

As usual, our thanks go to those who have written in with contributions for this edition and special thanks to Mr. Kim Chan [Ah Gin] for his gift of the beautiful stamps issued in Canada to mark the Year of the Dragon. Kim has sent sufficient to ensure that each copy of the newsletter contains one.

Dave Kitching has contributed an interesting article culled from a newspaper in Hong Kong concerning the increasingly dominant role being played by the 'written' form of Cantonese in advertising, etc. Students will recall that at CLS Cantonese 'characters' were very much discouraged; spoken Cantonese and written standard Chinese had to be learnt. Unfortunately lack of space this time precludes publication of the article, but we shall include it in a future edition.

A noteworthy feature of this edition seems to be the significant number of people who have changed their address. Thank you for letting us know when you have done so. Only a very small number of newsletters are returned to us each issue marked 'gone away' or 'not at this address'; sometimes none are returned. We clearly would wish to keep these returns at a minimum level, so please let us know if you change your address.

We welcome four new members with this issue; these are Sunny CHAN, Darrel MASON, Tom MURPHY and Gary ZANELLI. Thank you to those of you who managed to find them.

NEWS OF MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Jay ALLEN [FAO mid 80s] has added a fourth subject to his teaching load at the independent college preparatory school in Maryland where he now works. Last year he attended a seminar for history teachers at the University of Delaware.

Geoff BABB [FAO mid 80s] continues to instruct at the US Army's Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; his work last year took him to Dallas, Phoenix, the US Navy War College and Fort Bragg. He is also continuing his PhD studies at the University of Kansas.

Mr. Kim CHAN Kwok Kin [Ah Gin] [Staff] last year joined a Christian volunteer medical team, the Evangelical Medical Aid Society of Canada, on a mission to the Ningxia Autonomous Region of China. The team spent one week in the capital Yinchuan, followed by one week in rural villages. The aim was to bring updated medical information and dental techniques to the city's hospitals and to provide basic medical attention and supplies to the rural areas. This included assistance in setting up small medical clinics. Kim's job was to maintain the technical equipment used by the team. He was deeply touched by his experiences on this trip and hopes to return this year. The pictures show him [second from left] in the X-ray department at the No. 1 People's Hospital in Yinchuan...



...and [below] trying his hand at one of the ubiquitous motorized trailer vehicles in a rural village.



Mr. Sunny CHAN [Staff] [Kim's brother] has joined us from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where he works as an Aircraft Instrument Technician. Many students will remember his technical expertise, innovative nature and a character to match his name. We are pleased to report that Sunny has recently been promoted to Production Supervisor.

Mrs. CHENG Ya Lan [Mrs. ZhongJ [Staff] spent much of the winter in Cape Town, South Africa, where she joined a mah-jong circle, no doubt to the dismay of the ladies who used to win some of their games. Mrs. Zhong is now back in Rexburg, Idaho, where she is into the second year of her Russian course.

Jim CHILTON [FAO mid 80s] still works for the Child Support Enforcement Agency in Missouri and continues to paint in his spare time. Last year he was honoured by being designated a signature member of the National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society. Son Daniel graduated from High School this year, but the family's big news is that after years of struggle against bureaucracy, they have finally succeeded in adopting a ten year old girl, Margaret. We wish them much happiness in their newly extended family.

Miss Vicky CHU Wai Chin [Staff] has sent greetings from the north of England, where she teaches in the Department of East Asian Studies at Durham University.

Sheena CONNELLY [Mandarin late 80s] has moved house but is still in the Melbourne area of Victoria, Australia. She has been reopening and managing a folk/blues acoustic music venue which was popular in the 70s and 80s. Sheena still teaches Chinese one evening per week and has registered to work at the Olympic Games in Sydney this year. She has recently undergone major surgery on her spine, which had been giving her much pain for more than 12 years, and will be having to take much enforced rest for the next couple of years. We wish her a successful, complete and speedy recovery.

