

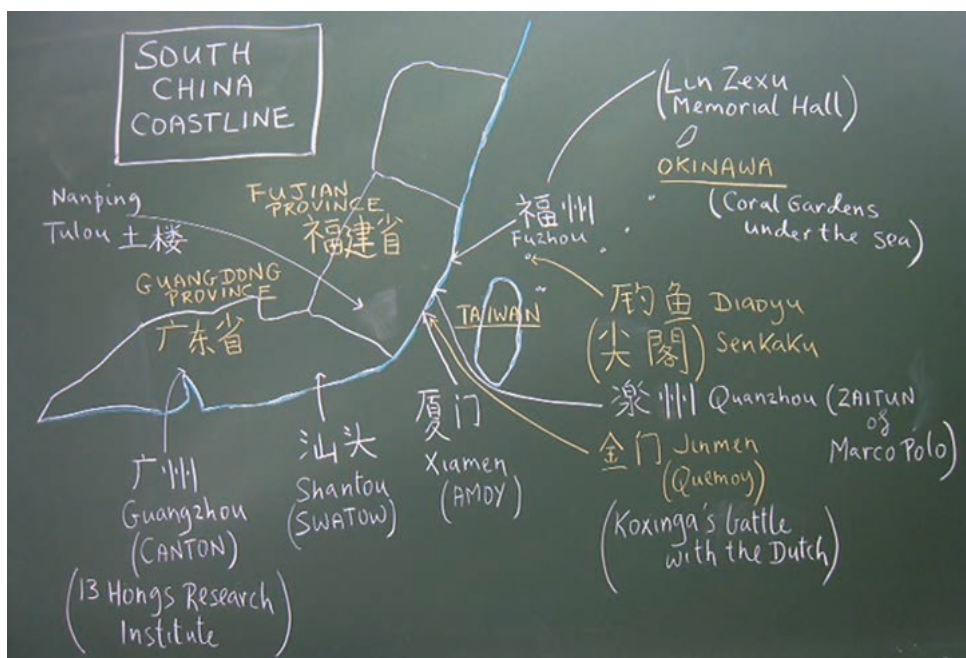
The Macartney Embassy to China 1792-1794, focusing on the part played by GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON. (Autumn explorations 2014 and 2015)

John Hamilton

キーワード : Embassy, Calligraphy, Pirates, Kowtow, Opium War, Shipwreck,
Smallpox Vaccination, Nuclear Physicist, Snorkel

要 約 : 私は福建省と广东省を訪問した。福建省では福州の林则徐紀念博物館、厦門 (AMOY) に行った。广东省では汕頭 (SWATOW) と廣州 (CANTON) の廣州大學 (廣州十三行研究所中心) を訪ねた。
イギリス国王から乾隆帝に宛てた手紙を代筆した George Thomas Staunton 少年のとても上手な漢字について、Macartney 施設団長は彼の日記で言及している。後年、成長した George Thomas Staunton は Lord Amherst に 1816 年に送った「決して中国の皇帝に叩頭してはいけない」と忠告した。

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1. The Cranmer-Byng edition of the Macartney diary

On October 30th, 2014 James Dugdale turned up in Shanghai Pudong bringing with him the Cranmer-Byng edition of the Macartney diary.

An Embassy to China

Being the Journal kept by Lord Macartney during his embassy to the Emperor Ch'ien-lung 1793-1794
Edited with an introduction and notes by J.L.Cranmer-Byng
Senior lecturer at the University of Hong Kong
Longmans 1962

He had got it from the London Library, 41 St James's Square. The original is with the Toyo Bunko in Tokyo. Since then, thanks to Amazon, I have got my own Folio Society copy.

Did the boy Tom Staunton write the letters with the beautiful lettering?

In my first article on this subject I wrote that the letters held by the Royal Asiatic Society in London were the ones that Tom Staunton copied from during the embassy. And that his versions are now perhaps somewhere in the archives in Beijing. Friends in both China and Japan thought that the calligraphy was just too good for a 12 year old English boy. However it looks as though we are all wrong. Well, maybe we are not quite wrong! I quote here from the Cranmer-Byng edition of Macartney's diary.

First there are some notes by Cranmer-Byng.

*When Macartney wished to obtain an interpreter to accompany the embassy to China he had some difficulty in finding anyone. Eventually Staunton went to Naples where he found two Chinese, Paolo Cho and Jacobus Li, who had completed their training for the priesthood. They were members of

the Chinese College at Naples which had been founded in 1732 by Father Matteo Ripa and was directed by the Congregation De Propaganda Fide. In exchange for a passage to China the two priests were to act as interpreters to the embassy, being qualified to interpret between Chinese and Italian or Latin. Nyan and Vang were two further Chinese priests from the college who Staunton had agreed to transport home.

As related Padre Cho went ashore at Macao but declined to continue with the embassy. He arrived in Peking at the end of September, having travelled overland. Jacobus Li, however, served Macartney faithfully throughout, and coped with the difficult job of sole interpreter. He tried to serve Macartney's interests and to represent his point of view as strongly as possible, but he must have felt somewhat constrained in the presence of the great officials with whom Macartney conversed. Once or twice Macartney says that his interpreter refused to be intimidated. According to young Staunton, Li had a brother, a Mandarin with a blue button, who arrived at Peking on 30 September 1793.

