

At its next meeting on 28 July the Council of Management will discuss SACU's programme for the rest of 1966 and early 1967. Branches and individual members are invited to send in their ideas. All suggestions are welcome and should be sent to central office as soon as possible.

## A Message from our Chairman

Dear Member,

The attendance at the first Annual General Meeting was most gratifying. To have had 200 — about one-eighth of the total membership — present is an indication of the interest SACU members take in their Society and in promoting understanding and friendship with China. Few national organisations could count on such a response from their members.

I am, however, conscious that despite the efforts of all concerned there were certain areas of misunderstanding between the retiring Council of Management and the membership, which gave something of the appearance of a conflict of interests. I am sure that no such conflict in fact exists.

Let me say categorically that the membership is the Society and that the Council of Management and the officers are elected to serve the wishes of members and carry out the policies decided by them.

It may be helpful if I add some further explanation about matters which have given rise to some misunderstanding.

Following the Inaugural Meeting, the Council of Management were advised by the Society's solicitors that to further SACU's aims and objects and to afford legal protection to both the Society and its officers, it was desirable to incorporate it as a Company limited by guarantee. This course is followed by many national organisations. In no sense does it convert SACU into a commercial enterprise nor does it in any way change the original character and purposes of the Society. If the organisation were to become a corporate entity there was no other legal form it could have taken. For this procedure a model or basic Constitution drawn up in correct style was a necessity, and this was what the Council approved.

The reasons for this action were explained in the April issue of SACU NEWS, but it seems that the explanation given did not make the position absolutely clear. Members were also invited to consult the Constitution at the Society's office or elsewhere as might be convenient. This arrangement was made in view of the heavy cost that would have been involved in printing and circulating a lengthy document to every member.

It was always envisaged that a General Meeting, at which members would have an opportunity of modifying the Constitution in any way they so desired, should be held later. The new Council of Management has, in fact, decided to hold such a meeting in November and members will shortly be invited to submit any proposals for changes that they wish to make.

So far as the Council's policy resolution and the amendment proposed by one of the branches are concerned, I can assure members that neither I nor any of those responsible for bringing SACU into being in the first place have departed from our original conception of a Society devoted to promotion the fullest understanding with China and friendship with the Chinese people.

The new Council of Management are giving urgent consideration to the question of the relationship, functional and financial, between branches and the central organisation. Branches have a vital part to play in making the Society a truly

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## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

THE **Barnet** branch has been holding a regular study group. On 4 June a one-day conference was held at Christ's College, Finchley, when a small but very interested audience heard Peter Townsend talk on the changes he had seen taking place in China immediately after the liberation of 1949. In the afternoon Bertram Jones and Liao Hung-Ying gave two different points of view on Chinese publications in the English language. There was a lively and informative discussion at each session.

The **Oxford** branch has held a number of meetings. We should like to draw members' special attention to the week-end school arranged by the branch for 2-4 September, particulars of which appear separately in this issue.

The working group of members in **Cambridge** is planning to hold several informal meetings, preparatory to an inaugural meeting in October.

The **Merseyside and North Wales** branch is holding its inaugural meeting on Saturday, 25 June, at 3 pm, in the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, when Felix Greene's film 'China!' will be shown.

## Subscription Renewal

**MEMBERS** who joined the Society at the time of its inauguration in May last year or soon afterwards may have wondered why they have not yet received notices of renewal. We regret the delay in sending these, which was due to administrative reasons. Notices are being sent with this issue to those whose renewal is now due or overdue.

## Chairman

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national and effective body. We are always glad to hear from members who feel that there are possibilities of getting a branch going in their area.

Your newly elected Council of Management at its first meeting set in train a number of proposals to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the organisation. At its next meeting in July, the Council will decide on a programme of activities for 1966/67, based upon proposals which the Secretary hopes to receive from branches, working committees and individual members.

The Society has had its share of teething troubles in its first year. It has come through strengthened, I hope, by the experience, and better able to shoulder the responsibility for furthering understanding with China. The task is an immense and vital one, becoming daily more urgent.

I appeal to every member to take an active part in SACU's work, and thus enable the Society to measure up to the important and challenging job it has set itself.

May I send you all my warm personal greetings and wish success to the efforts we shall be making together in the period ahead.

