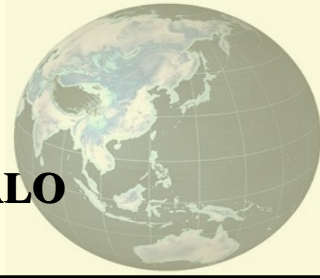


ASIAN STUDIES NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO



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<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu>

The People's Republic of China on its Birthday

Reflections from Beijing by Professor Roger Des Forges



October 1, 2009, was celebrated in China at many levels. Most fundamentally, it is part of what is called "middle autumn," the time when moon cakes are consumed in combined celebration of a season of the year and the overthrow of the Yuan and the founding of the Ming dynasty in 1368.

Then there is the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic on October 1, 1949, an event that is widely and emotionally venerated by what may well be the vast majority of people on the Chinese mainland, who believe that China needed a strong and honest central government to deal with the challenges of the last two centuries, in which Europe and then North America asserted themselves as the effective centers of the world. At this level, October 1 calls up memories of the "New Democracy" that was promised by Mao Zedong and other leaders in the 1940s as China carried out its broadly populist national revolution against "feudalism" and "imperialism."

At a third level, October 1 is invoked by the Chinese Communist Party to commemorate its achievements in attempting to establish socialism, first by trying to leap forward to communism and then by stepping back to capitalism as a base from which to initiate the first stages of socialism, or "socialism with Chinese characteristics." Banners pitched to each of these themes can be found in the cities and villages of mainland China today, clearly reflecting the various kinds and degrees of ideological commitment held by the institutions and households which mount them.

As for my personal experience on China's national day, I think that like most Beijingers I was initially above all inconvenienced by it. Security in the city was so tight that movement in the central area was strongly discouraged and campuses were "locked down" during the afternoon of September 30. Fortunately, like many regulations in China, this one was not strictly enforced, and I was able to bike over to Beida [Peking University] to browse in bookstores on and off campus and to return to Capital Normal University even before the 6:00 reentry time and enter through the gate on my bike. More annoying was the impediment to web communication, including almost complete inability to use my Buffalo email for three days before October 1.

On the other hand, October 1 being my birthday as well as the PRC's, I could not help sharing some of the excitement of the day as Chinese friends insisted on celebrating both anniversaries. Like most Beijingers, I watched the events from (*continued on next page*)

亞細亞研究

Find out More about Asian Studies at UB's Discovery Day

The staff from the Asian Studies Program will be present to answer questions about major and minor opportunities in Asian Studies at UB's Discovery Day on November 11 between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. The event will be held in the Center for the Arts on UB's North Campus. Please stop by our table for the latest news and information.

10:00 am to about 1:00 pm on TV, and I was joined by some Chinese graduate students in my room here at Capital Normal University.

The day had actually started at 3:00 am when I was awakened by the sounds of what seemed to be tanks but turned out to be merely buses making their way in a long parade up an otherwise empty Third Ring Road, their lights flashing and their intent clearly to pick up students to be taken to the square and arranged in formations.

In watching the ceremony, I was impressed, as most people were at the Olympic opening ceremony last year, by the remarkable precision in the display of the constantly and seemingly flawlessly shifting pattern of slogans created by the movement of bunches of flowers held by the students and others in the square. It was also notable that a very robust and serious Hu Jintao was accompanied on the stand by a rather senior looking Jiang Zemin and many other dignitaries, including Zhu Rongji.

The students I was watching with were from the Central Nationalities University and became very excited when their fellow students were featured in the dress of the various national minorities. There were also the expected demonstrations of military might, from battalions of regular troops to flyovers by fighter jets. There were many scenes of nearly tearful emotion and solidarity as well-known songs were sung in unison and the four administrations of Mao, Deng, Jiang, and Hu were reviewed with their accompanying achievements.

Sixty is a big year in the Chinese sexagesimal cycle (the result of the parallel unfolding of the ten stems and twelve branches), and this ceremony was probably more extravagant and almost certainly more expensive in time, energy, and money than any of those that had preceded it since 1949. It remains to be seen how – and for how long – the date will be celebrated in the future.

Roger Des Forges is a professor of Chinese History at UB. This semester he is on a Fulbright fellowship giving lectures and conducting research at several institutions in the PRC and Taiwan.

Roger Des Forges Wins 2009 Fulbright Award

The Asian Studies Program wishes to congratulate Roger Des Forges for being awarded a 2009 Fulbright Fellowship. This fellowship helps support his research on the Chinese scholar rebel Li Yan. Des Forges is currently a visiting scholar at the Institute of History at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, and will be a Research Fellow at the Center for Research on Yellow River Civilization and Sustainable Development at Henan University.

Asian Studies to Offer New Indian Course

The Asian Studies Program is offering Varanasi-Indian Culture (AS 395) during Spring 2010. This course focuses on the holy city of Varanasi (also called Banares and Kashi) as a window through which to explore Indian culture and life. Topics for discussion include visual representation, festivals, and literature. The course will be taught by Dr. Manish Arora, Visiting Professor from the Department of Applied Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, India. Classes will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00-12:50 pm in 102 Clemens. The registration number is 114790. For more information on other Asian Studies spring courses, please visit www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu.