* George Thomas Staunton (1781-1859). During the outward voyage young Staunton picked up the elements of the Chinese language from the two Chinese priests, Cho and Li, who were accompanying the ambassador as interpreters. He was received in audience by the Emperor at Jehol (14 September 1793) and kept a diary while in China, part of which has survived in manuscript. In 1798 Staunton became a writer in the East India Company's factory in Canton, and in 1804 a Supercargo. He

inherited his father's title in 1801. In 1808 he was appointed interpreter and in 1816 became President of the Select Committee. In the same year he accompanied Lord Amherst on his abortive embassy to Peking. In 1817 he retired from the company's service in Canton and settled in England. He became a member of Parliament and was often consulted by the Government on Chinese affairs. While in Canton he translated the Ta-ch'ing lu-li, the Statutes and Rescripts of the Ch'ing dynasty. This work was a codification of the customs, precedents and laws of China in existence when the code was promulgated. In 1823 he cooperated with H.T.Colebrooke in founding the Royal Asiatic Society.

And here is Macartney:

Thursday, 29 August. This day I put up the state canopy, and Their Majesties' pictures in the presence chamber, and delivered my paper relative to the ceremonial to be transmitted to Jehol. I had a good deal of difficulty in persuading Father Raux to get it translated into Chinese and to put it into the proper diplomatic form, so much is every person here afraid of intermeddling in any state matter without the special authority of Government; and he only consented on condition that neither his writing nor that of his secretary should appear, but that I should get it copied by some other hand. Little Staunton was able to supply my wants on this occasion, for having very early in the voyage begun to study Chinese (language) under my two interpreters, he had not only made considerable progress in it, but he had

learned to write the characters with great neatness and celerity, so that he was of material use to me on this occasion, as he had been already before in transcribing the catalogue of presents.

Saturday, 23rd November. Leave Yu-san-chien and proceed down the river, which is about 80 yards wide, shallow and rapid, with steep and well wooded banks on either side.

I delivered to the Viceroy the note of compliment, which he had suggested to me the idea of, to be transmitted with his letter to Peking. Observing the character of the writing to be remarkably neat, he enquired who had transcribed it, and when I informed him that it was little George Staunton, he would scarcely believe that a boy of 12 years old could have already made such progress. Nor was he perfectly satisfied till he had actually seen him add, at the bottom of the paper in Chinese characters, that it had been written by him.

January 1794.....We are quite ignorant of their language (which, I suppose, cannot be a very difficult one, for little George Staunton has long since learned to speak it and write it with great readiness, and from that circumstance has been of infinite use to us on many occasions). We therefore almost entirely depend on the good faith and good nature of the few Chinese whom we employ, and by whom we can be but imperfectly understood in the broken gibberish we talk to them. I fancy that Pan-ke-qua or Mahomet Soulem would attempt doing business on the Royal Exchange to very little purpose if they appeared there in long petticoat clothes,

with bonnets and turbans and could speak nothing but Chinese or Arabic.....

Conclusion: Sir George Staunton's son, a boy of twelve years old, during our passage from England learned, in a few broken lessons from a very cross master and by his own attention, not only such a copia verborum and phraseology as enabled him to make himself understood, and to understand others when he arrived in China, but acquired such a facility in writing the Chinese character, that he copied all our diplomatic papers for the Chinese Government (the Chinese writers being afraid of their hands being known) in so neat and so expeditious a manner as to occasion great astonishment among them. And here in confirmation of what I have said above, let me observe that this young gentleman possesses already five languages, English, Latin, Greek, French, Chinese, a thing scarcely to be paralleled at so early an age.

So, were the letters held by the Royal Asiatic Society in London written by twelve year old Tom Staunton or are these the ones he copied? The only way to find out is to go to the archives in Beijing and find the letters they received if they are still there. This I have not been able to do, but certainly somebody could have a go.

2. Fuzhou 福州 : the Lin Zexu 林则徐 Memorial Museum

It was Lin Zexu 林则徐 who took on the British down in Guangzhou, and this led to the Opium War.

I was interested in his letter to Queen

Victoria, what it said, and how it looked in the Chinese original. Unfortunately the museum failed me. However on display there were photographs of the 'wicked' Englishmen, James Mathieson (1796-1898), William Jardine (1785-1843), Lancelot Dent.....also (separately) Viscount Melbourne (William Lamb)



There were some lovely waterlilies in the museum pond there.



3. Taimushan大姥山 (Tea)

Taimushan is famous for tea. We enjoyed having tea with the manager of the hotel there.

The granite rocks of the mountain were quite different from the limestone at Guilin. I

was told that they inspired a wholly different school of Chinese landscape painting.

Up on the mountain here was a shed selling drinks, with a colony of Cerana bees (中峰 zhongfeng in Chinese, 日本蜜蜂 nihonmitsubachi in Japanese) flying in and out to a nest in the shed over the shoulders of the people selling the drinks. Near to Taimushan we saw very large oranges called Miyou 蜜柚 for the first time.

4. Quanzhou 泉州 and visit to Chongwu 崇武.

Zaitun was the great port from which Marco Polo left China to return to Venice in about 1293. He uses the Arabic name Zaitun which means 'Olive'. There is a famous street Tumenjie 涂门街 with a mosque, or the ruins of a mosque, called Qingjingsi 清净寺 built in 1009, and around there, there were streets with canals and interesting antique shops, and we also found a shop selling tanks full of fish and corals. There has been a lot about the Chinese taking away all the coral in the Japanese newspapers recently.



