

# THE OLD CHINA HAND GAZETTE

Issue No.12 - November 2008  
By Tess Johnston and Deke Erh

## Co-Authors/Editors

Deke Erh  
The Deke Erh Art Center  
Lane 210, No. 2B Taikang Lu  
Shanghai 200025, China  
dekeerh@han-yuan.com

Tess Johnston  
Old China Hand Research Service  
70 Donghu Lu, Bldg. 3, #201  
Shanghai 200031, China  
tessinshanghai@yahoo.com  
tessjohnston@ssbg.com.cn

## WHAT WE DO IN SHANGHAI

In our Gazettes we try to bring you up to date on Old China Hands' activities and on our own projects, books, and ongoing research. We also inform readers what kind of help we can offer to Old China Hands and to others who seek to research their families' lives here, or any other aspects of the Western presence, either in old Shanghai or in China's other (49!) former treaty ports.

There was no Old China Hand Gazette last year because we had a log jam – lots of books in progress but in 2007 and 2008 lots of travel and no time to finish the books. Thus none in 2007, but a record five in 2008: two sets written and/or edited by Tess and two new books by Deke (more on which later).

## OUR ARCHIVES

For anyone who wants us to look up businesses, home addresses, families, friends, neighbors, schools, churches, clubs, etc., Tess has some Hong Books (for all China), and a variety of Shanghai directories for the following years: 1921, 1923, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1939 and 1941 (the last pre-war one). For the postwar years, she has: 1944, 1948-49 and 1949 but they list only businesses, with no residential addresses; these are, however, covered in the English-language telephone directories for 1941 and 1949. (Tess also has a 1937 Hong Book and a 1939 Shanghai Directory in German.) Her map collection spans the 1920s and 1930s (but most are too large to photocopy). She also has 200+ detailed strip maps for 1947 showing all the buildings on every street in both the old concessions. (Only the old French Concession ones can be copied.)

Tess can photograph buildings and photocopy directory entries and mail copies to you (she has not gone digital, sorry). Although all of the Western cemeteries were long-ago destroyed, she has a listing of all the reproduced (who knows why?) Western tombstones in one cemetery here. (For a list of Shanghai's 80+ Jewish tombstones, contact Dvir Bar-Gal at shanghaijews@hotmail.com.)

Tess doesn't charge for any of this, but does hope for something in return. She is constantly scouring the old markets here for research material. The more she has the more she is able to assist readers and researchers. She especially treasures (and uses) manuscripts, diaries, letters, newspaper clippings, old maps, photos, theatre programs, etc. – anything that adds to her knowledge of expatriate life in China over the past 150 years.

Deke also has a large collection of old books, records, and other resources on both Shanghai and China's history, and is now assembling an archive of old pictures obtained from several newly-found sources. Deke and Tess are totally dedicated to preserving this valuable historical material for future generations. When Tess can no longer use it, most of her English-language material will go to the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. So in the future, look there for the "Johnston Collection" or visit Deke's Chinese archive at the Deke Erh Art Center.

#### **WHERE WE WENT**

In 2000 Deke started to become interested in China's more ancient history. His portfolio has now broadened to include the exploration of sites along the old Silk Road. He joined 12 Chinese archaeological expeditions to China's western deserts, where he also renewed an interest in the finds of Auriel Stein. Research on this broader spectrum has taken Deke to Mongolia, Iran/Persepolis, Egypt, Turkey, Bulgaria, and most recently to the Stein Collection located in the Academy of Social Sciences in Budapest.

As Tess continues to be interested primarily in Western architecture and its architects, her travels were less exotic: to the Modernist city of Asmara (Eritrea), the Art Nouveau Czernowitz (Ukraine), Berlin, and Silesia (once Germany, now Poland), Melbourne for the World Congress on Art Deco and, along with Deke – and thanks to the Hungarian Consulate General here – to both Budapest and Slovakia on the trail of the talented Shanghai architect Ladislaus Hudec. All of our travels will generate either exhibitions or books – and sometimes both – with a coffee-table volume on Hudec slated to come out next year.