*Joseph Needham*

## BOOKS RECEIVED

- John Bell *A JOURNEY FROM ST. PETERSBURG TO PEKIN, 1719-1722*  
Edinburgh University Press, 1965. 45s.
- Ernest Benz *BUDDHISM OR COMMUNISM: which holds the future of Asia?* Allen and Unwin 1965. 30s.
- Myra Roper *CHINA — THE SURPRISING COUNTRY*  
Heinemann 1966. 42s.
- Alvarez del Vayo *CHINA TRIUMPHS*  
Monthly Review Press, New York, 1964. 40s.
- William Watson *EARLY CIVILISATION IN CHINA*  
Thames and Hudson, 1966. 15s.

All the above, and other new books relating to China, can be obtained from SACU. Inclusion in this list does not preclude review in a future issue of SACU NEWS.

## Basic Books About China

SACU is at present trying to build up a library of basic books about China. This is a costly operation, and we desperately need donations. We print below a list of essential books, and we would very much like to hear from members who may have copies which they would be willing to give to the library.

- Buchanan, Keith — *The Chinese People and the Chinese Earth*  
(George Bell and Sons)
- (Tr. by Buck, Pearl) — *All Men are Brothers*
- Loewe, Michael — *Imperial China* (Allen and Unwin, 1966)
- Gelder, S. & R. — *The Timely Rain* (Hutchinson, 1965)
- Hogarth, Paul — *Looking at China* (Lawrence and Wishart)
- Greene, Felix — *The Wall Has Two Sides* (Jonathan Cape)
- Fitzgerald, C. P. — *Birth of Communist China*
- Mao Tse-tung — *Vol. 3 of Selected Works* (Lawrence and Wishart, 1955 edition)
- Snow, Edgar — *Red Star Over China*
- Snow, Edgar — *The Other Side of the River* (Gollancz, 1965)
- Sewell, Wm. — *I Stayed in China* (Allen and Unwin, 1966)
- Boulnois, Luce — *The Silk Road* (Allen and Unwin)
- Goodrich, L. Carrington — *A Short History of the Chinese People*,  
(Allen and Unwin, 1957)
- Clubb, O. Edmund — *Twentieth Century China* (Columbia U. Press,  
1964)
- Lattimore, Owen — *Pivot of Asia*

## Book Review

'The first years of the Yangyi Commune' by David and Isabel Crook. Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1966, 42.

IN THE FOOTHILLS of the Taihang Mountains which border the rugged loess plateau lies a village called Ten Mile Inn. In the old days the great majority had to eke out a rough living on an average of half an acre of land per head. Old men there remember how a flood in 1917 carried away a fifth of their cultivable land so that all but landlords and some rich peasants had to live or die with what they could scratch from the rest. They remember the death and destruction brought by the Japanese invasion in 1940 and the severe famine of 1942-3 when in Ten Mile Inn alone fifty-nine people starved to death.

Today this village is part of the Yangyi Commune which evolved out of the struggle between two tendencies — that of 'every man for himself' and that of 'each for all and all for each.' The commune was not born by decree but came into being through the conscious work of those who saw collective efforts as the way to eliminate poverty and enrich life. It was consolidated and developed as difficulties were met and overcome by the multitude of ordinary human beings which made it a living organisation.

The Crooks' book is packed with information about this average commune which they had compiled on the spot. They had stayed in Ten Mile Inn in 1947-8 and paid return visits to see how their old friends had fared and what changes had taken place over the years. They describe the history of the growth of the commune and the many-sided aspects of its life and work. Not only are there graphic accounts of individuals and families, but there is careful analysis of organisation and methods, with detailed facts and statistics. It is an invaluable work, the only one of its kind, which presents an intimate and thoughtful account of that much maligned and misunderstood economic and political organisation, the Chinese peoples' commune.

E.V.P.

## LIBRARY HOURS

WILL members please note that until further notice the library will not be open on Thursdays. Other opening times remain unchanged (Mondays 6 to 8 pm; Tuesdays 2 to 5 pm; Wednesdays 10 to 5 pm).

# The Secretary's Annual Report

(delivered at the Annual General Meeting, 21 May 1966)

IT IS NOT easy in the short space of quarter of an hour to give a comprehensive report on what the Society has accomplished in its first year. SACU was established because its initiators were very conscious of the widespread and deep, if sometimes latent, desire in this country to know more about China in a world in which her achievements and voice are to a considerable extent muffled. Developments in the year since the Society's inauguration have only served to underline the fact that the initiating sponsors judged the need correctly. In this year, SACU has become a centre for all who have felt this need for information.