After that we visited the Maritime

Museum 海外交通史博物館 where there was an extraordinary collection including a Christian tombstone in the Basba language of the Yuan period, many Muslim graves, a Manichaeian bowl, a modern life size statue of Ibn Battuta, MAZU God of the Sea, model boats, and collection of knots used.

And finally we had a glimpse of the temple complex of Kaiyuansi 蝕坏紡 with its stone pagoda, and a Daoist temple Yuanmiaoguan 元妙观 with its carved pillars, and almost became involved in an evensong in the cloister at Chengtiansi 成天寺。

We also visited the port of Chongwu 崇武, about two hours on an uncomfortable bus from Quanzhou. It was from here that the admiral Qi Jiguang 戚继光 fought against the Japanese pirates called Wako 和子. Today it is a famous place for stone carving with a permanent exhibition in the park running all along the seafront. There were some very fine stone elephants...The themes of the many of the collections of sculpture were literary. For example there were all the characters in the novel Outlaws of the Marsh. There were also the Black Cat and the White Cat of the Deng Xiaoping 邓小平 era.

But for me the most interesting thing about Chongwu were the fishing boats, because from them I just got the feeling that this WAS the pirate coastline. However, there was not much here directly relating to the Staunton story. For the Zaitun story of Marco Polo it is well worth reading his account in the Travels.....!



5. Xiamen (AMOY) and also Gulangyu (music)

Here in Xiamen we were welcomed at the beautiful campus of Xiamen University 厦门大学 by Prof. Zhang Xianqing 张先清. In the Faculty Restaurant I had an interesting encounter with a chemist from Jerusalem. These days a lot of people in Israel are interested in China.

We also visited the Lushun museum which is housed by the university, and student dormitories built during the 1930s.

As I understood it, the founder of the university had made a fortune in Indonesia. There were many foreign students there. In one of the ferry queues we met an American girl, African-American, who was a member of the Xiada Women's Rugby team. She had just been playing. I think she played in the middle of the scrum as she was not too tall.

Kind Professor Zhang helped us to buy tickets for the bus to the Tuluo the next day.

Xiamen was one of the Treaty Ports opened after the Opium War. It was a kind of small Hong Kong, though today it is not

so small, and for about 100 years (1843-1949) the foreign community there lived on the island of Gulangyu.

The foreigners have now gone and it has been turned into tourist resort. Couples come to have their wedding photographs taken in front of the Western Style buildings. People come not only from all over China, but also from all over Southeast Asia. We were able to have very good breakfasts in the street. Once we found ourselves at the same table as a mother and 10 year old son from Shanghai. What is your name? My name is Jesus, he said. So we were James and John and Jesus! On another occasion we were having lunch in a little restaurant when we were joined by a family from Beijing, grandfather and grandmother, daughter and son-in-law. The grandfather showed us his army ID. It had the characters Bayi 八一 on it somewhere. JD asked 'How many stars?' Four....so he was a general. And the son-in-law was Manchurian. 'We used to be the rulers of China.' JD asked, "Are you married? None of you are wearing rings. Do you have wedding rings?".....I have their address and QQ number in Dongzhemen so I might try to look them up next time in Beijing.

The island has a piano museum in what used to be a beautiful garden beside the Beach (The Shuzhuang Huayuan 菽庄花园) There is also an organ museum. When the missionaries left they didn't take their organs and pianos with them, so they have been collected together. In fact it was a very musical island. Somewhere I read that Western music entered China through Amoy.

There is also the Koxinga Museum called the Zheng Chenggong Jinianguan (郑成功纪念馆) magnificently housed in a splendid building with very fine Western Style oil paintings of the Dutch defeat at the sea battle very close by in the bay south of Jinmen.



6. The Hakka Tuluo at Nanjingxian 南靖县的土楼

These were the fortified farmhouses of the Hakka people. James commented that they were rather like the Globe theatre. The ones we visited have recently been made part of a World Heritage site.

Much of the fun of this outing was meeting the other people on the bus. How we communicated I'm not quite sure. We had lunch with a family, one of whom was a Maths teacher. So JD chimes up, "Who was the Chinese mathematician who calculated π ? Everybody dived for their mobile phones. Yes, it was Zu Chongzhi 祖冲之..... And there was a Chinese girl from Toronto called Nelly. Her real name was Niobium. JD liked that. Later we met up again with another family from the bus on Gulangyu, and the son who lives in Shanghai has

written to me since about the Hakka people.

The bus went through banana plantations. The red bananas from the stalls were particularly delicious. There were also more of the very large oranges 蜜柚, and as we got higher, tea, and very small rice paddies on the hillsides. At the Tulou JD spotted a colony of Cerana bees in the wall of the Tulou fending off an attack by large wasps by 'shimmering'. It was very difficult to photograph this shimmering. And inside the Tulou, the girls, besides selling honey were selling blocks of rock honey seemingly collected by a quite different bee. I bought a block with the comb attached and I am still trying to find out what it is. The girls were also offering cups of very very good tea.



On the return bus journey we stopped at a coffee company and I was able to take photographs of the coffee bushes for my history of plants course in Japan.

In Xiamen, except for the last night, we stayed mostly in the Hostel on Gulangyu 鼓浪屿 both in deluxe rooms and also dormitory beds. I tried both. JD preferred the deluxe which was quite reasonable. On the last night I shared a dormitory with just one other, a girl from Guangzhou who was training to be a florist in a shop in Gulangyu.