#### **WHAT OLD CHINA HANDS ARE DOING**

Deke recently attended a Shanghai American School Alumni reunion in Boston, in order to solicit old photographs and documents and to record the histories of the 100+ attendees. He plans to incorporate the material about the Old China Hands who graduated prior to 1949 in yet another (the third) book in the Old China Hand Histories Series, also to come out next spring.

#### **ART DECO NEWS**

Following publication of our second book on Art Deco (**Art Deco - Shanghai and Miami Beach**), Tess was invited to present a Powerpoint lecture to the Art Deco Societies of Vancouver and Chicago. Officials from Miami Beach also visited Shanghai to see its Art Deco and the joint exhibition mounted at Deke's Art Center. (For further Art Deco news, log onto [www.artdecoinshanghai.com](http://www.artdecoinshanghai.com).)

#### **DEKE BRANCHES OUT**

The **Old China Hand Reading Room** at 27 Shaoxing Lu, a charming coffeeshop/bookstore/library in the heart of the former French Concession, now has a new branch. Deke has opened a larger salon in a local "Little Venice", the waterside village of Zhujiajiao, a tourist mecca some 20 kilometers west of Shanghai. The **Deke Erh Art Center** has also added a new branch, far from the burgeoning center of creativity and art at Lane 210 Taikang Lu in Shanghai. Also to the west of Shanghai, in the village of Jinze, you will now find the **Deke Erh Visual Art Center and Archives**. In a complex of old buildings located on the village's waterway, this new center will better serve researchers in the visual arts. It will also allow Deke to share with researchers a vast collection of historical material (in both Chinese and other languages) covering his two main areas of interest: (1) Western architecture and lifestyles in post-Opium Wars China; and (2) the history of the areas along the old Silk Road of western China and beyond, and the remnants left behind by the Chinese and foreigners who once traveled it.

## TESS'S TWO NEW BOOK SETS

### **TWO VIEW OF CHINA, edited by Tess: Missy's China – Letters from Hangchow, 1934-1937 by Doris ("Missy") Arnold.**

A "small town American girl" came with her family to live in China during a troubled era. In a memorable three years Missy wrote weekly letters home about her life in a small expat enclave surrounded by the culture and chaos of her host city. She is a keen observer of her little world, and her letters are rich in the minute details (and the humor) that enable her family (and the readers) to experience old China through her perceptive eyes.

### **Peking Sun, Shanghai Moon – Images from a Past Era by Diana Hutchins Angulo.**

A rare glimpse into the private lives of wealthy foreigners living in Peking and Shanghai. Through the eyes of a beautiful young girl we are caught up in the lives of wealth and privilege, of social activities and obligations, of the foreign community in China between 1920 and 1940. Supplemented by photographs from family albums and contemporary newspapers, she gives us an entrée into the glamorous expatriate world in the last frenetic days of pre-war Shanghai.

### **Lanes of Changing Fortunes – Six Shanghai Walks (2nd edition) and Patterns of the Past – Six More Shanghai Walks, by Barbara Green, Tess Johnston, Ruth Lear, Carolyn Robertson, Jos Snoodjik.**

This second walks guidebook augments last year's popular first volume with still more histories and anecdotes on the old Western buildings that grace the city's major boulevards and lesser lanes. Detailed walking itineraries, with coffee (and comfort) stops, are supplemented by both Deke's and the authors' photos from their favorite walks. These books also offer great reads for out-of-towners who cannot experience Shanghai for themselves.

### **DEKE'S TWO NEWEST**

Observing Shanghai ever expanding, Deke is producing a series of new books on the innovative architecture of its satellite towns. The first volume is entitled **DISCOVER QINGPU – SHANGHAI'S VIBRANT NEW TOWNSHIP**, with another volume in the works on Songjiang, another fast-growing satellite borough. A recent exhibition of Deke's stunning black and white photos of both old and new Shanghai and of the western areas of China garnered a great deal of enthusiasm (as well as print sales). This was followed by a tall (33cm. tall, 12cm. wide) volume featuring the best – a cross-section – of the images. Appropriately entitled **SHANGHAI VERTICAL**, it will come out the end of this year.