At our inaugural meeting in May last year, the Society was launched with the sponsorship of two hundred people well known in British life, and within a month of its coming into existence we had enrolled some six hundred members. Today, a year later, the membership stands at more than sixteen hundred. At the inaugural meeting a Council of Management of twenty members was appointed, and this has met quarterly. At its first meeting in June 1965 the Council appointed a General Purposes Committee which has conducted the society's day to day business.

Besides these two formally constituted Committees, the office has convened a number of sub-committees of volunteer members to plan and organise the many and varied activities of a growing organisation. These include events, library, trade union and weekend school committees, and on behalf of the regular staff of the office I should like to express our great appreciation of the work of the numerous members who have helped in this way. Without this unstinting help the foundation could not have been laid, or activities developed in the way they have.

## VARIED MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is very varied. It includes academic men and women, people from many professions, doctors, churchmen, artists, actors, scientists, industrial workers, housewives, and students. Every time we hold an event, we meet and get to know more members, and the enthusiasm with which they support our activities is a further confirmation of the need for the Society's existence.

More and more young people are joining us, and although we have not yet been able to devote sufficient attention to a membership campaign as such, we know that SACU has already become known to many more people than our membership figure shows. Three-quarters of our members are in the London area and the rest are scattered throughout the country, with large concentrations in

the bigger cities and academic centres.

We already have branches of SACU in the London boroughs of Camden and Barnet, and outside London a number of branches are already either in being or on the point of coming formally into being: in Oxford, Cambridge, Merseyside, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol. In March a Scotland-China Association was formed, and although this is an entirely independent organisation we hope to have close working relations with them and to co-operate by supplying speakers and in other ways.

## BRANCHES FORMED

Our first branch in Camden, inaugurated last September, has been responsible for the organisation of a bold programme of events during the present month — the Camden Festival of China. This started with an exhibition of Chinese paintings at the Central Library in Swiss Cottage, which was opened by the Mayor of Camden and is still on display together with a number of photographs and handicrafts from China. During the month a series of eight lectures on different subjects is being given at the library and other halls in the borough. Chinese films, together with Felix Greene's film 'China' have been shown in various cinemas, the book shops carry special displays, and Chinese food and other articles are being displayed in shops. Among events still to come is the Teach-in on China to be held at the old Hampstead Town Hall tomorrow afternoon and evening, and a dinner reception on Tuesday evening, the 24th, with Chinese food and music.

The programme of events has already attracted large audiences, stimulating interest where there was no previous knowledge, and helping to enrol new SACU members.

## SPONSORS' VISIT

In September/October last year a group of four of our sponsors visited China at the invitation of the People's Association for Cultural Relation with Foreign Countries. After their return

a meeting was held at which reports were delivered by the sponsors. We confidently expect that many more of our members and sponsors will be visiting China in future, and we have already arranged a tour for teachers which is going to China in August/September.

## MEETINGS HELD

In addition to the meeting addressed by our sponsors who visited China, the Society in the past year arranged other big meetings including a brains trust, a symposium on China's international relations and a lecture by the writer Han Suyin, which was undoubtedly most successful both in relation to the audience it attracted and the information conveyed.

In addition to these large public meetings, we have also helped to organise many meetings outside London. In December Dr de Haas of Leyden University spoke in Oxford, Cambridge and London, and in March/April Han Suyin spoke in Leeds, Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester. At our premises at Warren Street we have a meeting room which can hold thirty to forty people, and we have from time to time had informal meetings and discussions. These small events in informal and more intimate surroundings are very popular. In addition to them we also have regularly a Chinese conversation class which has developed into a serious and well attended activity. The type of organised event most appreciated by our members has perhaps been our weekend schools. So far we have held four such schools, two in Sussex, one at Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds, and one at Scarborough, and these have been successful in every way in stimulating thought, discussion, and interest in China. Such schools create an atmosphere in which members and friends of SACU can get together in smaller groups, listen to specialists, and participate in unhurried discussion in pleasant surroundings. All these schools are self supporting financially. They have also engendered new ideas for activities which members want.