Brian CONNOR [Mandarin late 80s] has recently moved and now lives in the house in Nottingham, England which was at one time occupied by Eric Coates, the famous composer of 'The Dam Busters March'. He is still working as Head of Security for United Kingdom and International Operations at Capital One Services. Kevin DOYLE [Mandarin late 70s] is one of three managers working for him. Kevin has made a number of trips to Shanghai and Brian has accompanied him on business trips to Paris. Brian hopes to visit Shanghai himself this year and will stay over in Hong Kong during the trip. He has been in contact with Ian Barrow [Cantonese late 70s], Rufus Orme and Paul Stokes [Mandarin mid 80s] and Sheena Connelly [Mandarin late 80s].

Stuart DICKER [Cantonese mid 80s] has also moved house recently but is still living in the south-east of England.

Lea DUNN [Lea O'Reardon] [Mandarin mid 80s] has written with a new address within Victoria Barracks in Sydney, Australia. The move came as a result of the promotion of her husband Steve to Colonel, on appointment as Colonel, Operations at Land Headquarters. In January Lea attended the 20th anniversary of her WRAAC OCS course.

Mike FARR [Mandarin late 60s] continues to work for a medical group practice in Inverness, Scotland, but hasn't been too well himself lately. Mike provided addresses for three names on the 'Where Are They Now?' list, but unfortunately we have had no reply from two of them. We hope that Mike's health has now improved.

Brian GOPSILL [Mandarin mid 80s] is still serving in the Royal Navy and is currently assigned to Naples, Italy, on the staff of COMNAVSOUTH at the Headquarters of NATO's Southern Region.

Bill GUEST [Cantonese early 70s and Mandarin late 70s] has been in touch from London, where he is still living and working.

Dave KITCHING [Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s] and your unworthy editor met up with each other in Penang, Malaysia in March this year when we joined a reunion group of former Intelligence Corps personnel who served in the Singapore and Malaysia area during the 1960s and 1970s. Needless to say, copious quantities of Tiger Beer were consumed. Dave is still living and working in Hong Kong where his e-mail address is joanne_david@ctimail.com if you want to contact him in this way.

Kevin [Bob] LAU [Cpl LAU] [Staff] and family went back to Hong Kong in December last year where he enjoyed a meal with Miss Marie LAM and Mrs. KOT Mei Yuk [Ah Mei]. Kevin now lives in the London area of England.

Mr. LEE Mein Ven [Staff] retired from the staff of the Readers' Digest in 1996 and is now enjoying a quiet life in Hong Kong.

Mrs. Sara LEE [Sara SIU] [Staff] has sent greetings from Dallas, Texas, where she now lives with husband Jimmy when they are not travelling around the world on one of their frequent trips.

Shaun LEWIS [Mandarin mid 80s] visited Hong Kong last year on business with Goldman Sachs, for whom he works in London. While in Hong Kong, Shaun had dinner with Mrs JIANG Lin Lin and tried unsuccessfully to contact David GRAY [Mandarin late 80s]. Shaun reports that Mrs. Jiang is in good health and is enjoying life. He hopes to return to Hong Kong this year.

Ian LIVERMORE [Cantonese early 70s] now spends most of his time in Germany, where he has just moved house.

Normand MAILHOT [Mandarin late 60s] has since last September been the Canadian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, located in Phnom Penh. His e-mail addresses are normand.mailhot@dfait-maeci.gc.ca or cdnembl@bigpond.com.kh.

Alan NASH [Mandarin early 70s] has sent greetings from the east of England, where he now lives in retirement. He and Janet still do much walking and climbing, and visit Germany a couple of times a year to see the children.

Ken PICKLES [Mandarin late 80s] is still serving in the Army and although based in Germany, has been to Kosovo and is now scheduled to go to Georgia for a tour of duty. Ken has provided news of a number of former CLS students, including Jonathan SALES [Cantonese early 80s] who is still serving in the Army, and Kim WINFIELD [Cantonese late 70s] who is now the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Students of the mid 80s may recall Berwick Sales [Jonathan's father] who accompanied a party to Canton led by your unworthy editor in 1984. Ken reports that Berwick died last year at the age of 90. We remember him as a fine gentleman with a lively sense of humour.

Mrs. Lorraine POON [Staff] has sent greetings on an original CLS Christmas card and says that she has moved house, although still living in Hong Kong.

