



聖地牙哥中華歷史博物館  
SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
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Issue No. 6 / Spring 2023

## MISSION BUILDING

404 Third Avenue, San Diego,  
CA 92101

## DR. SUN YAT-SEN MEMORIAL EXTENSION BUILDING

328 J Street San Diego, CA 92101

## MUSEUM HOURS

Friday, 12 to 4

Saturday, 12 to 4

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2nd Sundays Free

# 談

## FEATURED CHARACTER

Written by Liu Gongquan

(柳公權; 778-865)

談 [tan] talk

談判 [tan pan] negotiation

談話 [tan hua] conversation

談戀愛 [tan lian ai] fall in love

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Print: of Huang Di

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Cover Calligrapher:

Liu Gongquan (柳公權; 778-865) was a Chinese calligrapher, essayist, and politician who lived during the late Tang dynasty. Liu Gongquan was especially famous for regular script (楷書) and was one of the four calligraphic masters of regular script in China. The other three were Yan Zhenqing, Ouyang Xun and Zhao Mengfu.

A minister of the Tang dynasty, Liu was a native of today's Tongchuan, Shaanxi, a devout Buddhist and follower of Yan Zhenqing's style of writing. Like Yan, an expert of the regular script, Liu's works were imitated for centuries after. He is often referred to in unison with his famed predecessor as "Yan-Liu". His most famous sample of regular script is Xuan Mi Ta Bei (玄秘塔碑) from the Forest of Steles in Xian. The cover character came from this stele.

## *A letter from our Directors:*



*Bob Stein & Lily Tou Birmingham*

The year is coming to an end after a momentous time for the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. After a prolonged period of being closed to the public, from March, 2020, we reopened and have had special exhibits, including *Ambassador and Mrs. E.F. Drumright's Ink Diplomacy* and the current exhibition, *Acupuncture Arrives in the USA*.

## *Message From The Chair:*



*Li-Rong Lilly Cheng*

***Dear friends & supporters of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum,***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have taken the time out of your very busy schedules to visit the museum. As you know, the museum opened its door in late April. We had the Drumright exhibition and now the acupuncture exhibition.

We are very pleased to welcome a new board member Dr. Michael McQuary. I want to thank all the board members for their consistent support to serve as volunteers for the museum. In addition, we have had wonderful participation for our monthly *Chinese American Experience and Beyond* lectures.

Next year will be just as exciting with an exhibit on Jahja Ling, the Conductor Laureate of the San Diego Symphony and the Music Director from 2004-2017. We will then hold an exhibition of snuff bottles, utilizing objects from our own collection, as well as a number of bottles on-loan. Snuff (powdered tobacco and spices) was introduced to China in the 1500's by Jesuits for the supposed purpose of improving health by inhaling the snuff. The Chinese then made an art form out of bottles to carry the snuff.

We will continue our 3rd Saturday Zoom lectures, through the *Chinese American Experience and Beyond*, which have proven to be so successful.

As the year is ending, even though we have given a donation to the SDCHM earlier in the year, we are planning another end-of-year donation. A notable percent of our budget is from donations so we are planning to see what we can afford to give. We hope some of you will, too.

The topics have been well received and I would like to hear from you for feedback and suggestions for our future programs. We deeply appreciate all the speakers, discussants and moderators for their excellent presentations. We also want to thank Dr. Bob Stein for serving as our moderator for most of the sessions.

In 2022 we presented two exhibitions and we hope to present new exhibitions in 2023 including an exhibition of Maestro Jahja Ling. We have had many visitors young and old, to visit our museum. We welcome all.

Our volunteers and docents have given selfishly and tirelessly to welcome all our visitors. I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to fundraise to support the operations of the museum. We also welcome a few new staff members to the museum, Kristof, Paulina, and Yessenia. Please make sure you take time to meet them when you come to the museum.

Please let us know how we can serve you better. When you have a moment, please pop in to visit us. We wish you a most happy holiday season!