In the middle of the night we were attacked by mosquitoes, as I had been before. I tried lighting a coil but it didn't work. She then turned on the air conditioning, and that did work, and we had a good night's sleep.

7. George Thomas Staunton's diary of the Amherst embassy 1816

Notes of Proceedings and Occurrences during the British Embassy to Peking in 1816

Published by Havant Press. Printed 1824 by Henry Skelton West Street Havant.

(For Private Circulation only)

This is 'not a work prepared for the public eye but merely a series of notes written during a very interesting journey' GTS

(It contained no pictures, no maps and no Chinese characters.)

I did not know that this diary existed and had actually been published in a very limited edition in Havant. I met a girl at Fudan University in Shanghai called Fu Lynn who had recently translated the whole thing into Chinese and she sent me a copy of the English version from which she had worked, which she had got from the British Library. Here is a precis of the diary.

On June 4th 1816 Lord Amherst's embassy was announced to the acting Viceroy in Canton. Ellis was appointed as the 'back up ambassador' and Morrison was the chief interpreter. It is not clear whether Staunton of the East India Company was to

go at all.

But then a letter arrived to say that they were awaited.

Morrison translated the Regent's letter into Chinese and GTS checked it. A new abstract of presents was made and also a list of members of the embassy. The purpose of the embassy was to strengthen the alliance between the two courts. The Emperor hoped to see them at Yuan Ming Yuan before he went to Jehol. Will they Kowtow? Staunton writes a letter saying 'Don't Kowtow.' One of the Mandarins remembered GTS as a child with the previous embassy.

The LETTER ABOUT THE KOWTOW went as follows:

H.M.S. Alceste, 8th Aug. 1816

My Lord,

Your lordship having done me the honor to desire my opinion relative to the expediency of a compliance with the Chinese ceremony of prostration, in reference to the effect it may have on the British character and interests at Canton, I beg to state that I feel strongly impressed with the idea that a compliance therewith will be unadvisable, even though the refusal should be attended with the hazard of the total rejection of the embassy.

I am fully sensible of the importance of the objects of the present mission: but I cannot bring myself to believe that their attainment would in the smallest degree be promoted by the compliance in question; and the mere reception (it could hardly be called honourable reception) of the Embassy, would I think be too dearly purchased by such a sacrifice.

There are some expedients by which the chief objections against the ceremony would be removed, but I am persuaded that the Chinese government is more likely to wave the ceremony, than to accede to any arrangement of that nature, that could be accepted as satisfactory.

I have the honor to be, with respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant.

(signed) GEORGE THOMAS
STAUNTON.

It was one year after Waterloo. The mandarins tried to persuade them to kowtow. The Emperor in red ink objected to their musicians. The ships having left the embassy, then disappear. The Chinese side wanted to know where they had gone. They were following the precedent of the previous embassy, the embassy told them. They couldn't stay on an unsafe anchorage. The interpreter was blamed over the kowtow. GTS was blamed. They kowtowed before, the Chinese side said. Only if the Chinese ambassador prostrated himself in front of the English King or his picture would they kowtow, was the embassy's answer. The legate refused to submit anything like this to the Emperor. Trackers were not paid. There was not enough food. Manchus arrived to demand they practice the Kowtow. The Chinese side was preparing a letter to dismiss the embassy. GTS continued to argue against the kowtow. Suddenly the mandarins gave way and they were off to Yuan Ming Yuan. What a surprise! They were going to meet the Emperor in three days time.....After travelling all night on rough roads they found themselves surrounded by a crowd of mandarins to

meet the emperor one day early. Amherst asked for a postponement.....They were all exhausted, and in no fit state for an audience.....Next, they were going to be dismissed, to be sent away....the emperor would accept just three presents, and give three.....the Duke was blamed for mismanaging everything. They would have to carry all the presents back overland. The Emperor had gone north to Jehol so they would not be recalled. They proceeded down the Grand Canal through Shandong. They hoped to visit Nanjing. It was very hard work for the trackers and the boat men. They were travelling 'under the frown of the government' said Morrison.

On the journey back.....Mr Hayne bought two cormorants which managed to catch a frog. The British celebrated the anniversary of Trafalgar. The gate of Nanking was slammed in their face. But then the Legate allowed them to go in. They didn't get any exercise if they stayed on the boats, so they had to go for walks. GTS attended a class in a school - mainly learning by heart he noted. He gave the teacher a pencil. They celebrated Guy Fawkes day by letting off crackers. Altogether they were a flotilla of about 100 boats. It was going to be difficult to get the presents over the mountains. The Emperor's edict was pinned up everywhere but nobody took much notice of it. They visited a Confucius temple. GTS remembered that the family of one of the Hong merchants in Canton had got his tablet into a temple and it was thrown out because he had used violence, devoted his life to trade, and had more than one wife. It was not so easy to get your tablet into a Confucian temple, GTS noted. Lord Amherst offered a military

parade and firing of a salute in the custom of our country to celebrate the Emperor's birthday but it was declined. They had a game of cricket, then more cricket before crossing the Meilin Mountains. Sometimes the Mandarins conducting the embassy had more comfortable boats than the embassy. The embassy ships reached Whampoa.