Alan ROBERTSON [Mandarin late 60s and Cantonese mid 70s] has sent in an article on the Chinese Language School at Osborn Barracks which appeared in 'Soldier' magazine in the 1980s. Alan found the article when sorting out his belongings when moving from London to Scotland. It appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our congratulations to **Simon RODWELL** [Mandarin mid 70s] who married in January Sheila Bingham, a research scientist at the University of Cambridge. We wish them every happiness. Simon travels frequently to China as an Export Promoter with British Trade International [formerly a division of the Department of Trade and Industry of the United Kingdom Government] covering the naval/marine and aerospace sectors. He says he is very grateful for the technical military terms taught to him by Mr. James WONG twenty-five years ago!

Cliff ROSE [Cantonese late 70s and Mandarin early 80s] plans to leave the Army this year and is looking for suitable job opportunities. Cliff also speaks German and has had several years experience as a Training Development Advisor.

Neal SEALOCK [FAO mid 80s] was assigned to Canberra last year, taking over from Richard WELKER [FAO early 80s] as Army Attaché at the US Embassy to Australia. The tour was scheduled to be a three year assignment, but Neal has now been moved to Beijing as the Defence Attaché at the US Embassy to China after just seven months in Australia. Although the move came as a surprise, Neal is looking forward to meeting old friends in China.

John SHANNON [Cantonese late 60s] is still living in Hong Kong where he has recently graduated as a Master of Arts [in Asian Studies] from the University of Hong Kong. He now plans to study for a doctorate at HKU or another university ready to accept his thesis proposal, which will be concerned with Buddhism in Hong Kong, Macau and South China. John spends some of his time at HKU's extra-mural department [now known as SPACE - The School of Professional and Continuing Education] where he lectures part-time on the Hong Kong and Chinese business environments [from an historical and political perspective], on courses at first degree and diploma level. He is learning to play tenor saxophone and frequently has lunch with Dave KITCHING [Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s] who also teaches on SPACE courses in English, where Richard BOOKER [Mandarin early 80s] heads the department.

Alan SYKES [Cantonese late 60s] and Mei SYKES [staff] both endured the pain of broken bones last year. Alan suffered a broken wrist in October while Mei broke her ankle late in the year. This did not prevent her from continuing her international business trips, which are carried out with breathtaking frequency to such places as Switzerland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Hainan Island and San Francisco. Alan has been active in his work for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association [SSAFA] with twenty clients seen up to the end of February this year compared with thirty for the whole of 1999. Everyone seems to be getting busier these days.

David SYME [Mandarin late 80s] is no longer working full time but is heavily committed in the Scotland-China Association, whose President is John Chinnery, who founded Chinese courses at Edinburgh University. David will be visiting Peru this year with a party from Caterham, under the World Challenge Expeditions banner, so is learning Spanish. He recently met Kevin McMAHON [Cantonese mid 70s].

Mr. TANG Pong [Staff] has also sent an original CLS Christmas card with greetings from San Jose, California, where he now lives.

Anne WEIR [Cantonese early 90s] is still working on her course in Classical Greek Studies in Bradford, Yorkshire. Husband Jimmy is now doing consultancy work in medicine in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Richard WELKER [FAO early 80s] left the Army in June last year and is now working at the American Institute in Taiwan. Richard says that he is enjoying his new job and is making increasingly more use of his Chinese language skills.

Mr. James WONG Kwok Wei [Staff] has travelled widely during the past year, visiting Hong Kong, Shanghai, Ningbo [Zhejiang Province], Coral Springs [Florida] and Toronto, Canada. He is now safely back in Los Angeles, California. During the past year he provided great assistance to your unworthy editor who had undertaken some examining work for the Institute of Linguists but required the expert help of a consultant in the marking of a highly technical science paper. James is very busy with voluntary work, enjoys swimming and also prepares and despatches the newsletter for his Alumni Association. The picture shows James [with a friend] at Disney World in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this year.