# Upcoming Exhibitions



## The Achievements of Maestro Jahja Ling

By Lily Tou Birmingham

**March 24, 2023 to August 13, 2023**

After a few newsletter articles about the exhibition for *the Achievements of Maestro Jahja Ling*, we now have scheduled the opening on March 24, 2023. Mr. Ling was the Music Conductor and Director of the San Diego symphony from 2004 to 2017, and he retired in 2017. He is credited with rebuilding and revitalizing the orchestra. The highlight of his tenure was the orchestra's first ever appearance at *Carnegie Hall* in 2013. Going back to his childhood growing up in Jakarta, Indonesia, we reprint an excerpt of the article he wrote in 1990 remembering his early childhood with music. Excerpt from *Guideposts*, May 1990, by Jahja Ling.

“Miss Lee began playing the piano for our kindergarten class. I was only four... One day during class I climbed onto the stool and played ‘choo-choo train’ by ear. I was only imitating what I had seen Miss Lee do, but Miss Lee saw something else. She went to my parents and said, ‘this child has a special gift from the Lord. He must have teachers.’

By the time I was five I was playing for the Sunday school and for Christmas pageants and other events. I had a tall stool in order to reach the keys. Visitors will come to watch. My parents were silent but proud. So was Miss Lee...By the time I was in my teens, I was also conducting our church choir. And though piano was then paramount in my life, one day I casually asked my teacher, Rudy Laban, about studying orchestra conducting. “Forget it, Jahja!” he replied. It’s the most difficult thing to study. Impossible!...

When Jahja wrote this article in 1990, he was already the resident conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra. The photo shows Jahja Ling conducting the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in Germany, indicating his international fame. We are honored to be able to share Ling’s achievements with our community. Collaborating with the SDSU Chinese Cultural Center, we are adapting the exhibition from what was first premiered at the Bonita Museum in 2018.

In addition to the San Diego stories, the exhibition includes personal items, musical scores, videos of performances, and photographs from the Maestro’s time with Leonard Bernstein at Tanglewood Music Center and with symphonies in Cleveland, Ohio, Saint Petersburg, Florida, and San Francisco, California. During his celebrated career, he performed for England’s Queen Elizabeth II and collaborated with Whitney Houston, Yo-Yo Ma, Lang Lang, Itzhak Perlman, and others. These stories and more will all be told through the exhibition.





## Snuff Bottles 鼻煙壺 from San Diego

September 1, 2023 to February 25, 2024

Snuff Bottles are small with endless variations in its design and materials. As a result, they are popular objects for collectors. In collaboration with the well-known snuff bottle connoisseur Clare Chu as our consultant, we will embark on a special exhibition from the San Diego collectors. About 1/3 of the items will be from the museum's permanent collection and the remaining items on loan from private collectors and possibly the San Diego Museum of Art. We welcome local private collectors to join our exhibition. We will publish a booklet for this exhibition.

Snuff (powdered tobacco) was introduced to China in the early 17th century by the Portuguese. The term 'snuff' can be attributed to the actions of the user, who would spoon a small amount of tobacco onto one's thumbnail and "snuff" it up one's nostril. It became popular during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912 CE) among men and women of the imperial court and upper class. Inhaling snuff was perceived as more stylish and elegant than smoking tobacco, and snuff bottles were considered perfect gifts due to their size. They can be found in a variety of materials. The exhibition aims to show the wide-ranging variety of materials from which Chinese snuff bottles were made during the Qing dynasty.

The figure shows samples from our permanent collection in different materials such as pink crystal, jade, red lacquer, walrus ivory, porcelain, inside painted glass, and cloisonne.

Please email the author, if you or your friends are interested in loaning your snuff bottles for this exhibition. Email address: [2023snuff@sdchm.org](mailto:2023snuff@sdchm.org)



# Highlights From The Chinese American Experience & Beyond

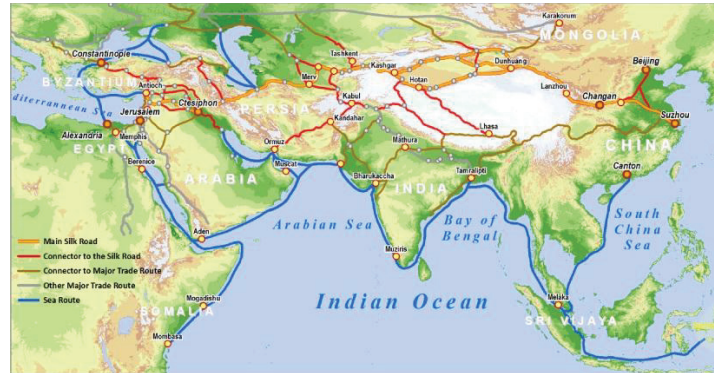
## Maritime Silk Road: Zheng He (Cheng Ho)

Dr. Li-Rong Lilly Cheng

During the Ming Dynasty, Zheng He (Cheng Ho) took seven of their voyages to explore different countries. He died during his seventh voyage in India. These voyages spanned over 28 years and initiated the Maritime silk road. The voyages also marked the beginning of the meeting of the East and West over maritime trade. Sixty years before Christopher Columbus landed on the Americas, Zheng had already traveled to Africa from China.