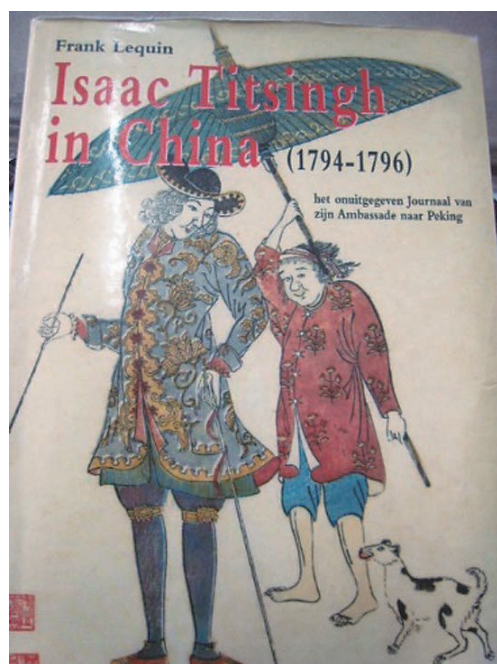
8. Again at the 13 Hongs Institute in Guangzhou University.

In November 2015, a year later, I had Winston Churchill for company, Volume 2 of the History of the English-speaking Peoples, and what good company, nearly as good as James Dugdale on the previous trip. The four volumes in paperback had been in the wheelbarrow on the way to the bonfire after the Lordington fete, and I thought, "No, I can't do that" and rescued them, and put them in my luggage for Japan. Later I used Volumes 3 and 4 in Canada and found a Canadian cousin who also read Churchill.

And on this trip I also had a collection of short stories by Irene Chang. I had never heard of her until the week before. These were love stories set mainly in HongKong in the 1930's, rather complicated and not brilliant in English translation. However I found that she is very widely read in China. The students at Guangzhou University laughed at me when I said that I had read three of her short stories on the plane. Nobody in England has heard of her, but millions in China have read her stories.

I got on the Guangzhou underground,

then a bus, and with the very clear instructions from Cai Xiangyu reached the university safely. Students from the bus had telephoned them to say I had arrived. One of the students gave me his phone number, said he had a coffee grinder and could make me a very good cup of coffee. Cai Xiangyu 蔡香玉 is currently translating Frank Lequin's 'Isaac Titsingh in China 1794-1796' from Dutch into Chinese. Since Isaac Titsingh spent a lot of time in Nagasaki on Dejima before this, I felt inspired to go down to Nagasaki again.



It was good to see them again. Her husband Yan Qiang 闫强 had managed to get a transfer from Chongqing to Guangzhou and they were buying a flat across the river. We could see the building from the 13 Hongs Research Centre (广州大学广州十三行研究中心) though which building it was, I was not quite sure. I had been in Chongqing in May but I hadn't realised he was there, which was rather a pity.

On the first day in Guangzhou which was Sunday we went to visit the museum in the recently reconstructed Downtown. Both library and museum are fine new modern buildings and the opera house shaped like a pebble on the beach is also interesting. A lot of good gardening work has been done and it was well maintained. The museum itself is state of the art. I liked the Yuan dynasty map on what looks like a very large iPad screen. It seemed that it could be blown up indefinitely, never losing the focus. Also of interest to me were the beautiful plates salvaged from a shipwrecked junk off an island close to Shantou (南澳一号沉船) The junk had been wrecked about 1600 and found in 2007. There were more than 30,000 plates and bowls in it. Probably they came from somewhere in Fujian. Here is a photograph of the diver.



There was also an exhibition of woodwork from Chaozhou 潮州. I particularly liked the Birthday Screens from Chaozhou giving the history of someone's life. I would quite like to do something like this for myself....not saying what a fine person I have been....but showing some of the curious situations I have found myself in.....instead of a portrait of the old man, it was a kind of (auto) biographical screen.

On the second day in Guangzhou, Monday, I gave a talk about GTS to the students in Cai Xiangyu's class on International history, using as much Chinese as I could, which was not enough, but she explained what I was trying to say. The students seemed to enjoy this and asked some good questions. If I do this again I shall prepare much more thoroughly beforehand, but then maybe it would not have the same spontaneity. It was not helped by my having downloaded a whole lot of new software into my iPad which had shuffled up all my photographs. I was very happy to meet two of the other teachers connected to the 13 Hongs Institute, Wang Rui from Yunnan who specialises in art exported from Canton, and Liu Chang who had studied at Sussex University (English history 1700-1750). Liu Chang said that he came from Lanzhou, and studied for his first degrees in Nanjing.....At Sussex he took a Democracy and Human Rights class. He said that it was hard to meet any British at Sussex. All the students were from abroad. He said that there was a problem getting access to materials in the libraries. A lot of students went at night to photograph the books with digital cameras and get them into their computers that way. There was no other way.

9. The George Thomas Staunton translation of the Smallpox vaccination materials.

In the afternoon Zhang Wenqin 章文钦 from Zhongshan Daxue came to give a talk, the last of a series. He gave me two nice books that he had written about the 13

Hongs which I plan to give to the Staunton Country Park. Also he said that he was a friend of Tasaki sensei at Aichi University, and would I take Tasaki his best wishes. When I got back to Japan I met Tasaki sensei who remembered Zhang Wenqin from 30 years before quite well. Together they had worked on the introduction of smallpox vaccination techniques into China. I have copied the pages from Tasaki's articleThe translation was done by George Thomas Staunton in Canton (These materials come from the British Library.) If I ever get round to putting up an exhibition about GTS, this text with a translation from the Chinese back into English should be part of it. Basically it is about Smallpox, and Jenner's making of a vaccination from Cow pox, and how to inoculate.