Northeast Asia Area Director and Greater China CEO of JWT Group to Speak at UB on November 23

Tom Doctoroff, Northeast Asia Area Director and Greater China CEO of the JWT Group will be speaking about Chinese youth, who generally are impassioned by the new digital universe. In this lively presentation, Mr. Doctoroff examines the world of new media and shows how companies can deepen bonds with young Chinese, who are pulled between a polarized desire to “fit in” and “stand out.” The presentation will be held in 120 Clemens from 4:00-5:30 pm.

Event is free and open to the public.

Japan's Long Nineteenth Century

An Interdisciplinary Workshop and Practicum, Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan
June 7 - 12, 2010

The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor will be presenting a summer interdisciplinary workshop on Japan's Long Nineteenth Century. This interdisciplinary workshop is open to advanced undergraduates (junior and senior standing), graduating seniors, and graduate students. Preference will be given to students pursuing research related to the history and culture of 19th century Japan. A reading knowledge of Japanese is not required for undergraduate applicants, but some background in Japanese

studies is expected.

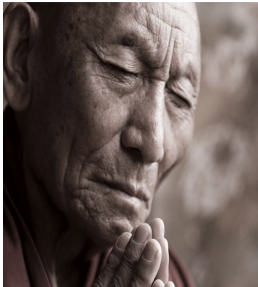
The morning sessions will be devoted to the discussion of working papers, while the afternoon sessions will involve hands-on work with a variety of materials drawn from U-M's museums and libraries. Lodging, breakfast, and lunch for all student participants will be provided. Graduate students are expected to seek funding to cover additional costs (such as airfare) through their home institutions. Five fellowships of \$500 each are available to help defray costs for undergraduate participants.

Please visit the workshop's website for more information at www.19cjapan.ii.lsa.umich.edu. The application deadline is December 1, 2009.

East Asia for Teachers Seminar

The Asian Studies Program will once again organize "East Asia for Teachers," a 30-hour seminar of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. The purpose of the seminar is to provide K-12 teachers with content and resources to more effectively teach about China, Japan, and Korea. Participants will receive an honorarium, professional development credit (pending district approval), books, and curriculum materials. Sessions run alternate Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings, beginning January 14, 2010, at the Buffalo Teacher Resource Center.

For more information and an application form, visit the Asian Studies home page at www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu



FIRE UNDER THE SNOW

A Tibetan Monk's
Spirit Unbroken by 33 Years of Imprisonment

November 5, 2009 4:00 – 6:00 pm
120 Clemens, North Campus, UB

The Asian Studies Program, the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy of the UB Law School, and UB's Undergraduate Academies are proud to present "Fire Under the Snow," a documentary by Makoto Sasa. The film revolves around **Palden Gyatso**, a Buddhist monk since childhood, who was arrested by the Chinese Communist Army in 1959. He spent the next 33 years in prison for the crimes of peaceful demonstration and refusal to denounce his apolitical teacher as an Indian spy. He was tortured, starved and sentenced to hard labor. He watched his nation and culture destroyed, and his teachers, friends and family displaced, jailed or killed under Chinese occupation. Screening includes an introduction and discussion of the film by director and producer Makoto Sasa. Event is free and open to the public.

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ASIAN STUDIES CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free

- November 1, Sunday 10:00 am-2:00 pm.** Bunka No Hi, Japanese Cultural Day. Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society. 25 Nottingham Court, at Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Suggested donation: \$10 families or \$5 individuals.
- November 3, Tuesday 3:00 pm.** "Legal Reform in Northeast Asia: Institutional Change and Constitutionalism in Comparative Perspective," by Tom Ginsburg, Professor of Law, University of Chicago, 509 O'Brian Hall.
- November 5, Thursday 4:00 pm.** "Fire under the Snow," Tibet documentary, with filmmaker Makoto Sasa. 120 Clemens.
- November 5, Thursday 7:30 pm.** "Fire under the Snow," Tibet documentary, with filmmaker Makoto Sasa. Market Arcade Film and Arts Center, 629 Main St., Buffalo. Ticket price: \$10. Proceeds will be donated to the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala.
- November 9, Monday 6:30 pm.** Xu Bing, Visual Studies Speaker Series 2009. 112 Center for The Arts, UB.

•**November 13, Friday 12:00 pm.** "Islamic Finance: A Panacea to the Current Global Financial Problems?" by Jeffrey Chow, Ph.D. Student, Department of Geography, University at Buffalo. 280 Park Hall. Asia@Noon Series.

•**November 13, Friday 6:30-9:00 pm.** "Celebrate Chinese Culture." International Institute of Buffalo, 864 Delaware Ave. Admission is free. Food ticket \$8.

•**November 18, Wednesday 7:00 pm.** "What Next for Afghanistan," by Dr. Paula Newberg, Director, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University. 106 O'Brian Hall. UB North Campus.

•**November 20, Friday 8:00 pm.** Ha Jin, National Book Award Winner. Just Buffalo Literary Center Babel Series. Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo. Ticket price: \$35 general admission, \$10 students. For more information, visit www.justbuffalo.org/babel or call 832-5400.

•**November 23, Monday 4:00-5:30 pm.** "Chinese Digital Lives," by Tom Doctoroff, Northeast Asia Area Director and Greater China CEO, JWT Group. 120 Clemens.

For more **International Education Week** events (November 16-20), visit www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/special_events.html



CAMPUS

Asian Studies Notes

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