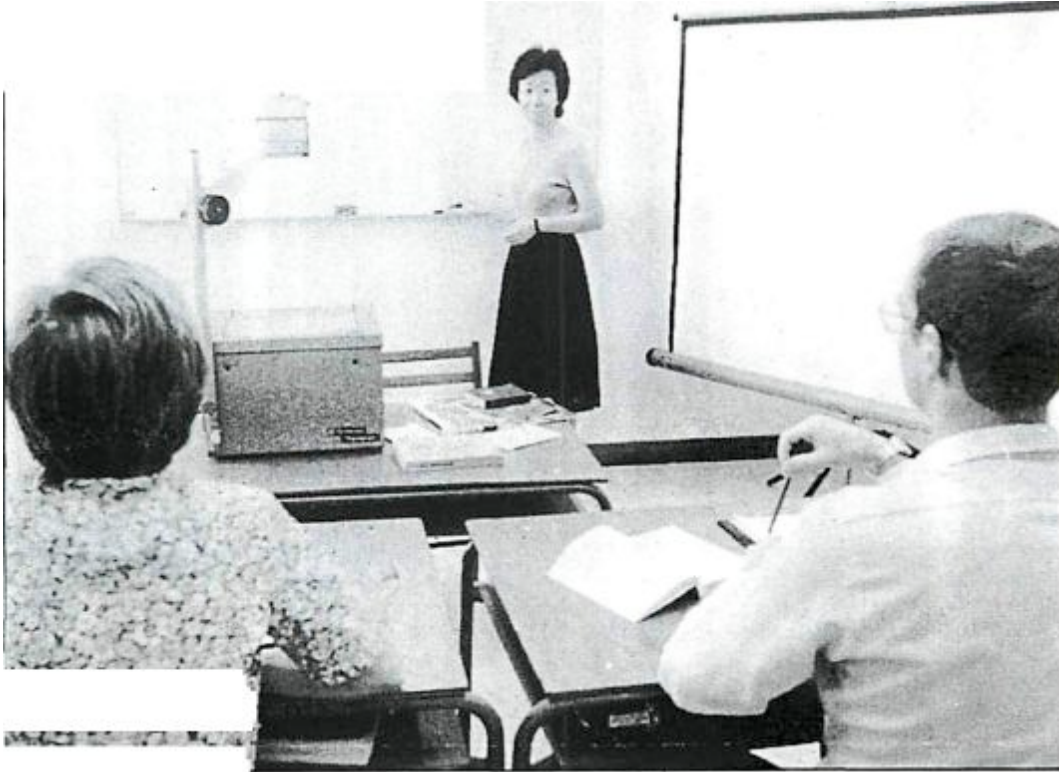
Mrs. WONG Leung Ling Hsiao [Staff] took a trip away from Hong Kong during last year, but returned just in time for Christmas. She sends greetings to all who remember her.

Gary ZANELLI [Mandarin early 90s] is still serving in the Army and is currently stationed in England. He learnt Cantonese on a course in London some time ago and has been to Hong Kong twice since the handover in 1997. Gary intends leaving the Army in two years' time and hopes to find employment using his Chinese language skills.



AS 'SOLDIER' SAW US

The following article is taken from a feature published in the UK 'Soldier' magazine in December 1985.



Two students, including a diplomat's wife, mastering the board written hieroglyphics.

ALL CHINESE TO STUDENTS IN 'TOP FORM' SCHOOL

Mrs. Jiang Lin Lin at the board

The AMERICANS are so impressed they think it is among the best there is. The Australians and the New Zealanders, too. Germany, Pakistan and Sweden have sent their diplomats there. All give a glowing seal of approval.

All are enthusing about the Ministry of Defence Chinese Language School (MOD CLS) tucked away in a section of Hong Kong's Kowloon peninsula under its commandant Major Richard Booker and Chief Instructor, Captain Mick Roberts both of the Royal Army Educational Corps and fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese respectively.

For the intensity and level of the two-year courses they and their dozen full and part-time staff run at the school, anyone in the UK, paying commercially, could expect to pay £ 15,000 over the same period in private tuition.

Currently there are 23 students enrolled for a variety of courses including Army personnel who have distinct needs for differing duties.

The charter of the school is to give primary courses in written Chinese with spoken Mandarin or Cantonese, the former being the norm as the Chinese authorities are insisting on its propagation throughout their nation with a third or fourth revision of orthography.

The course for military interpreter in Hong Kong, **for** instance lasts for two years and, at the end of it, students sit the Civil Service (UK) Interpreter Examination.

During its teaching the course comprises four six-month phases each of which contain at least 20 training weeks, a total of 80 weeks study.