The purpose of his voyages were written on a stone tablet which was found in India recently. It was mainly to make contact with other countries and learn more about these peoples and cultures. His fleet was huge and his voyages took him through the south China Sea, the Malacca strait, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and, eventually, arrived on the East coast of Africa. Recent excavations in Kenya found coins from the Ming Dynasty, Chinese porcelain (china), as well as artifacts left from the Ming Dynasty. During the Ming Dynasty, the Chinese already had very advanced ship building techniques. For example, the mothership of Zheng He's fleet was many times larger than the Santa Maria, which was used by Christopher Columbus.



The fleet passed through many locations where they stopped to get water and supplies. Zheng He also left behind some of the men. These men stayed behind and married local women. They produced what we now call the Peranakan culture. Their descents are called Nyonya (girl) and Baba (boy). The Peranakan (straits person) culture in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, and Penang are the places along the Maritime silk road. Nyonyas and Babbas integrated the customs of the Chinese and locals creating the fantastic Peranakan culture including foods, clothing (kebaya and sarong) and family traditions. According to history, Zheng He escorted a Ming Princess, Hang Li Poh, to marry a sultan named Mansor Shah on one of his voyages. There is a well in Malacca that is named after the princess. There is also an area in Malacca called Bukit Cina (a little mountain in Malay language). The term Orang Cina Bukan Cina (OCBC) means a Chinese person who is not Chinese. The maritime silk road has left many treasures for us to discover.



# 鄭和

公元1405年鄭和七次下西洋長達28年，開創中國的海洋歷史奇蹟締造世界文明及東西文化的融合。西方的大航海時代，是在明朝下西洋60年後突然出現了遠航技術，鄭和下西洋的原因主要是宣揚國威。并且为了了解世界。在印度打撈明代的石碑上可见当时的历史。当然尋找朱允炆，貿易交換奇珍異寶等可能也是鄭和出海的原因。

鄭和的寶船及船隊陣容壯大，從中國啓航經過南中國海穿過馬六甲海峽進入印度洋，經過了阿拉伯海最後到達非洲的西海岸。近幾年來在非洲的肯亞挖掘出民代的錢幣，瓷器，還找到明代人留下的遺迹。當時明代中國造船技術已相當的發達，鄭和的寶船以及他船隊的模型在馬來西亞的馬六甲鄭和博物館中可一覽無遺。同時鄭和的寶船是當時哥倫布發現新大陸所使用的船 (Santa Maria)大了很多倍。鄭和的船隊人數非常的多，而且具備有重要的航海條件，船上除了糧食，清水還有牲口以備他們長途航行的供應所需。

鄭和的船隊所經過的地方，到處都留下了一些華人，並且也找到了取水，取材料的地方。沿途下來他們將中國的文化傳播到所經之處。例如在馬六甲 (Malacca) 檳榔嶼 (Penang)。都可以看到當時鄭和留下的華人與當地的女子結婚，產生了“娘惹與巴巴”的文化 (Peranakan culture)。

Nyonya and Babba 文化直到現在都非常受到人們的重視。而在“娘惹與巴巴”的文化中，人們家中經常可以看見祖宗的牌位，同時從他們的飲食以及服飾也可以看出來中國的文化的流傳。在檳榔嶼的博物館中也可以看到很多“娘惹與巴巴”文化。同時也有許多著名的“娘惹”餐館，譬如在檳城的餐館中 (Auntie Gaik Lian's Old School Eatery) 具有盛名。Laksa Mojito, Nyonya Chicken Rendang, Jiu Hu Char 都別具中國，和馬來風味。在鄭和下西洋中有一次他帶著明朝的公主 Hang Li Poh 來到了馬六甲嫁給了當地的蘇丹 Mansor Shah。這是16世紀的一件中馬連姻的盛事。這位公主住的地方現在還有一口井為她的名字命名。同時她帶來了相當多的僕人，有一個在 (馬六甲) 的地區叫做 Bukit Cina，馬來文的意思就是中國的小山丘。這些人許多都與馬來人通婚，這些人也就是目前我們見到的娘惹和巴巴的開源。這些技術都是明朝的，未得到這些科技前，西方人出海二個月就是極限。