### **TWO STILL IN THE QUEUE**

Tess and Deke have temporarily shelved **FORGOTTEN PORTS**, covering sixteen of China's lesser ports that briefly flourished and then languished. Sadly, the photo album, **THE SECOND SHANGHAI WAR – SHANGHAI 1937** by Malcolm Rosholt is, alas, currently also shelved, following the death of the author.

### **OUR CURRENT BOOK LIST**

**SHANGHAI ART DECO** covers in 320 pages and nearly a thousand photos the wide range of Shanghai's Art Deco offerings. Its five chapters (Public Buildings, Apartments, Villas, Furniture, and Objects) are lavishly illustrated and offer historical background information in both English and Chinese.

**ART DECO – SHANGHAI AND MIAMI BEACH** features fifty photos of each city, chosen from the many that made up the two Art Deco exhibitions held in Miami and Shanghai. The text is in English with a Chinese introduction by Deke.

**A LAST LOOK, REVISITED – WESTERN ARCHITECTURE IN OLD SHANGHAI** provides an updated, expanded and evocative overview of Western architecture and expatriate lifestyles in one of the world's legendary cities. It also includes 1939 listings of Shanghai's old apartment houses, banks and clubs.

**NEAR TO HEAVEN – WESTERN ARCHITECTURE IN CHINA'S OLD SUMMER RESORTS** features Western buildings in the old hill stations, Kuling (Lushan), Kuliang, Kikungshan, Mokanshan, and the seaside resort Peitaiho. (Sold out)

**GOD AND COUNTRY – WESTERN RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE IN OLD CHINA** has contemporary photos of China's churches and synagogues plus old black and white ones of churches and church-sponsored hospitals and schools. There is a "Jewish Legacy" chapter plus a 77-page listing of Catholic and Protestant missions and missionaries in China in 1934.

**FAR FROM HOME – WESTERN ARCHITECTURE IN CHINA'S NORTHERN TREATY PORTS** covers Harbin, Dalny (Dalian), Tientsin, Chefoo, Tsingtao and Hankow north of the Yangtze River, with a supplemental listing of European and American business concerns and representatives who were operating in China and Hong Kong in 1928.

**THE LAST COLONIES – WESTERN ARCHITECTURE IN CHINA'S SOUTHERN TREATY PORTS** covers Shanghai, Ningpo, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, and the former British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Included as an annex is a 1936 Shanghai Trade Directory.

**HALLOWED HALLS – PROTESTANT COLLEGES IN OLD CHINA, generously illustrated** with both new and old photos and site plans, covers China's thirteen top universities, all founded by Protestant missionaries over the past 100 years.

**FRENCHTOWN SHANGHAI – WESTERN ARCHITECTURE IN SHANGHAI'S OLD FRENCH CONCESSION**, with old and new photos, is the most comprehensive of our books, covering the best buildings – plus a look into the lifestyle of the residents – in the most cosmopolitan of Shanghai's old foreign concessions.

**THE OLD VILLA HOTELS OF SHANGHAI** features Deke's contemporary photos of both the interiors and exteriors of nine of Shanghai's old mansions, all now converted into boutique hotels. Published for the local market, the captions and text are in both Chinese and English. (Sold out)

**EMIGRANTEN ADRESSBUCH.** Originally published in Shanghai in November 1939, this small replica contains the names, local addresses, cities of origin, and occupations of thousands of German and Austrian Jews who fled to Shanghai. (Sold out)

**And in our edited series of first-person narratives:**

**THAT LAST GLORIOUS SUMMER, SHANGHAI <-> JAPAN 1939** by **Rena Krasno.** During that summer in Japan, Rena's sympathetic observations of the Japanese people, along with their government's preparations for war, yield some of the most perceptive insights in English ever written on pre-war life in Japan.

**SHANGHAI BOY SHANGHAI GIRL – LIVES IN PARALLEL, by George Wang and Betty Barr.** In the 1920's and 1930's two children grew up in Shanghai, but only in the 1970's did their paths finally cross. This story of George, a poor Chinese boy, and Betty, a cosseted child of missionary parents, views life in old Shanghai from two totally different yet parallel perspectives.