Another aspect to the talk by Zhang was his comparison of the foreign factories in Canton, with what was happening in Japan at Dejima in Nagasaki. And this ties in with Titsinger, the Dutchman's long stay in Japan. Zhang also brought books "Views of the Pearl River Delta Macao. Canton Hong Kong. In it there were some fine pictures of the factories at Canton painted on fans which I photographed.



Cai Xiangyu wrote her doctoral thesis in Leiden and I have it in my iPad.

The title was:

"Christianity and gender in Southeast China: the Chaozhou missions."

She comes from Chenghai 澄海 near to Shantou 汕头. The old city in this area is Chaozhou 潮州 which is further inland. Shantou (pronounced SWATOW in Teochew language) was one of the Treaty Ports opened to foreigners after the Second Opium War. I wanted to go to this area on my way to Xiamen

I will just make a slight digression here on my understanding of the Chinese economy at grassroots.

In Japan when I return from a trip like this the university research support office likes me to give them the receipts of my hotel expenses, and for bus and train tickets, exchange receipts from the Banks.....so that they can refund me the research expenses as accurately as possible.

At Guangzhou University, thanks to Cai Xiangyu, I stayed for three nights in the accommodation for overseas students. It was comfortable (mosquitoes could not get in) and not expensive (100RMB) and there was WIFI. I always carry a reading light so that was not a problem either. But at the end of

my stay there was no receipt. I don't mind this. There were no doubt good reasons for this internal to the university.

Next there was the bus ticket from Guangzhou to Shantou. Inside the bus station, the ticket cost 160 RMB. But I got on the bus at the first stop outside the bus station, and I paid for the ticket on the bus which cost 80 RMB a little while later, it was not a proper ticket, so in the end I had no evidence of what I had paid.

I had changed some money when I first arrived in the airport. In Shantou, with Lin I again changed Japanese Yen into RMB at the Bank of China. He had an account there. So I gave him the ¥30,000 and the money was paid into his RMB account and he refunded me. I got the best deal this way. And again I had no evidence of what I had done.

The buses these days are not quite so crowded, but sometimes it is not possible to get on at the front entrance so people get on at the back (where people normally get off) and then pass their cards up the bus to pay for their tickets at the front. I was part of a chain like this on several occasions.

Just before I visited China, Xi Jinping had made a state visit to UK and was welcomed by the Queen and the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition (!) He got a much warmer welcome in England than he had received in America. And it seems that George Osbourne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wants to engage more deeply with the Chinese economy, human rights

issues notwithstanding. He is quite right I think, but the warning is, don't expect the Chinese economy to work in the same way as a European economy.....It is different and not all bad either.

10. Shantou/汕头 (SWATOW)

My first visit to Shantou 汕头 was full of interest. The name is pronounced Swatow in the local dialect, the old name still being used in Japan and in Europe sometimes. In Guangzhou, in the unofficial bus station opposite to the official one, I enjoyed watching another passenger making tea in the Shantou way. It is called Gongfu cha 工夫茶. Here is a picture, and later I got myself a little travelling set because it is a good way to make tea. The passenger who had been making tea took care of me on the bus. Even though I didn't need help, I might have done. The bus stopped in a Service Area for 15 minutes which was long enough to have lunch. The WC's have improved in China. The one in the Service Area actually had running water, working through a pipe used for irrigation.



Lin Li 林立 was there in Shantou waiting to meet me. He was driving a Skoda Octavia

which was rather reassuring (Asser in Cairo had been driving a Skoda).

He had booked me into a hotel beside the river, which was very comfortable, and also economical. I noticed that the number plate for that part of Guangdong, maybe for all of Guangdong, was 粤 'yue'; there had been an ancient kingdom called Nanyue. On the way there we visited the former Japanese Consulate. In the hotel there was a shop selling lace tablecloths. From the hotel there was a fine view of the boats on the river, including a nice looking yacht tied up to the jetty below the hotel. I wondered who it belonged to, how it came to be there.

The next day we went to the QIAOPI Museum. Qiaopi 侨批 are letters (with remittances) from Chinese who had gone abroad mostly to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Hong Kong. Sometimes they couldn't write, so professional letter writers wrote the letters for them. The money came in different currencies - Mexican dollars, US dollars, Silver Yuan etc. This collection had been put together by Zhang Meisheng who I met later in the day. Basically this part of China exported people. One currently famous descendant is Thaksin, the Thai politician. In the museum there were baskets for luggage, also baskets with tea utensils. It was the people from Swatow who built the railways in America. The word 'Coolie' comes from the Chinese 苦力 kuli which means 'suffering' and 'strength'.

Near the museum was a section of old SWATOW, very delapidated and overgrown now, which used to be the city centre. It has not been restored like Gulangyu in AMOY. But it is picturesque and there were even

some artists sketching around the pavilion. Seemingly it is just being allowed to fall down. Gulangyu has been turned into a tourist destination but not old Swatow yet. Swatow was one of the Treaty ports after the Second Opium War.