## 中國海上絲綢之路

中國海上絲綢之路連續不斷，歐洲方面也不斷地有船隻先到了印度，在印度設立東印度公司。然後再來到了中國。當時中國對外的商埠以廣州為主，在廣州有名的十三行 (Hong) 就有這個通商作用。東印度公司有法國東印度公司，英國東印度公司，荷蘭東印度公司，葡萄牙東印度公司等等。這些公司對於海上絲綢之路起了非常大的通商作用，當然也獲利很多。

## Upcoming Lectures

**JANUARY 21, 2023**

“The Story of Lim Lip Hong (1840/43-1920)”  
By: Prof. Sue Fawn Chung

**APRIL 15, 2023**

“Decoding Chinese Opera”  
By: John Lowe

**JULY 15, 2023**

“My Kyrgyzstan Days”  
By: Prof. Zheng-Shang Zhang

**OCTOBER 21, 2023**

“Yuan ming yuan”  
By: Patricia Yu

**FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

“Art Lym (Lim) - Developer of China's Air Force: A Remarkable Story of An Early Chinese American Aviator”  
By: Andrea Yee

**MAY 20, 2023**

“Chinese Laundries in Social & the production of the WongLee Laundry”  
By: John LeeWong & Lois Wittner

**AUGUST 18, 2023**

“Jewish people in China”  
By: Susanne Hillman

**NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

“Snuff bottles from San Diego”  
By: Claire Chu

**MARCH 18, 2023**

“Women of San Diego's Asian Pacific Historic District”  
By: Anne Hoiberg

**JUNE 17, 2023**

“Xuanzang and the Real Journey to the West”  
By: Jeff Trace

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

“Why do I collect snuff bottles?”  
By: Courtenay McGowan

**DECEMBER 17, 2023**

“Jews of North Borneo and Shanghai Jews in the Philippines”  
By: Rosalie Corpuz

# A Moment in Time

By: Dr. Li-Rong Lilly Cheng

On my recent trip to Germany, I made a special appointment to visit Professor Dr. Steven Less in Heidelberg. Steven was a keynote speaker for our Chinese American Experience and Beyond program. The focus of his presentation was about his father, John Less, who spent seven years in Shanghai during the Second World War. John Less was a young man when he used the magic of his pens and brushes to record moments he experienced in Chinese and Jewish history. He drew many pictures of the lives of the people in Shanghai. These images transport us back to moments in time which are the moments in time in an unforgettable part of our shared history.



During the Second World War, when the Jews were being persecuted and killed, John Less and his family left Berlin, Germany, and traveled through Soviet-controlled Lithuania, Belarus, and Russia, crossing Siberia and Manchuria, eventually arriving in the port of Shanghai in late September 1940. He and his family survived in Shanghai in the Hongkou district of Shanghai from 1940 to 1947. They lived in very tight quarters and difficult conditions in a restricted area established for stateless (Jewish) refugees during the Japanese occupation, known as the Jewish ghetto. This young man used his art to record the inhabitants' life stories and pieces of their history. John Less' paintings and drawings keep the stories alive. Each individual picture is a time capsule and provides a window for us to take a peek at the history of this moment in time.

By the generosity of Steven Less, I was fortunate enough to visit his collection and to examine many of his father's original artworks. I saw the stories they told unfolding in front of my own eyes and found myself traveling back in time. What made the

artworks so precious to me was how they captured the poverty and the chaos of Shanghai in those days. Each picture vividly depicted the sounds, smells and hustle-bustle of the time. Going through the paintings and drawings was a deeply touching and soul-searching experience: absolutely breathtaking and mesmerizing.