SACU is continually being asked for speakers on China by a great variety of other organisations, large and small, specialised and general. These include schools, United Nations Association branches, political parties, Co-operative guilds, etc. Many of our members, sponsors, and members of the Council of Management and General Purposes

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At the Annual General Meeting (left to right): **SACU** Chairman, Dr Joseph Needham; Dr Nicholas Kurti; General Secretary, Derek Bryan; Professor Joan Robinson; Alec Horsley. Dr Kurti and Mr Horsley are Joint Treasurers of **SACU**.

### Secretary's Report

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Committee also speak on China to a great variety of audiences, quite apart from meetings arranged through **SACU**. In this respect I think it only right to single out our Chairman and Deputy Chairman, who so willingly respond to calls on their time even though, as we know, they are engaged in very important work in their own fields. We hope that with more people visiting China, and some returning from teaching English in China, we shall be able steadily to extend our panel of speakers, and so better meet the demand.

An integral part of our work is the development of an information service. At present this includes a library, which is being gradually built up in our premises for the use of our members. We also have for sale, on our premises and at our meetings, books and other publications relating to China, and files of press cuttings have been started. This work is being organised and developed by volunteers, to whom we are very grateful, and we expect that it will gradually become a most important part of our organisation. As I have already reported, we receive requests for information from many sources, and it is essential that we build up the organisation necessary for us to be able to respond adequately.

### CO-OPERATION

Among outside organisations with whom we have co-operated, I should particularly mention the BBC. We have

been in touch with them about their recent 'study session' series of broadcasts on China, and also about the experimental series of Chinese language lessons which are to be broadcast later this year. We have also been able to help by supplying names of people who have visited China and might take part in BBC programmes.

Immediately after the formation of **SACU** a need was felt for regular communication with our members. For some months the office sent out monthly duplicated bulletins informing them of our activities and plans. In October 1965 this was put on a more permanent basis with the first monthly issue of **SACU NEWS**. This monthly newsletter was started with an editorial committee of three volunteers, who have now been joined by a fourth. We feel that in the months that have elapsed this 'house journal' has proved its worth in keeping the membership in touch with Central Office, and presenting information and views about China to our members. We are grateful to the editorial committee for their work on **SACU NEWS** and look forward to its future development.

### TEACHERS' TOUR

As I have already mentioned, we are sending a teachers' tour to China in August/September this year. Other tours planned for this year have failed to materialise owing to practical difficulties, but we confidently expect to be able to run more and better tours next year.

The most outstanding public event organised by **SACU** in the year since

the inaugural meeting has been the showing of Felix Greene's film 'China!' at a premiere performance simultaneously in the two Academy Cinemas in London. This was a great success in every way, not least financially, and the film subsequently ran for several weeks, and has since been shown in Camden in connection with the Camden Festival. We have had many requests for it from groups of **SACU** members and others outside London, and it is now available for general showing.

### 'NOT UNIMPRESSIVE'

As I recite this list of activities which we have initiated and helped to develop, I feel that the character and volume of the work we have done in a comparatively short time is not unimpressive, the more so because it has been done on a very small budget by a very small office staff, with enthusiastic help from many voluntary workers.

### IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION

The setting up as a Trust of the Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute (covenanted subscriptions to which will give automatic membership of the Society) should ensure a more solid financial basis for the Society. As our membership in various parts of the country and the number of branches expands, our work should also develop qualitatively as well as quantitatively in the coming year. The need for mutual understanding in the world becomes ever more necessary and **SACU** certainly has an important contribution to make towards this.

# SACU Holds First AGM

a report by E. L. Habets

ONE HUNDRED and ninety-five members attended the First Annual General Meeting held on the afternoon of Saturday, May 21, at Central Hall, Westminster.

In his opening remarks, the chairman, Dr Joseph Needham, briefly reviewed the accomplishments of the first year and spoke of teething troubles encountered during that initial period. But, he pointed out, the bulk of work done by SACU was impressive and far more important than 'the somewhat scurrilous newspaper articles that might appear from time to time.'

Dr Needham was followed by the General Secretary, Derek Bryan, who gave his annual report (reprinted in full on pages 3 and 4).

In the discussion following Mr Bryan's report, several points were raised from the floor: the proportion of members' subscriptions going to Head Office; the question as to whether the next General Purposes Committee might not be elected instead of appointed (this was to be considered by the newly elected Council of Management); why SACU had been incorporated as a limited liability company (the answer from the platform: a legal formality to give protection to the Society's objectives).