**STRANGERS ALWAYS - A JEWISH FAMILY IN WARTIME SHANGHAI,** by Rena Krasno. This is the story of the young daughter of stateless Russian Jews, growing up in a tumultuous city in the 1930-1940s. The Jewish Times called it: "An engrossing eyewitness account...from her diary presents a unique description of daily life of the Jewish Community, especially in the time of the Japanese occupation of Shanghai."

**BETWEEN TWO WORLDS – LESSONS LEARNED IN SHANGHAI, by the same authors,** the sequel follows the lives of this Shanghainese and Shanghailander from 1949, where their first book ended, up to their marriage here 20 years ago.

**I LOVE CHINA,** edited by the same authors, is a series of 30 articles by Eleanor Margaret Wang, written from 1948-50 and 1978-83, during her tenure at the Shanghai Foreign Language Institute (where she taught from 1947 until her death in Shanghai in 1983). Few foreigners have written of those troubled decades so compellingly and with such keen insight as this British-born writer.

**MISSY'S CHINA – LETTERS FROM HANGCHOW, 1934-1937, by Doris Arnold.**

**PEKING SUN, SHANGHAI MOON, by Diana Hutchins Angulo.**  
(See descriptions under "Tess's Two New Book Sets" above.)

**LANES OF CHANGING FORTUNES – SIX SHANGHAI WALKS** (2nd edition) and **PATTERNS OF THE PAST – SIX MORE SHANGHAI WALKS,** by five authors. (See descriptions under "Tess's Two New Book Sets" above.)

**The Old China Hand Press also published these books by Deke, primarily for Chinese readers but with extensive English-language captions and text:**

**GOLDEN XUJIAHUI covers** Shanghai's old "Siccawei" district, formerly the site of Catholic mission activities and now a center for major business and retail ventures. It is lavishly illustrated with old and contemporary photographs.

**A TREASURE TROVE** covers a selection of exhibits from the new Shanghai Banking Museum in the heart of Shanghai's "Wall Street" in Pudong. There are not only photos of current banks in Shanghai, but also a wide array of old banking-related items of historic interest.

**CHINESE SPECIMENS PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY** consists of three volumes of the Bank Museum's bank note specimens from 1905 to 1949. Photographed are 1113 specimens, 533 fronts and 580 backs, with full explanations in both English and Chinese. (Set of three volumes.)

**TREASURE HOUSES – HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK OF CHINA,** jointly commissioned by the bank's Beijing and Shanghai offices, has photographs of old bank buildings in 52 cities in China, supplemented by extensive historical text.

**IN THE HEART OF THE FRENCH CONCESSION** parallels our earlier joint volume on the old Concession, but here as seen from a Chinese perspective. It features thumbnail sketches (in Chinese) of famous Shanghainese who once lived in Frenchtown, ranging from KMT and Communist officials to artists, writers and film stars.

**YANGPU – WHERE HISTORY LIVES ON** covers the lesser-known but historically rich northern district of Shanghai, previously – and still today – home to numerous government, educational and research institutes.

**DISCOVER QINGPU – SHANGHAI’S VIBRANT NEW TOWNSHIP** (see description under “Deke’s Two Newest” above).

**SHANGHAI VERTICAL** (see description under “Deke’s Two Newest” above).

**(FOR PHOTOS – AND ORDER BLANK –  
KEEP SCROLLING DOWN...)**

**CURRENT PUBLICATIONS**

*Available by mail or at:*

*Old China Hand Press (Shanghai Ofc.)  
Deke Erh Art Center  
Taikang Lu Lane 210 #2B  
Shanghai 200025*

*Old China Hand Reading Room  
(Coffeeshop/Bookstore/Library)  
27 Shaoxing Lu*

*Old China Hand Research Service  
70 Donghu Lu, Bldg. 3, #201  
(by appointment only)*

*Contact: [tessinshanghai@yahoo.com](mailto:tessinshanghai@yahoo.com)  
[tessjohnston@ssbg.com.cn](mailto:tessjohnston@ssbg.com.cn)*