"On top of these sessions students are expected to study further at home in the afternoon and at night for at least another four hours," said Major Booker. "This consolidates what they have learnt that particular day and helps them prepare material for the following day. Internal evaluations are held regularly throughout each of the four phases."

Other courses available at the school which moved from Lyenum Barracks on Hong Kong Island to its present temporary accommodation in Osborn Barracks serve diplomats, special courses in Mandarin for United States

Foreign Area Officers (FAOs) and secondary courses to linguist level, again qualified by Civil Service Commission exams, in Cantonese and Mandarin.

A language lab, tape-recorders, film and slide projectors and video TV equipment help the process of language acquisition.

Captain Roberts, who served in the Intelligence Corps for 19 years before re-mustering into the RAEC in 1980, has been at the school since last year and is on his fourth tour in Hong Kong.

He said: "Material is constantly being produced and up-dated and most of the texts used for military lessons, newspaper lessons and situational interpreting material are produced from within the school."

Yet not all volunteers who wish to master Mandarin or conquer Cantonese manage to do so and the staff, scrupulously fair, tell them. The pupil-teacher continuation ends there.

"You have to have a good voice, a good ear to succeed in Chinese," said Major Booker. "One written word can have 32 characters but such words are now being modified to just six characters. It is also tiring on the eyes. I bought myself a magnifying glass straight away.

"The Chinese language has about 7,500 characters, and it is said that a 2,400-word vocabulary will give you a 97 per cent working knowledge for Chinese literature. We teach 3,500 words over a two-year period."

Back in 1967 students had to make do with a two-year London University course but that was later abandoned because no military vocabulary was included.

"Mandarin will probably be the language in Hong Kong after 1997 and it's already on the ascendency. Our drop-out rate of students is very low.

"Apart from a good voice and ear they must be willing to make a fool of themselves while practising. Chinese grammar is quite simple but the pronunciation is hard yet the very simplistic nature of the grammar can make that part difficult."

The direction of reading can be confusing at times.

Captain Roberts said: "It is normally left to right but newspapers go from top to bottom depending on the lay-out of the pages. The trick there is to find out where the story starts.

"We teach Cantonese here for those who might be involved in duties with such formations as the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) or with the Hong Kong government.

"The first eight weeks are purely oral with the pinyin or Romanization phase starting in week nine. Mandarin has four tones; Cantonese has nine of them."

Among the students is the Defence Attaché designate for Peking next autumn. Wives, too, are taught "social vocabulary".

Exams are tough and demanding. A 45-minute, four-part oral section and a three-hour written paper for Servicemen.

Those under test are relaxed with innocuous daily conversation then the real interpreting starts; passages into and from Chinese and English, a situation setting where a Chinese might be visiting a NATO exercise or firm and needs things explaining; more tests of written and oral expression on tri-Service word-power; instant comprehension of newspaper pieces in the same fashion; tests on incursive or joined-up writing.



Major Richard Booker, RAEC, School Commandant: "You need a good voice and ear to succeed in Chinese.



Captain Mick Roberts, RAEC, a Cantonese expert, seen here in language lab classroom.

Major Booker, one of only a handful of Chinese speakers within the RAEC, said: "We could fill this school with diplomats if it were a private concern. We have as high a reputation as they have seen anywhere for teaching Chinese.

"In the UK the going rate for private tuition is about £8 an hour. All of our students before they come here have to take an aptitude test".

Another testament came from Lieutenant Colonel Mike Byrnes, US Army, who is attached to the Hong Kong-based American consulate who said: "We consider your

MOD School of Chinese to be superior to those run by the Americans in Taiwan and Monterey in California which has the Defense Language Institute.

"This school in Hong Kong has a very good reputation and must be one of the best of its kind in the world. We are developing American programmes on methods of teaching used here to meet our needs."

FALLING PETALS

Gone is the guest from the Chamber of Rank,
And petals, confused in my little garden,
Zigzagging down my crooked path,
Escort like dancers the setting sun.
Oh, how can I bear to sweep them away?
To a sad-eyed watcher they never return.
Heart's fragrance is spent with the ending of spring
And nothing left but a tear-stained robe.

落花

李商隐

高阁客竟去，小园花乱飞。

参差连曲陌，迢递送斜晖。

肠断未忍扫，眼穿仍欲归。

芳心向春尽，所得是沾衣。