## FINANCE

The next item on the agenda was the financial report presented by Alec S. Horsley on behalf of himself and Dr Nicholas Kurti, joint treasurers of SACU. Total income for the first year had been £7,891, of which £1,341 had come from members' subscriptions and £6,019 from miscellaneous donations, the remaining £531 having been raised by the sale of literature and the sponsoring of the showing of Felix Greene's film 'China!' Major items of expenditure had included: salaries £2,829; postage £658; printing (including SACU News) £913; advertising £373.

The Society had finished the year with a surplus of £1,629 — of which £909 was represented by fixtures and fittings and £743 was cash at the bank. £161 had been invested in the library, and creditors were owed £184 net.

Mr Horsley concluded his report by stating that expenditure was expected to top £7,000 during the new financial year and that this meant that even with a membership of 4,000 — the target figure — £3,000 or more would have to be raised through donations. This, he said, was a very serious and difficult financial position which he warned was precarious and would con-

tinue to be so for some time.

New members of the Council of Management were then elected (their names are on page 8).

## RESOLUTIONS

Votes were taken on the three resolutions which had been submitted. The first resolution — which had been proposed by the outgoing Council of Management — concerned the Society's policy and stated in part that 'All matters affecting China today have some political content, and SACU does not restrict the rights of its members to discuss any aspects of China's policies and way of life.' Further, the resolution pointed out that SACU was not a medium for party politics or ideological partisanship and that its membership included persons with varying political, philosophical and social sympathies. The resolution also stressed that conclusions reached by members were their own, without attempts at mutual censorship, and that, similarly, speakers on SACU platforms and writers in SACU publications were expressing their own individual points of view.

The Council of Management resolution was carried by the meeting after an amendment proposed by the Barnet Branch had been defeated by 84 votes to 49.

The Barnet amendment had sought to alter the Council's resolution by saying that views expressed by SACU

speakers and writers — whilst remaining the expression of an individual point of view — had to be necessarily 'compatible with the stated aims of SACU and therefore conducive to understanding.' The defeated amendment also suggested that comment should be constructive, criticism sympathetic.

The next two resolutions — one from Barnet Branch and the other proposed by John Lloyd and 19 other members — asked that SACU appoint a Press Officer. As the resolutions were similar in intent, the proposers were agreeable to a suggestion from the chairman that they be amalgamated into one which was passed by the meeting. In its approved form, the resolution stated that the Press Officer's job would include the scanning of the Press for misleading or inaccurate statements. Corrections would then be issued either by him or, when necessary, by an expert in the particular field. The Press Officer would be answerable to the SACU Secretary.

## CRITICISMS

Earlier there had been criticisms from several members complaining about the Society's new Constitution and the fact that 20 signatories were needed to propose a resolution at the Annual General Meeting. In order to test the feeling of the meeting, the chairman allowed 'straw votes' on several points. These, he said, would

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Some of the hundred and ninety-five members who attended the SACU Annual General Meeting held on May 21, in the Central Hall, Westminster.

SACU A.G.M.

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be helpful to the new Council of Management in considering what changes, if any, were needed.

Another 'straw vote' was taken when a member asked what steps the

Council of Management intended to take about the 'crass stupidity' which had appeared in the **Sunday Times**.

Members raised their hands to indicate that by a majority of two to one they felt that the Council should take steps to refute the untruths which had been contained in the article.

## NEW BRANCH?

PLANS are now being made to prepare the launching of a **SACU** branch in South London. Members living in the area who feel that they would be able to help in any way with the setting up of the new branch are asked to get in touch with **SACU** central office, 24 Warren Street, London, W1 (EUSton 0074).

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING (UNINCORPORATED)**  
INCOME and EXPENDITURE from 1st March, 1965 to 5th April, 1966

	£		£
Subscriptions ... ..	1,341	Advertising ... ..	373
Donations ... ..	6,019	Expenses of Inaugural Meeting	237
Literature ... ..	131	Other meetings (net cost) ...	45
(Sales 316;		Printing of Newsletter ...	148
Purchases 185)		(6 issues)	
Film Show ... ..	400	Printing (other than News-	
		letter) and duplicating ...	765
		Postage ... ..	658
		Salaries ... ..	2,829
		General office expenses ...	1,207
			<u>6,262</u>
		Surplus on Income Account ...	1,629
	<u>£7,891</u>		<u>£7,891</u>

The Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account at 5th April, 1966, was represented by: Fixtures and fittings £909; Library £161; Debtors £26; Cash at Bank £743 — £1,839; Less Creditors £210 — Total £1,629.