John Less and his family eventually left China in 1947 and traveled across the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco. They then crossed the United States and arrived in New Jersey, where his son Steven Less was later born. John Less worked as a commercial designer for the Bamberger's department store chain (a division of Macy's) for many years. Steven received his university education in the United States and then studied in Germany, where he received his doctoral degree in Law from the University of Heidelberg. His dissertation entitled "Die Unterbringung von Geisteskranken" (The Commitment of the Mentally Ill) was written in German. John Less was not happy that his son went to Germany. He did return to Germany to visit his family, but the ghosts of the past continued to haunt him.

Steven Less has spent the last four decades in the city of Heidelberg, teaching U.S. constitutional law and doing research on international and comparative law. While John never went back to Shanghai, Steven traveled to Shanghai in 2019 and traced the footsteps of his father and grandparents. Steven was, in fact, able to visit the place where his father and his grandparents lived. He is now telling their stories through the artworks of his father and is conducting further research about his father's journey and also about the Jews in Shanghai. I will always treasure our memorable meeting and remember this very profound visit. (Summer of 2022)

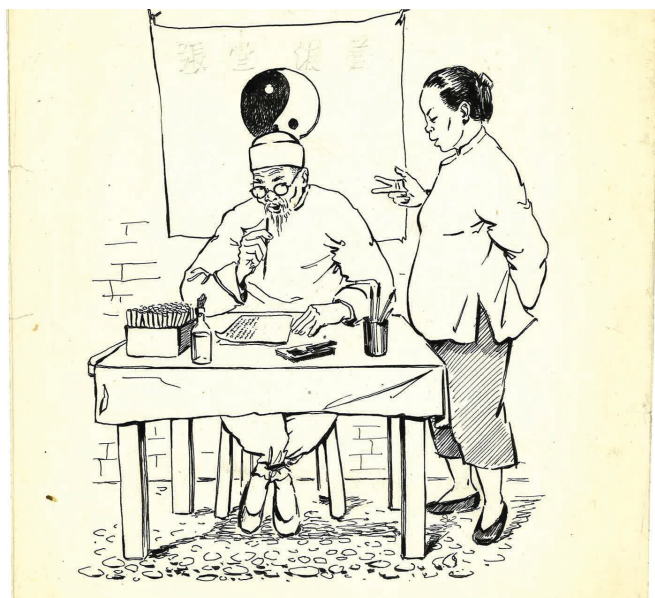




# Comment on “A Moment in Time”

By: Dr. Steven Less

In recent decades, attempts have been made to portray the encounter between the Jewish refugees who fled from the Nazis to Shanghai and the city's Chinese residents as being close and having lasting impact. Skeptics, on the other hand, have asserted that this representation may suit the Chinese government's agenda (Siying Huang, Chinese Encounter of Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, <https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1951&context=gsrp>) and that a deep and continuous engagement with Chinese culture by the émigrés does not really exist.“ (Qinyang Frey Zhou, “Archiving Memories in Pandemic Times: Documenting Jewish Exile in Shanghai,” <https://mgp.berkeley.edu/2021/04/21/documentaries-on-jewish-exile-in-shanghai/>). My father, who was one of those refugees, might have said the same thing. Arguably, while the encounter's ramifications for the refugees may not be open to simple explanation or convincing generalizations, it was, nevertheless, profound and indelible. This is demonstrated in my father's case by the way he processed astute observations of his Chinese neighbors and the precarious existence he shared with so many of them in his art. His artistic engagement with this part of his past in fact continued long after he immigrated from Shanghai to the US and persisted until the end of his life. My dedication to making my father's art and story better known is ultimately an outgrowth of his encounter with China and the Chinese and also bears witness to the pervasive effect of that encounter.



A noteworthy development in this connection is how my presentation about my father's legacy for the “Chinese American Experience and Beyond” program in the Spring of 2022 led to closer interaction with Professor Li-rong (Lilly) Cheng, Chairperson of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum Board of Directors and Director of the San Diego State University Chinese Cultural Center. Without hesitation, I invited her to see me in Heidelberg and showed her the collection I have of my father's artwork. That is undoubtedly a consequence of the fact that Lilly and I share a personal connection to a time and place not widely known about in the West.