I went with Lin Li to the old port of Zhanglin 张林古港 in Chenghai 澄海 the city next to Shantou. Just inside the village, or actually collection of villages, was a temple to the sea goddess Mazu 妈祖. The priestess was there with her 'family', and we sat down to tea with them. She was by way of being a medium. She had told her family in the morning that a foreigner would come, and now I had just walked in off the street. They looked quite shocked and seemed to be afraid of her.....The village houses had little gardens overlooking the canal and at intervals there were landing stages. Also a line of Qing dynasty loos was pointed out to me. Further on there was an abandoned school. It had been built inside a temple built apparently in the reign of Emperor Jiaqing, the buildings still roofed but the courtyards overgrown. I thought that the plaques by the entrance would have given some clue about it but they seemed to be simply congratulatory. Possibly they protected the temple against evil spirits (were mayoke 魔除け in Japanese.) I had some help with these from Koyama sensei in the teachers room in Toyohashi. He could manage to decipher six out of eight of the characters for certain, and for the last two I am still looking for help! Both Koyama sensei and Tasaki sensei who I meet there on Friday are in my opinion not just Aidai's treasures but 'Living National Treasures' "人間国宝"

for all of Japan.

It was a pleasure to be with Lin Li 林立. With him I enjoyed some of the best noodles I have ever eaten in China. Swatow cooking especially of fish is famous. Actually this whole area has the feeling of France. Everybody parks on the pavements. In the evening he took me up to Chaozhou 潮州 north of Shantou. All the way he had Chaozhou Opera playing in the car. He was a friend of the woman who was singing who is now an old lady. Chaozhou also, with its cobbled roads, was a bit like Paris. I would like to spend more time in this part of China. There was something of Javanese Gamelan, something of Okinawa yunta, in the music we listened to in the car.

Lin Li put me on the bus for Xiamen 厦门 (from inside the bus terminal this time!) and I arrived there safely a few hours later and made my way to the Youth Hostel close to the university which had been a building site when I went there with James Dugdale the year before. The next day I had a very good lunch in the teachers' club at Xiada 厦大 with the gracious Zhang. The teachers' club there should be a model for one at the Aichi University campus which is now being built in Sasashima. At the moment we all have to go and eat at the JICA Cafe Crossroads. Zhang was interested in the Staunton explorations. I had hoped also to explore the musical history related to Gulangyu but Meg and Bogdan had not come up with a letter to connect me with Julian Jacobson the pianist who is a visiting professor at Xiamen University.

At the Youth Hostel I had two interesting encounters. In the bunk above me was a budding Nuclear Physicist called Paul Smith on Facebook (we are now friends.) During the week he was working on the Construction of the Nuclear Power Station at 东山内湾 and living by the sea in the south of Fujian, and at weekends he was doing a Masters at 厦大. He was reading a book 'Memories of Chernobyl' by a famous Ukrainian writer Svetlana Alexievich (Nobel Prize for literature).....

Also at the hostel I talked with a wandering Israeli called Michael Druk. He had been born in Kharkiv in the East Ukraine, raised in Golan, and had avoided military service because of his health. The following day he was taking a ferry to Jinmen 金门 and from there a plane on to Taipei. Jinmen is Quemoy. He told me that it was only half-an-hour on the ferry from Xiamen. I had not realised it was so close. I wanted to go there for various reasons. First, the bay to the south of Jinmen was the site of the sea battle between Zheng Zhilong and the Dutch in 1633, the battle of Liaoluo Bay (Photograph above). It was also the place where battles took place in 1954-5 and also in 1958 between the PRC and the Nationalists on Taiwan.

The girl at the hostel told me that I could take the ferry from Wutong 五通 on the north side of Xiamen to Jinmen. I could catch a bus to the city centre (1RMB) and then another bus out to Wutong (1RMB). So off I went. In the city centre nobody seemed to know which bus went to Wutong, but then I found a party of grannies who were going for a day out to the Wutong Lighthouse park. The bus was crowded

with about 120 people all on days out, all talking excitedly, tickets flowing up and down the bus from the door at the back. I was part of the theatre. Thus I got to the lighthouse at Wutong and walked through the park to the ferry terminal beyond. In the crowded terminal I made friends with a Dutch IT consultant from Shanghai. He had flown down from Shanghai that morning. In Holland he had got a double entry visa for thirty days each visit, so he needed to go out of China and come back again for the second visit. A trip to Jinmen could all be done in one day.Gradually I realised that I wasn't going to get there even though Jinmen was only a 30 minute ferry ride away. The girl at the desk who looked at my passport confirmed that yes I could go to Jinmen, no problem, but since I had a one entry visa to China, I might not be able to come back. Technically Taiwan and China are all one country. That is the view in Beijing and the view in Taipei. I am still not certain even now whether I would have been able to return, but I thought best not to put it to the test because I was going to return to Japan the next day.





This print of Amoy was under the bed of my brother-in-law Stephen Codner in Chichester in England !

11. Conclusions relating to this article

Okinawa in Japan is opposite to Fujian. The bougainvillea is in flower in both. I have always loved Okinawa. And in this series of articles I wanted to take a look at the other side of the East China Sea. I had met Miki sensei, the architect and painter, on the island of Taketomi in Yaeyama in 1978, and since then I have been to Okinawa many times usually to study beekeeping activities on the islands. I have been up around Nago - I saw a Yambaru Kuina at Oshitai (!) - and I found a big swarm of bees on Iejima where bees had been used to pollinate

pumpkins, and also I went to a big apiary at Yomitan son. I have been beekeeping in Taiwan too where I was helped by the people at the research station in Miaoli. and I visited Nantou where the bees collect pollen from the tea bushes.....and to places in Taiwan where they specialise in Royal Jelly collection.....While on Taketomi I swam along the the coral reef with a snorkel, so I know that some of the most beautiful gardens in Japan are out there under the grey sea.....in Okinawa. That is why I have put in the photograph of the tank full of coral.