## GRANT AWARDED

THE DOROTHY ALTON Travel Fund grant (see **SACU NEWS**, April issue) has been awarded to Miss Sally Bishop, a 29-year-old history teacher, of Norwich. We congratulate her, and look forward to hearing from her and her fellow-teachers on their return from their August-September tour of China.

## CO-OP MEETING

The Education Department of the London Co-operative Society is holding a meeting on China at the Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1, on Thursday, 14 July, at 7.30 pm.

Colin Penn, who lived in China in 1962-64, will be speaking and showing slides. Plans are also being made to show films, and play Chinese music.

# HOUSE MEETINGS — A SUGGESTION

IT HAS been suggested that, as a useful addition to the centrally-organised meetings held in large halls and in the **SACU** premises, some members might like to arrange small 'house' meetings or social events at their own homes—inviting their neighbours, friends and relatives. This would have the effect of decentralising the activities, and possibly provide a nucleus for branches in different areas. The idea is that the member would be entirely responsible for organising the event (or enlist the help of friends) and get the audience, thus relieving the **SACU** office staff of any responsibility. If the audience is going to be a particularly large one, the office could possibly assist by providing a speaker, if approached in good time. The event need not necessarily take the form of a lecture. It could be a gramophone recital, a little concert with 'live'

artists, a Brains Trust, or just a social gathering with some refreshments—providing it is made clear that it is being held for **SACU** and something is said during the evening about the Society and its work—and a charge is made for admission (or a collection taken). The office can supply literature, if requested.

We would like to build up a rota of members who are willing to throw open their homes for such events. If you are interested, would you please advise the **SACU** office, saying on which date or dates you could arrange something. Providing the office knows at least six weeks in advance, it will be mentioned in **SACU NEWS**, encouraging any members living in your vicinity to contact you for the necessary details.

JOAN HORROCKS

## PEN PALS

WE WOULD like to hear from members, especially those connected with schools or universities, who might be interested in correspondence between English and Chinese school children and students. It is hoped that a pen friend service might eventually develop. Mrs Vicki Garvin, an American teacher who lives in Shanghai, has approached the Chinese authorities on this question and the initial response has been very favourable. We hope that members will take advantage of this excellent scheme.

## SPEAKERS

Several of our members who teach English in Peking will be in England on leave in July-August and are willing to speak for **SACU**. Will any branch or individual member who would like to arrange a meeting please write to the Secretary at 24 Warren Street.

# CAMDEN FESTIVAL SUCCESS

IN SURVEYING the events which made up the Festival of China in the Borough of Camden in May it is gratifying to report that the Camden Branch of SACU was indeed successful in its efforts to bring to the attention of the inhabitants of Camden the existence of China as an influential and growing nation. Poster displays, exhibits in libraries and galleries, department stores and other shops, film shows in cinemas, reports in the local newspapers and announcements in schools, all contributed to make the Festival and its events widely known throughout the borough. The series of lectures (nine in the month) covered subjects such as the internal development of China, China's significance in World affairs, technology, music, health, etc. The audience varied in size and types depending upon the subject, the speaker and the weather. The average attendance was 60 to 70 persons. The last lecture of the series by Dr Joseph Needham was attended by some 250 people, all of whom were fascinated by the thesis he developed, and impressed with the way a great deal of detailed information was presented.

## Specialist Knowledge

All the speakers who were heard during the month brought specialist knowledge to bear upon their subjects. Malcolm Caldwell gave an exhilarating talk on neo-colonialism and its relevance to China's world position. Trade Unionists showed particular interest in Ernie Roberts' first hand account of the life of industrial workers in China. Some of the lectures were well illustrated with slides and photos: Dr Kurt Mendelssohn's exposition of China's technological development was particularly good in this respect.

Other speakers included Miss Mary Tregear who spoke authoritatively on Chinese art; Colin Penn who possesses an excellent collection of slides on everyday life in China; and Martin Lawrence, who spoke extremely well on Chinese music. Yet another highlight of the Festival was the Teach-In which is reported in detail on this page.