The city's past may also be increasingly remote and unrecognizable even to those who are native to or have lived in, or visited, Shanghai. While Lilly was born in Shanghai to a Chinese family and left with her parents for Taiwan in 1949, I was born and grew up in the USA after WWII, hearing occasional stories from my father and other relatives about their wartime experiences in Shanghai as German Jewish refugees. What I believe we have in common is the desire to better understand a turbulent by-gone era in Chinese, Jewish and world history as well as to honor the resilience of those who survived and the tragic struggle of those who did not. I truly enjoyed having the chance to show Lilly my father's original artwork and fill in the gaps left by my presentation for someone keenly aware of the artistic, historical and personal significance of what she saw and heard. Our own “moment in time” has, moreover, given me further encouragement to continue to preserve and promote awareness of my father's art and story.

Heidelberg, August 2022

# CHINESE HIGH TEA & FAN FAIR

By: Elizabeth Chaney

On November 12, 2022, the San Diego Chinese Historical Society and Museum hosted many friends in the Chuang Garden for an exclusive Chinese High Tea and Fan Fair.

As guests entered through the J Street gate, they were greeted with a musical performance on the Guzheng (古筝), a popular traditional Chinese instrument with over 2,000 years of tradition. Musician Tasie Abboud presented a rendition of Liuyang River (浏陽河). As Tasie's performance concluded and our guests were seated at tables set with savory and sweet delectables chosen by the High Tea Task Force, Li-Rong Lilly Cheng provided some opening words. She gracefully thanked the event guests, our musicians, and task force members, also providing an overview of the day's activities.

At the close of Lilly's speech, Ava Raugust performed Fisherman's Song at Dusk (渔舟唱晚) on the Guzheng. We were later joined by Shulin Han, master of the Erhu (二胡). The Erhu (二胡) is an instrument with more than 4,000 years of history. Master Han interpreted Flickering Candle Lights (烛影摇红) by composer Liu Tianhua (刘天华).

At the height of Saturday's event, we were pleased to welcome Lilly's sister, Caroline Chinn, who presented the tea ceremony. Master Chinn's presentation centered on two varieties of tea: Dragon Well tea or Lóngjǐngchá(龍井茶) and Puer tea (普洱茶).

Following the tea ceremony, guests were able to join any one of two tours of SDCHM exhibitions: Our Interim Director, Dr. Robert Stein led a tour of the permanent exhibition; while our Docent Coordinator, Linda DiBenedetto led a walk through and discussion of the temporary exhibition, Acupuncture Arrives in the U.S.A. Coinciding with the tours, Museum Docent and Educator, Diane Carlos, led a fan making activity, where guests were able to construct and decorate a handheld fan.

The SDCHM is grateful to all community members and guests who were able to partake in the High Tea and Fan Fair. We wish to recognize our event sponsors, including Tang Sponsors, Lily Birmingham and Judith Rubenstein; and our Yueng Sponsors, Polly Liew and Sheldon Lou. In closing, we offer a sincere gratitude to the High Tea Task Force including Lily Birmingham, Karen SooHoo, Diane Carlos, Ginna Olsen, and Catherine Jones for the many hours you dedicated to make this event a success.





# Museum Updates

By: Kristof Marsolais



There have been many changes at the museum's collections department during the last six months. For example, much work was dedicated to reviewing the many different textiles in our collection and ensuring that they are placed into acid free storage containers. Likewise, a great deal of time has been dedicated to relocating items, such as over fifty precious Cloisonné objects, from the property at the Second Avenue to our collections storage facilities in the Extension building.

Two raw jade ores donated to us have been added to the folk art display in our permanent exhibition. One is nephrite and the other is jadeite. It is important to distinguish the difference between the two, when we try to understand why they were valued so much. We also acquired a piece of pink tourmaline, which is relevant to the history of our region, where it was mined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This material was highly valued by the Empress Dowager Cixi, who had these minerals imported from various locations in San Diego, and sent to her in China. One of the most popular items made with it was a pink tourmaline snuff bottle; which ceased production after the Qing Dynasty was abolished in 1911.

In order to increase our storage space, we are converting the Extension library into storage space. While rehousing collection items, Storage Closets 1 and 2 in the Extension will be retrofitted with small new HVAC systems so that they may adequately house climate sensitive items, such as paper and textiles. Many shelves will be installed in the original library to make collection items organized and accessible. Our cloud-based collection management system, CatalogIt, will be gradually updated for correct information, location, and more complete descriptions.



