at Magome, Zhang Yi 张一 from Jilin who bicycles in from Imai, Chang Yuhan 常煜菡 from Shanxi who had

spent the holiday in Kamakura, and Chen Jierong from Guangdong province.....they were really nice, and I hope that the future of Japan and China will belong to them.

And in my Taiko dori life there was interest and enthusiasm from the Inukai family across the railway lines in Nakamura ku. I go there for Okonomiyaki on my way to the bath at Jizoo Yu 地藏湯 on Monday evenings. There is Inukai Makoto 犬飼最 who graduated from Aichi University in the 1960's, and his granddaughter Inoue Ayano 井上綾乃 who is now a Modern Chinese Studies student presently in Tianjin. Inukai Yoshie 犬飼良枝 helped me a lot when I went to Mongolia in 2011. She introduced me to Naomi Kito who had taught Japanese under the JICA umbrella in Darkhan north of Ulan Baatar. So when I arrived

at Ulan Baatar airport, Ulzii Orshikh, one of her students, was there to meet me. He had driven three hundred miles to fetch me.....It was thanks to the Inukais I was able to go with him and his friend to AMARBAYASGALANT KHIID....a great Chinese-built Lama temple now on the Mongolian frontier with Russiaoff- roadit is hard to get to...west of the Orkhon river. We went there in a thunderstorm!!Another special member of the Inukai's place is Kishi Nobuko 岸伸子. I have come to like Nagoya thanks to them....But all that is another story.

(2) The Research

This time THE RESEARCH was about George Thomas Staunton. He is the boy on the right in this sketch.

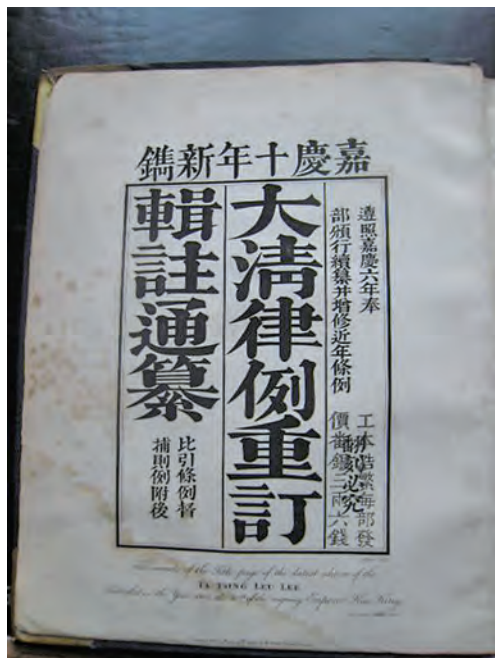


(4) The Macartney Embassy to China 1792-1794, focusing on the part played by GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON. (Golden Week Trip 2014)

His father, wearing a black hat, is standing behind him. That is George Leonard Staunton, who wrote the account of the Macartney embassy.

After this audience with the Emperor in JEHOL in the 避暑山庄 in present day Chengde 承德, the embassy made their way back south across China to Macao. It was the last section of this journey that I was interested in this time. They had come from Nanchang 南昌, southwards up the Gan river 贛江, then over the Meiling mountains into Guangdong and down the Pearl river 珠江 to Macao.

Later on, Tom Staunton came back to China and worked for the British East India Company in Canton, and while he was there, he translated this compilation of Qing dynasty laws into English. Below is the title page.



I needed help with this page, and kind Kato sensei 加藤寛昭 of Aidai put it into Japanese (I meet him at Chukyo University on a Wednesday morning), and the new friends in Guangzhou took it further and now I have a rough translation in English. It goes like this:

10th year of Emperor Jiaqing (1805)
New Edition
QING DYNASTY LAWS AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS
WITH EXPLANATIONS AND GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE REGULATIONS

Appendix comparing the old laws and the new ones,

with an analysis of the changes

This new edition is based on the original regulations issued by the Ministry of Justice in Emperor Jiaqing's 6th year (1801) and contains a compilation of the revisions and amendments over recent years

Much time and expense went into producing this edition, so please pay

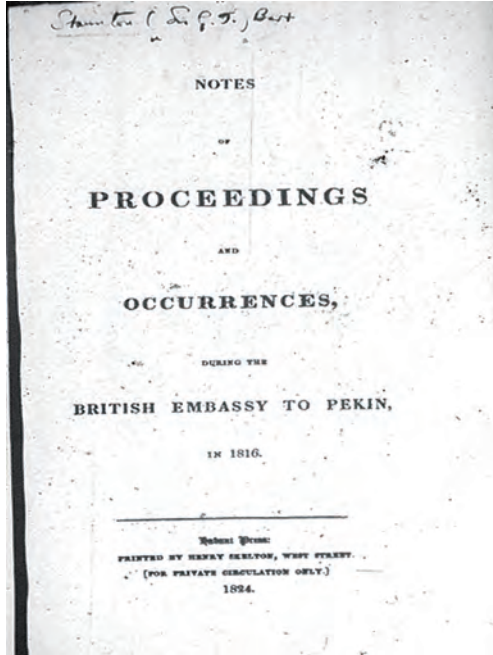
the asking price for one volume which is Silver, 3 Liang and Copper, 6 Qin.

It is forbidden to copy or reproduce the book.

There is a book containing the Staunton translation in the Travellers Club library in Pall Mall in London, and the Chinese original is in Leeds University Library 'Special Collections' in Yorkshire. I am interested in this and how it led on to the foreign concessions in places like Shanghai, and also to the Special Economic Zones and Free Trade Zones of today. It a part of the history of doing business in China which is

now on a huge scale.

Before he returned to England, Tom Staunton accompanied the Amherst embassy to Peking in 1816, and he wrote an account of this which I have not yet read.



Before this trip I had no idea that this account existed.

When I visited the Xujiahui library in Shanghai I was welcomed there by Wang Renfang. He wondered why I had come, and I said that I was looking for examples of Tom Staunton's handwriting in Chinese, especially things written when he was a child, for example transcribing the letters of Macartney to the Qianlong emperor.....probably I had come to the wrong place !!.....but it is always good to ask.

And while I was asking, the receptionist was listening to our conversation, and after we had finished she told me that she had a friend at Fudan University who

was translating Staunton's account of the Amherst embassy into Chinese, and she had her telephone number. I had already arranged to go to Fudan University that afternoon, so when I got there Naran Bilik telephoned Fu Lynn 傅淋 and I was able to meet her. And that is how I stumbled on this account of the Amherst Embassy published in HAVANT !

When Tom Staunton got back to England he bought the Leigh Park estate in Havant, and over the next few years he created a beautiful garden and landscape there which has quite a lot of Chinese features and also plants and trees from China (and Japan too). It is now a beautiful and very interesting place. On this trip to China I wanted to visit gardens, perhaps not the ones Tom Staunton went to, but gardens to which he might have gone, to see the plants and trees, and get an idea of the garden lay out. In Guangzhou I was able to visit the Yuyin Shanfang 余荫山房 garden, and in Hangzhou I went to the Santan Yinyue 三潭印月 garden. I doubt Tom Staunton went to either, but these were the kind of places he did see.

(3) Days in Guangzhou

The interest is in the details which are not directly relevant but they help to build up the picture. For example I enjoyed the Mulberry juice on the plane very much. It is called Song Guo Zhi 桑果汁 in Chinese. I have never had it before. In Baiyun airport, named after the mountain 白云山 'White Cloud Mountain' near to Guangzhou, there were two Russian boys waiting at the bus stop. They had come from Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka and had been scuba diving

in Hainan. I made my way by bus to the hostel in Fangcun, across the river from Shamian. There was only one bed left in a dormitory. A kind Mexican who was attending the Canton Fair lent me some anti-mosquito spray, and I lit a 蚊取り線香. ...but mosquitoes like me, and I was attacked all night.....Actually I was tortured for three nights in Guangzhou, but I had three very enjoyable days there.

Over breakfast I made friends with a girl called Karen. Please come to Zhongshan, she said. I had never heard of Zhongshan 中山市 but I looked it up and it is a big place (2.5 million people) just north of Macao. Actually the land area of Zhongshan is bigger than HongKong and the New Territories together. It used to be called Xiangshan 香山市 and many of the battles of the First Opium War took place there. It was renamed 中山市 after Sun Zhongshan 孙中山 (Sun Yatsen) founder of the Chinese Republic, who was born there. There are a lot of factories there now. The really good thing about the hostels in China is that they all have Wifi so one can find out things like this very quickly over breakfast. I wanted to instal 'We Chat', known as Weixin 微信 in Chinese, into my iPad (it is the equivalent of Skype) and kind Karen had a go, but I had left my passwords behind in Japan so we were not successful. I didn't get to Zhongshan this time and I haven't yet installed Weixin.

The friends from Guangzhou University turned up after breakfast. They had battled their way across the city on the underground to Fangcun. She was called Cai Xiangyu 蔡香玉 with the Christian name Ellen, originally

from Shantou 汕头 along the coast in Eastern Guangdong, where they all speak Chaoshanhua 潮汕话 (Teochew), at home anyway. I was interested in this. And she had written her doctoral thesis in English at Leiden in Holland. Her husband, Yan, originally from Shanxi 山西, was a Qing history teacher at Chengdu University (成都大学) in Sichuan. He was down in Guangdong for the holiday. They had met at Zhongshan University in Guangzhou. I had a very enjoyable day with them, and it was kind of them to give up their precious time, to look after me.

Together we took the boat from Fangxun across to Shamian island, and walked through the fish market and saw a lot of eels, also shell fish....Opposite the White Swan Hotel (closed for repairs), I spotted another Youth Hostel and checked in there. It was a little bit better than the one in Fangxun though the mosquitoes were just as ferocious. I wanted to change some Japanese Yen. At the airport they takes a large commission. In town, only the Bank of China will change Yen. At the Bank of China there was a momentary problem because ¥10,000 Japanese notes have different printings and two of the notes I presented were not the same. Usually I carry a Visa card from England in case I have problems. I didn't need it this time. But I did need it two years ago in Urumqi at the beginning of the holiday. In fact it saved me. We walked along to the 13 Hong Merchants Street. Xiangyu belongs to the 13 Hong Merchants Research Center at Guangzhou University and there is talk of setting up a museum in the park beside the 13 Hong Merchants Street. Tom Staunton lived somewhere near

there when he was in Canton, and it was here that he worked on translating the Qing Legal Code into English, so in a way it was appropriate that Yan and Xiangyu helped me in the restaurant there to translate the title page (above) into English. The buildings on Shamian island were all built after the Second Opium War, so he hadn't lived there.

I had told them that if possible I would like to visit a Qing garden in Guangzhou so they took me to Yuyin Shanfang 余荫山房 which is actually not so far from the university in southeast Guangzhou. The front part of the garden was probably ransacked during the Cultural Revolution and it has been restored though I felt rather unsympathetically. But the back areas were still charming.



I particularly liked the 8 sided reading room (reminding me of the library, also



greenhouse, at the Staunton Country Park), and the stained glass imported from Europe, and the Bai Yulan 白玉兰 tree. It is a magnolia. The flowers are used to make Yulan tea.



After visiting the garden we walked to the river and caught a ferry over to the university island. We passed various interesting looking shops including this recycle tile shop and also vegetable gardens.





We found people wheeling their bicycles onto the boat.

I wondered why all the universities had been put on this island.

Here is a tree in one of the four remaining villages on the island. I think that the things hanging from it are eel traps.



At the university we bought a road map of Guangdong province, and Jiangxi province,

and from the maps of the Macartney journey which I had in my iPad, Xiangyu ringed the towns they passed through on the modern maps. That was indeed helpful and gave me a lot more confidence to make the journey. Yan, Xiangyu's husband, was worried that with my poor Chinese, I would run into trouble. Actually he was quite right !

I was interested in this space in Guangzhou University, outside and yet under cover.....it is similar to the space at Sasashima between the two buildings. In a Chinese university all the students live in dormitories on campus so an under cover space is important. There is a little rose garden in the foreground. A space like this, if it is surrounded by sympathetic coffee shops, galleries etc could be a very important feature of a university.



I spent the next day on Shamian Island which these days is a tourist destination, so not very interesting for me. I had a good Dim Sum breakfast in a leafy restaurant.

There is a Catholic Church built in 1890 'Shamian Church of Our Lady of Lourdes', and a Bank of Taiwan with the foundation stone laid by a Mrs Yoshiwara in 1913.

I was surprised by the many people who looked exactly like friends in Japan - Aya Sanada, Haruna Ishizaka.... I wanted to talk to them. People go to Shamian to have romantic wedding photographs taken - you can hire the clothes - in front of the imposing Western style buildings. You may not be able to afford the wedding but you can have the photographs without all the fuss. There was also a Starbucks with Wifi from which I could send e-mails. Then back to the hostel for another night of torture. I met a Filipino engineer who worked for Mitsubishi. He was reminiscing about the Matsuzaka beef in Nagoya.Dr Ishihara in Okazaki had just told me that if I want to live long I must eat only fish.....!

(4) Journey across country

In the early morning I set off on the underground to Guangzhou station and

caught a train north to Shaoguan 韶关. At times the Pearl river was visible out of the train window. I did not see much of Shaoguan. It is famous for the Zen patriarch Huineng 惠能 who lived there in the 7th century. Also Matteo Ricci, the Jesuit missionary spent some time there. From Shaoguan I took a bus to Nanxiong 南雄, and another bus up to Meiguan 梅关 in the mountains. By then it was raining. The conductress put me out in the rain in front of a little hotel and I ran for the entrance. I was well looked after there by the owner Xu Pingshen 徐平生, a real gentleman, and had a very good dinner washed down with various winestoo much wine actually....but I felt much strengthened.



The next morning I walked over the pass from Guangdong into Jiangxi. The Macartney embassy had come over this pass, from the other side.

Historically, this was the Southern Silk Road. Merchants and Buddhist priests came up the Pearl river, over this pass, then down the Gan river into Central China. So it is an important place, but nobody goes there now.

Here is a picture of the track....the Southern Silk Road, if you like.....



I reached the checkpoint on the Jiangxi side of the pass and then headed back to Guangdong to pick up my bags. Over an early lunch I met a cadre from Ganzhou 赣州 with his driver who was from Ruijin 瑞金 and they kindly offered me a lift to Dayu 大余 in Jiangxi. The cadre Xu Pingshen was originally from Shenyang. He was working as a city planner in Ganzhou. He didn't know the name of his driver which was Yang Siming. Yang Siming came from Ruijin which was where the Long March began in 1935. He was quite proud of that. This was my introduction to Jiangxi. This time I didn't see much of it, but from my iPad I learned that 8 million people live in Ganzhou, and in Ji'an 吉安 where I spent the next night, there were 5 million people. I just went through Jiangxi on the bus. But I did feel that I could live there happily for a lifetime. Jiangxi province seems to consist of the big river, the Ganjiang 赣江, running north south, or rather south north down the middle with high mountains on both sides. To the west is Jinggangshan 井冈山 where Mao Zedong spent time in the 1930's. At Nanchang 南昌, which was my next destination, the bus station was on the Bayi Dalu 八一南路。Ba Yi is August 1st 1927, when the Red Army led by Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, captured

Nanchang and held it briefly. It was rather a disaster actually. But now it is remembered as the Foundation day of the Red Army. I have 八一 written on all the buttons of my old overcoat.

I spent a happy afternoon in the park beside the bus station in Nanchang waiting for the night bus to Hangzhou.



Patients from the nearby hospital walked through this park and several of them stopped to talk. It was not only a beautiful place but there was a 5 star loo at one end with attendants to keep it clean. It seemed that a bank had been allowed to build a small branch there provided they put a loo on the back. Anyway it was much appreciated by everybody including me.

The night bus to Hangzhou left at 6.30. It was a splendid night bus with beds, much more comfortable than the night bus from Toyohashi to Tokyo Yaesu Minamiguchi. I used to use that to catch the Aeroflot flights from Narita. I expected to arrive at Hangzhou at 5.30 in the morning. Instead I was tipped out at a remote interchange on the outskirts at 12.30 am. There was nobody about, and no taxis, so I just had to start walking. After about half an hour I came to some traffic lights and tapped on the

window of a car and asked if they could take me to a small hotel, or a place where there were taxis, and this they very kindly did. I learned the next day that I was somewhere out by the campus of Zhejiang University, so it was a bit like being dropped out by Aidai's Miyoshi campus in the middle of the night.

The next day I caught a series of buses into West Lake 西湖, and checked into the best room in the Youth Hostel there with a double bed all to myself and a beautiful shower, and screens which kept out mosquitoes, though there were not so many at that time. This is the road that runs along beside West Lake.



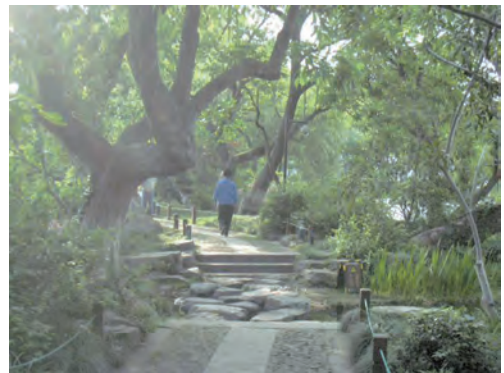
I set off to the Historical Museum which has been recently renovated and found the picture of Tom Staunton with the Emperor Qianlong. But the picture in the museum is just a photograph of the picture, so my photograph in the first attempt at this subject is just a photograph of a photograph. The Historical Museum is now a splendid building, but - and I may be wrong - there did not seem to be very much in it. I wondered what the story behind that is.

After that I caught a boat out to the San Tan Yin Yue 三潭印月 ('Three pools mirroring the moon') garden in the middle of



the lake. It really is a lovely place.

At that season there was the scent of orange blossom everywhere. This garden is one of the great gardens of the world. The actual land area is about an acre because it is all ponds and dykes...



The following day I caught the express train 高铁 from Hangzhou to Shanghai. It takes an hour.

(5) Days in Shanghai.

Below is a picture of the rose outside the Shanghai Museum. It is 'Old Blush' and one of the really important Chinese stud roses which were brought to England at the beginning of the 19th century. We have one in England in the kitchen garden.



And this is a picture of the tree on the staircase of the Youth Hostel behind the Marriot Hotel at Renmin Guangchang.



In Shanghai I visited the former Anglican Cathedral at Nanjing Donglu which has been painstakingly restored.....indeed is still being restored. Usually it is not possible to go in, but by chance I met a kind man from the 'Patriotic Church' who let me in and showed me round. One of my purposes was to see the Cathcart memorial stone which I did without realising it. The inscription on it is almost illegible but it's contents are now on their way to me from Peter Hibbard presently in England. Cathcart led an embassy to China before Macartney but died on the way before he got there.

I also visited the Xujiahui Bibliotheca 徐家匯, formerly the Jesuit library in

Shanghai established in 1847. It follows the layout of the Vatican Library and contains Western publications about China dating back to the 15th century. Recently it has acquired the Bjorn Lowendahl Collection from Europe, and I was able to look through the catalogue which has an excellent Forward by Han Qi. In the catalogue there were various works by Tom Staunton, and I was able to have a look at his translation of 'The Chinese Embassy to the Khan of the Tourgouth Tartars 1712-15', also a book of Miscellanea (printed by I.Skelton, Havant). Han Qi's forward to the catalogue in praise of Henri Cordier (1849-1925) the Frenchman, and George Morrison (1862-1920) the Australian, was also interesting. But for me the most exciting thing was to unexpectedly be introduced to meet Fu Lynn mentioned above.

From Xujiahui I went to Fudan University 复旦大学 and found Naran Bilik who immediately contacted Fu Lynn. She was a graduate student and I think had spent a year in Glasgow, and recently she had found a job in the National Museum in Beijing. Meanwhile she was translating Tom Staunton's diary of the Amherst embassy into Chinese (see above)

I had a very nice supper with Naran Bilik and his wife Yilina. I had not realised before how Mongolian they were. Words like 'Sain Bainu' (hallo) and 'Bayakhla' (thankyou) seemed to turn them into different people. China is indeed an international society. And after dinner we went to collect their bicycles from the back gate of Fudan and I saw that it was still the same nice university

that had existed before the skyscraper was built at the front.

Later I went to the Shanghai Museum several times. It has various excellent collections. This time I was interested in the coins and the furniture and the calligraphy, especially the calligraphy.

This calligraphy is in the Shanghai Museum and I wondered what it said and why it was so much admired. Since then I think I have made some progress.

It is called Ku Sun Tie 苦笋帖 ("Bitter bamboo shoots letter"). It was written by one of the two great calligraphers of the T'ang dynasty, Huai Su 怀素 (737-799) and is an early surviving example of cursive script,

described as 'wild, breathtakingly animated and unrestrained'. Huai Su was known as the 'drunk monk'. There were two of them 颠张醉素 'Crazy Zhang and drunk Su'.

It is an invitation to come and have a cup of tea with bitter bamboo shoots

苦笋及茗异常佳,乃可经来怀素白

"The bamboo shoots are bitter, but the tea is good. Please come as soon as possible. Regards Huai Su." it says.

The seals are of the people who appreciated the calligraphy and they include the seal of the Qianlong emperor (more that a thousand years later). This is the oval shaped seal (top left). It is a little hard to decipher but it contains the characters 乾隆



御藍之宝 which mean 'Qianlong appreciated this treasure'. It is the same Qianlong emperor who welcomed Macartney and the Stauntons.

I didn't know which seal it was, but Koyama sensei at Aidai knew immediately and began to unravel it. Seals are interesting. It is one thing to write a character beautifully with a brush. It is another to carve a mirror image of the same character on a little block of marble.....I thought! Actually the characters on a seal are the older versions of the characters, like Egyptian hieroglyphs, and it is not as difficult to carve the mirror images as I expected. A friend in Seto Kamishinano Nagae Kazuyo 長江和代 had a go at the seal with a dictionary.

And why was this calligraphy so

admired? I thought it was because it is just a simple invitation. "Come and have a cup of tea. I'm looking forward to seeing you." To me, that is what is so special about it. But Koyama sensei noticed another seal which said 'This belongs to the Gods'. It is admired because it is so beautiful !! he said.

In the hostel in Shanghai I shared a room with a baker from Pondicherry in India who was attending a bakery congress in Shanghai. And I spoke with two French students who were studying the skyscrapers in Shanghai. And there was Aziz from Bradford - a very good snooker player - who was working as a financial consultant on, as he put it, inward investment into the UK. I guess he was helping Chinese to buy property in England. At the airport on the way out I spoke with an Australian who



worked for Weir, based in Glasgow. They were building nuclear power stations in China. He said that altogether the Chinese were going to build 120 nuclear power stations over the next eleven years.

After a trip to China like this, it is nice to be back in Japan and have time to think about it ! I must add one more picture.

Rather like the 'Bitter bamboo shoots letter' I have been thinking about this picture and asking myself why it is beautiful.