## Chinese Dinner

A Chinese dinner held at the St Pancras Town Hall Assembly Rooms was attended by over 250 people. Entertainment was provided by a Chinese orchestra and the well-known singer, Martin Lawrence. Despite the fact that the dinner — owing to trans-

TEACH-INS notoriously provide a forum for fiercely partisan debate rather than for informed or informative discussion, which seems better suited to the small group meeting. The China Teach-In, organised by the Camden branch of SACU as part of its highly successful China month, and held at the Old Hampstead Town Hall on Sunday, May 22, was no exception to this rule, but there was a surprising amount of hard fact in the course of over six hours political jousting between Right, Left and Centre.

## Speakers

This coherence was inspired by some distinguished contributions from the platform. In the afternoon Professor Joan Robinson and Miss Myra Roper dealt with the domestic situation. Both spoke with that authority and objectivity which only intelligent first-hand observers of modern China seem to possess. Mrs Robinson's main themes were the economy and the communes and she clarified several thorny problems concerned with team and brigade organisation. Miss Roper dealt with the educational system and happily avoided the kind of bland generalities which so often mar discussion of China's domestic policies. From the floor there were rather too many meandering monogues. One speaker wanted to hear some really nasty things about China, especially about the way in which intellectuals are silenced by the Party. Another accused the two main speakers of being lackeys of the Chinese government. These, and several

portation problems — was not as hot as it should have been, the evening was successful.

During the Festival, many new SACU members were made — some 50 were directly enrolled, and applications are still arriving in the post. The success of each lecture was reflected in the number of books and periodicals about China which were sold; results show that the Teach-in and Dr Needham's lecture were most stimulating and thought-provoking.

The ultimate value of the Festival was that the Camden Branch of SACU was able to reach a wide and interested audience. It is hoped that in the future SACU will be able to satisfy the desire for information with greater effectiveness. Thanks are extended to all members of SACU who worked so hard in arranging and carrying out this festival. **K.A.**

other misconceptions, were well corrected.

The evening debate on foreign affairs was more passionate. Vietnam, of course, featured heavily. Happily there were a large number of Asians in the audience and their no-nonsense contributions counter-balanced some of the more theoretical and abstract argument. The platform was balanced between Right and Left. Mark Rutherford from the Spectator confessed himself a reactionary but spoke objectively about Western 'interests' in Asia. He thought that there would have to be some rethinking done on the part of the Americans, but doubted that this rethinking would come in time to avoid a further deterioration in the Asian situation.

## Asian Experts

Julian Ridsdale's speech was not well received. He spoke of mysterious 'Western hands reaching out in friendship towards Peking' but lacked the necessary factual equipment on which to base his argument. Hugo Brunner, representing the Liberal Party, was also short on facts, and confined himself to a not very convincing series of suggestions as to how Sino-British relations could be improved in the fields of trade and cultural exchanges. Ben Whitaker criticised Mr Wilson's Asian policy and went on to give a fine account of the United Nations controversy. This was certainly the best factual contribution from the platform.

Malcolm Caldwell and John Gittings are both Asian experts and they both spoke well. Dr Caldwell's speech was passionate and partisan, and yet one was aware that his condemnation of Western policy in Asia was based on intensive research into the phenomenon of neo-colonialism. John Gittings explained that, contrary to official Western thinking, China's foreign policy since 1949 had been a cautious one, and that the Chinese leaders will continue for some considerable time to be more concerned with domestic than with foreign affairs.

## More Teach-ins

It was a pity that not everyone who wanted to had an opportunity to speak from the floor during the evening session. But no doubt there will be another SACU Teach-in, and to judge from the reactions of members and non-members after the meeting, the sooner this takes place the better.

**W.E.L.**

# SACU Educational Trust

With the approval of SACU's Council of Management, a Trust called the Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute has been set up, with Dr Joseph Needham, Professor Joan Robinson and Mrs Mary Adams as Trustees. The objects of the Trust are to encourage and promote the study and dissemination of knowledge of all aspects of China and the Chinese people. They are thus bound up with the aims and objects of SACU, and it will be possible henceforth for some of SACU's work to be done through and with the support of the Trust.