# School Programs

By: Yessenia Perez



Keeping with our mission to preserve and celebrate Chinese art, culture, and history, along with Chinese Americans' contributions to San Diego, we are enhancing our Education Outreach Program. We want to remind the community that we are here to provide substantial educational programming tailored for all developmental levels. Our Education Outreach Program focuses on bringing Classroom Exhibit Presentations (CEPs) to schools, libraries, and community centers throughout San Diego County. Since the pandemic we have been able to offer our CEPs virtually to reach a broader audience. Now that we are open, we want to welcome students, teachers, and community members back for in-person programming.

## Schools

In order to reconnect with schools and community organizations since reopening last Spring, we have invited them to request CEPs, as well as to visit our premises and take part in onsite programming. To compliment museum visits, we offer hands-on interactive activities such as Calligraphy, Scavenger Hunts, a Dig to Discover archaeology simulation, fan making, Chinese Zodiac crafts, and paper cutting. We are committed to make a mark in the San Diego community by providing our Chinese historical knowledge as well as the Chinese Americans' contribution to our region.

## Libraries

Recently, we were offered to curate a display case at a local library. This is an opportunity to showcase some of our artifacts and promote our museum. We are also working to advance our relationship with libraries by supporting their culture outreach programs. Our objective is to get the community excited about our programs and to have them visit us in person. It is important to promote group visits and our docent-led tours. In this way, we would like to thank our incredible docents for their participation and dedication. Through their passion for educating our guests and community, we can accomplish our mission.



# Introducing Our Newest Members



**Michael McQuary**  
*NEW Board of Directors Member*

Dr McQuary received a BA from UC-Berkeley, a MA from Fresno State, a Doctorate from University of Southern California, and Post Doctorate training at Harvard University.

Retiring in San Diego, California, Dr McQuary has been active in his community with multiple local, county, state, national, and international organizations, including service with Rotary San Diego, the International Sister Cities Association (Chair, Director), Sister Cities International Southern California Chapter (Director), and Sister Cities International (Director, Co-Chair Strategy & Programs Committee, Co-Chair US-Mexico Mayors' Community Summit).



**Yessenia Perez**  
*Education Outreach Intern*

Yessenia graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in Anthropology and Latin American Studies. She continued her studies at San Diego Mesa College, where she earned her Museum Studies Certificate focusing on museum education. She interned at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido and at the Women's Museum of California. Yessenia has been a part of multiple gallery and museum installations throughout San Diego. Currently, she is focused on strengthening the relationships between museums and the local community.



**Mui Ting Huang**  
*Financial Analyst*

Mu-Ting Huang is the financial analyst at the museum. He has had a relationship with the SDCHM since 2014. When he worked for the SDSU Chinese Cultural Center (CCC), the center partnered with the museum for a number of events. During the pandemic, he volunteered to help the museum coordinate repairs and inspection requests. Now, he is the financial analyst at the museum. Together with his educational background in financial data analysis and his eight-year job at the CCC as the budget analyst, Mu-Ting can share his financial knowledge to help the museum's accounting and financial tasks.

During his free time, Mu-ting likes to go hiking and camping with his family. He also enjoys sports such as baseball and tennis.



**Kristof Marsolais**  
Registrar

Kristof Marsolais is our new registrar. Kristof studied undergraduate programs at UCSC focused on Asian and Islamic Studies and his primary courses focused on modern China and modern Japan. He later on obtained his masters from San Jose State University in the Masters of Archives and Records Administration field. He has volunteered for many different museums and was given the opportunity to work at one following his education. He says that he looks forward to participating in the changes being made in the museum as that is the universe's only constant.



**Paulina Serra**  
Graphic Designer

Paulina is our new graphic designer and takes care of all print and digital content for the museum. She studied at Laguna College of Art and Design, earning a BFA in graphic design & digital media and has been working on a variety of projects since graduating, from product design, packaging, print, digital marketing, and large scale installation and printing. When she is not working at the museum she is working on other freelance design projects. She also teaches yoga part time.

# Fallback Festival

On November 6th, our museum participated in the Fallback Festival hosted by The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. The annual event aims to advance their mission of preserving the history and culture of the Gaslamp Quarter. Due to our proximity to the festival site, over the years, participating has provided a perfect opportunity for us to enrich this community event. This year's edition (the first in-person event at this scale since the start of the pandemic in 2020), drew in many participants. At our booth, we were able to share museum brochures and facilitate archaeological explorations directed to children through our Dig to Discover activity. We had about twenty young archeologists take the opportunity to uncover artifacts that had been locally uncovered in the old Chinatown. Overall, the event was a great way to get in touch with the public and have them become familiar with our new operating hours, as well as our education programs.

# Docent Workshop

By Lily Tou Birmingham

After our first combination of virtual and on-site docent training program finished in July this year, our docents have been busy giving tours to the visitors. The life of docents is continuing learning. Therefore, we will start the monthly Docent Workshop in January, 2023. The workshop will help docents to learn from each other and coordinate museum activities better.

The first session will focus on the walking tour of the Asian Pacific Historical District (APHD). Both Michael Yee and Amie Garapich, our veteran walking tour docents, will participate to give advice. This will enable the museum to offer the walking tour monthly on a Saturday morning as we did before Covid. Visitors will need to register on-line for the walking tour. Please check our website for details. If no one signed up for that month, the tour would be canceled.



## We Need More Docents!

We need more docents to support our various programs. Please spread the word. Here is our new Docent Training process.

- You can start at any time by signing up as a volunteer wanting to be a docent, and get a mentor assigned.
- You can review all the files and recordings on our Google Drive "docent training folder" to learn at your convenience.
- You will follow your mentor or other docents in tours for a minimum of three months and 10 visits to the museum.
- You will be scheduled to give a sample tour to a group of three people including Linda DiBenedetto for evaluation.

The Second Docent Workshop will focus on school programs. We covered five topics of the virtual presentation program during the training in June. Since we just resumed the on-site field trip for schools, we need to prepare our docents. During the field trip, the students will receive a museum tour and then a hands-on project. During the follow-up Workshops, we will cover 7 hands-on projects that are options for the teachers to select. They are:

- Dig to discover or Archeology
- Scavenger hunt
- Calligraphy
- Fan making
- Paper cutting
- Zhezhi (traditional Chinese paper folding)
- Chinese Zodiac crafts

There will be different topics for the following workshops each month.



- You will become a docent or continue studying and try the sample tour again. Then, you will be a docent.

I hope this training process is simple for anyone who wants to become a docent at our museum. We need your help!



# Notes

*We are sad to note the passage of two important museum community members*



**Dr. Hung-Chao "Paul" Tai.**

Hung-Chao was born in 1929 in Linru County, Henan Province to Tai Mingchuan and to Zhang Duanjie. He earned a bachelor's degree from National Taiwan University in 1954 in political science; and his master's and PhD at the University of Illinois in 1961 after winning a scholarship for graduate study in the United States. While at Illinois, Hung-Chao met fellow student Julia Ming-Jen Chow whom he married in 1960.

He began his teaching career at Montana State University, later working at the National Taiwan University, and, then, the University of Michigan. Starting in 1962, he began his tenure at the University of Detroit, where he was a popular and respected professor in political economy, rural development and international affairs until 1993.

Professor Tai moved with Julia to San Diego after retiring. He was an active member of the San Diego Chinese Historical Society and Museum, serving on the Board of Directors. He also served as President of the American Society of China Scholars until his death.

The SDCHM shares wishes of comfort with Julia, Eve, Helen, Michael, and Audrey in the absence of your husband, father, and grandfather.



**Kwan So 苏君乐**

We recently lost a great friend and supporter of the museum. Mr. So Kwan Lok passed away on November 8, 2022, in La Jolla. He was 89 years old.

Born in Hong Kong, Mr. So studied mechanical engineering, earning a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1964. After retiring, both he and Marion, his wife, have been very active in the San Diego community and at the University of California San Diego, where Kwan was a founder of the 21st Century China at the School of Global Policy and Strategy.

The So family have been very supportive of the museum over the years, getting involved in the 1990's. They were notable contributors to the museum expansion fund in the early 2000's, lending support to efforts to purchase and retrofit the first floor corner property of the Pacific Terrace Condominium Complex, today's Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Extension, where the lobby was named after Madame Ho Kam Yung, Marion's mother.

The SDCHM shares wishes of comfort with Marion, Annie, and John in the absence of your husband and father.

# Thank You Donors

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(in memory of Dr. Hung-Chao "Paul" Tai  
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In Memory of Dr. Howard Rubenstein  
Author of the book and lyrics for  
*Romance of the Western Chamber*

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