And in the middle of the East China Sea are the Senkaku Islands 尖閣諸島 or Diaoyu Tao 钓鱼島 as they are called in Chinese. It is a curious thing how these islands have recently become the focus of Chinese Japanese relations at the highest

level. Nobody lives on them. I am told by Angus Macindoe of Aidai that they are one of the two nesting places of the Albatross 阿呆鳥／信天翁 (Both are pronounced 'Ahodori' meaning 'idiot bird' but I think that the second lot of kanji are the correct ones for 'albatross' and they don't mean 'idiot'). Reinhardt Drifte sent me his very considered article about the Senkaku issue. It is 60 pages long and brilliant. But I feel that he doesn't get to the root of the matter which is basically that the Chinese Government and Japanese Government need something like this to disagree about. I have a funny story about the Senkaku issue

I took Oliver Hamilton, my son, to stay with friends in Komoro, Nagano ken. After staying there on Sunday evening, we had to get up very early on Monday morning to get to my first class in central Nagoya. It was five thirty in the morning and I was driving, while Oliver who is a lawyer beside me was reading Reinhardt Drifte's article out loud sentence by sentence as we sped along towards Nagoya. We had to concentrate hard on every sentence..because it is quite hard to follow the thread of the argument.....Just before the Ena san tunnel there was a police patrol car beside us with a loudspeaker calling us into the side....."We have followed you for 10 km at at least 130 kmph ... " I had to go and sit in the police car. After signing the forms I got back into my car, but I found I had forgotten to turn off the lights, and the car would not start.....so the patrol car drew along side and we started it with jump leads.....In the end Reinhardt Drifte's cost me ¥18000, and also subsequently I had to watch a film on road safety when I applied to renew my

licence.....That is my Senkaku story.....If you read his paper, which is the best on the subject, you will see why my story is funny !

The Senkaku/ Diaoyu Tao issue is a kind of political construct. All it needs is a few Chinese fishermen waving red flags down by the islands (see the photograph above) along with a demonstration to commemorate the Nanjing Massacre in front of a Japanese department store in Shanghai, and in Japan everybody will vote for the Liberal Democratic Party and Mr Abe. The Senkaku issue is a stabilising factor in Japan. It is also useful in China. Wave the red flags at Senkaku, and it takes people's eyes away from other things that are happening in China, for instance what is happening out in Xinjiang. It is one thing to say that the Chinese Government has lost control of the Han minority in Xinjiangand I am not sure this is true.....but these days the Uighur people there are suffering greatly.....and that is serious and forgotten about.

12. My final article about Staunton.

I enjoyed writing these three papers. In England I live ten minutes by car from the Staunton Country Park. I used to teach at Oak Park School near there and I liked the people. Chris Bailey the chief horticulturalist at Staunton was so helpful and always welcoming, and from him I got to know many of the plants and trees in the Park, some of which had been planted by George Thomas Staunton.

In China I enjoyed my visit to Chengde (Jehol) where GTS knelt before the Emperor

Qianlong. In Beijing I was much helped by Yeh Nienlun and his brother Nienxian who live in Dianmen beside the Beihai Park which actually was a kind of Buckingham Palace for the Emperor Qianlong. Just across the road is the residence of his prime minister Heshen, now called Prince Gong's Mansion. Heshen is still out of favour. At Aichi University Angus Macindoe introduced me to the Yeh family. And Gau Mingjie introduced me to Zhang Haiyang at the University of Nationalities and through him I was able to meet Mayinu Shanatibieke and her sister Aynuer who lives in Xinjiang, Aksu an oasis city in the far west of China, on the other side of the Taklimakan desert. Xinjiang was conquered by Emperor Qianlong in the second half of the 18th century. And Aidai's Kuzuya sensei introduced me to Han Qi who helped me so much in Guangzhou and Xiamen. And through the Inukais in Nagoya Nakamura ku, I came to know Ultzii who lives in Darkhan, north of Ulan Battur, who took me to AMARBAYASGALANT KHIID, a remote Lama temple on the Russian border in Mongolia built by Emperor Qianlong. Up there I also saw the big yurts like the one in which Emperor Qianlong greeted the Macartney embassy. Lots of people helped me. Sugita sensei, my neighbour in Okazaki, gave me the haiku poems about Mube 郁子 (Stauntonia hexaphylla).

Many things need to be done to deepen this research, but they need money and time, and maybe in my retirement I will be able to do some of them. But at least I have been able to make a start. What do I think of George Thomas Staunton? Clearly

to meet he was a bit odd and very shy. He had a very strange education, organised by his father, to whom he spoke only in Latin, with no opportunity to meet with boys of his own age. There was his mother certainly, but later in life there don't seem to be any women, and he didn't have any children or grandchildren. He was a scholar and a merchant, also a diplomat. He and his father were in there at the beginning of the British relationship with China, which is a difficult relationship, and ongoing, and rewarding and great fun ! The British opened the place up in the end with gunboats. The Japanese tried to run it properly but it was too much for them. But now it is on its way and going quite well in more or less the right direction. I wonder what Macartney and the Stauntons would make of China today ?