At present rates of income tax, the Trustees are able to recover from the Inland Revenue the sum of £1 8s. 1d. for every £2 given under covenant to the Trust. A member of SACU can thus benefit the purposes of the Trust without any additional cost to him or herself by entering into a deed of Covenant to pay (preferably by Bankers Order) a sum of not less than £2 annually to the Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute for a period of seven years.

The sum of £2 has been fixed as the minimum because the administrative

work entailed in recovering income tax is such that covenanted subscriptions for smaller amounts would not benefit the Trust appreciably. However, it may in some cases be possible for a married couple to pay their joint subscription of £2 under one covenant, and this would be very helpful.

The deed has to be entered into for a period of seven years, but in practice a member may stop payments if he finds it impossible to continue. In such a case the Trust would have to refund to the Inland Revenue the benefits previously obtained under the covenant in question.

In short, a member of SACU paying his subscription by covenant to the Trust in this way automatically increases its value by 70%. The only condition is that he/she should be paying income tax of not less than £100 a year (£8 a month or £2 a week). Of course the £2 minimum is not a maximum! The greater the number and size of covenanted subscriptions, the more effectively will the Trust, and thus SACU, be able to promote and advance education about China.

# ABOUT SACU

Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding Ltd (Founded 15 May 1965).

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Chairman: Dr Joseph Needham

Deputy-Chairman:  
Professor Joan Robinson

Vice-Chairman: Mrs Mary Adams

Joint Treasurers: Mr Alec Horsley and  
Dr Nicholas Kurti

Secretary: Mr Derek Bryan

\* \* \*

Council of Management: Mrs Mary Adams, Mr William Ash, Mr Roland Berger, Mr Geoffrey Carrick, Mr Raymond Dawson, Mr Andrew Faulds, MP, Miss Margaret Garvie, Mr Alec Horsley, Dr N Kurti, Professor Joseph Lauwerys, Mr John Longstaff, Mr Evan Luard, MP, Mr Ewan MacColl, Dr Joseph Needham, the Rt Hon P J Noel-Baker, MP, Mr Ernest Roberts, Professor Joan Robinson, Sir Gordon Sutherland, Mr Jeremy Thorpe, MP, Dame Joan Vickers, MP, Mrs Ethel Wormald.

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Believing that understanding between Britain and China is of the highest importance, SACU aims to make information about China widely available in order to help every interested person in Britain to make his or her own assessment.

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Membership of SACU is open to all who subscribe to the aims of the Society. Members are entitled to receive SACU NEWS monthly free of charge, use the library at head office, call upon the Society for information and participate in all activities of the Society.

Annual subscription: £1.00. Reduced rates for old age pensioners (5s), and full-time students (7s 6d).

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## WEEKEND SCHOOLS

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September, 1966

Glynlifon Agricultural College, Caernarvon.

Sessions on: China before 1949; Developments in China since 1949; The Chinese Communes; China's Place in the World.

Cost: SACU members £4/5/0; SACU students £3/15/0

Non-members £4/10/0

Send deposit of ten shillings to central office to reserve place.

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September, 1966

Philippa House, Dinton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire

Sessions on: China 1840 to the Taiping Rebellion;

Taiping Rebellion to 1911; 1911 to 1949;

China since 1949.

Cost: SACU members £4/15/0; SACU students £4/0/0;

Non-members £5/0/0

Send deposit of ten shillings to central office to reserve place.

It is proposed to hold a week-end school in the Home Counties in October dealing with the life and influence of Sun Yat-sen, the hundredth anniversary of whose birth falls on 12 November, 1966. Members interested should apply for copy of programme.

## OXFORD SCHOOL

A Week-end School will be held in Wadham College from 2-4 September, 1966, on 'Europe and China: the historical background'. Speakers will include Raymond Dawson on 'European attitudes to China before the twentieth century', Keith Scott on 'Russia and China', and Evan Luard, MP, on 'Britain and China'. There will be a Brains Trust with local members who have recently visited China and a tour of the Department of Eastern Art at

the Ashmolean Museum conducted by Miss Mary Tregear. Professor C P Fitzgerald will also speak on 'China and Europe'.

The inclusive charge for attendance at the Week-end School will be £4 15s 0d for SACU members, £4 10 0d for SACU student members, and £5 5s 0d for non-members.

All communications should be sent to the Secretary, SACU (Oxford branch), c/o Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford.