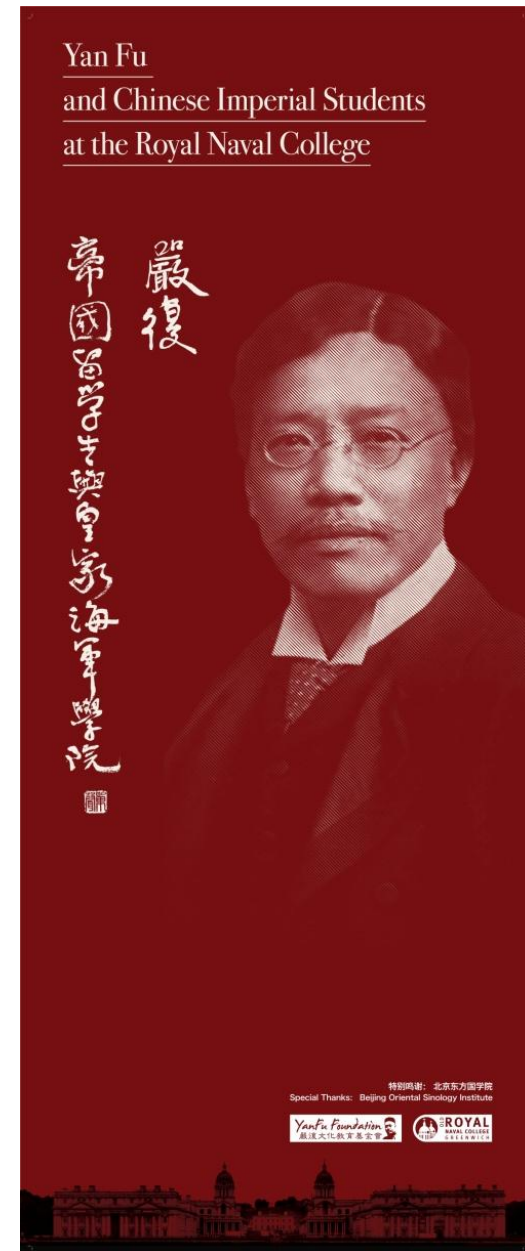


“Yan Fu, Imperial Students from China and the Royal Naval College” Exhibition

Selected Contents

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Foreword

2014 is the 160th birth anniversary of Yan Fu, one of the greatest enlightenment thinkers, educators and translators in modern Chinese history. It is also the 135th year since he graduated from the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, UK. The fact that Yan Fu and his fellow students from Fuzhou Naval Academy studied in the UK was an important milestone in modern Chinese history. They were the first group of Chinese students sent by the Chinese government to study in the UK, and their time in Greenwich was a starting point for Sino-British cultural and academic exchanges.

The Sino-Japanese (Jiawu) War broke out in 1894 and had a great impact on Yan Fu. China suffered a humiliating defeat and many of his friends, classmates and students lost their lives in this brutal war. Yan Fu realised that changes were needed to modernise his country – to not only imitate the technology of making weapons and ships, but also to introduce ideological and cultural changes. He rose to this challenge, and regarded changing Chinese people by introducing and translating Western academic thoughts as his responsibility. He advocated reform through his writing and translations, his support of the founding of the Fudan Public School and by becoming the first President of Peking University in 1912, as well as by working tirelessly throughout his life to make China a respectable and great nation.

2014 is another Jiawu Year and after a century of struggle and quest, China has now emerged as the world's second largest economy and plays an increasingly important role on the world stage. Against such a backdrop, we commemorate Yan Fu and his journey of translating and introducing Western philosophy and academic thoughts into China, as well as his life pursuit of a cultural fusion between the east and the west. It is a significant time to remember Yan Fu and his days at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich – the place where he and his classmates studied, and where the Meridian Line is located between the east and the west, which symbolically reflects Yan Fu's life-long endeavour – to bridge the east and west through translation. We hope the remarkable story of Yan Fu and his classmates will inspire people and also strengthen the connections between China and the UK.

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2014年是伟大的启蒙思想家、教育家、翻译家严复先生诞辰160周年，同时也是他毕业于英国皇家海军学院135周年。严复和福建船政学堂的同学们留学英国的经历是中国近代史的重要一页，是中国两国文化学术交流的一个起点。

1894年的甲午战争极大地刺激了严复，他许多同窗好友和北洋水师培养的学生在这场残酷的战争中失去了生命，而严复也意识到了中国想要改变落后挨打的局面，就必须从思想制度上进行改造而非简单的学习西方的船坚炮利。他在中年时奋起，以译介西学来改造中国人的思想为己任，大声疾呼改革，而后身体力行办报、译书，协助创办复旦公学，担任北大首任校长。

2014年又逢甲午年，经过百年的求索与奋斗，中国已跃升为世界第二大经济体，在世界舞台上正在更加积极地展现自身的影响力。在这样的背景下，我们缅怀严复先生和他百年前开启的译介西学的启蒙之旅和他毕生追求的“中西合璧”的文化理想。在位于东西半球分界线的格林威治皇家海军学院——这所第一次接纳严复和福州船政学堂同学的地方，展示严复和中国东来的第一批留学生的故事，对今日之中国、英国乃至世界都具有非凡的意义。



Arrival

On May 11, 1877, a sailing ship from Hong Kong finally docked at Portsmouth Harbour after a month long voyage. Stepping down from the ship were 12 young people with black hair and yellow skin and a big smile on their faces, their eager eyes glancing around at the hustle and bustle of this entirely new world with great curiosity. They were the first group of students to be sent by the Qing Empire to study naval techniques in Europe.

This group of naval students were selected from Fuzhou Naval Academy for their outstanding performances. The Academy had been established by Chinese Navy Minister, Shen Baozhen, in 1866. Yan Fu was ranked as No. 1 when he succeeded in obtaining a place to study in the first Naval Academy class, and started training on a battleship after graduating in 1871. The minister who was responsible for selecting those students wrote the following words in praise of them to the Emperor: "Knowing the plan for self-strengthening the country, the only desire is to learn from the West. They will work hard and seek the truth and secret of Western civilisation in order to take important duties upon their return. Despite the long and tedious journey everyone was enthusiastic about this journey."

On March 12, 1877, 2 months before their arrival, the British Foreign Office informed Kuo Sungtao, the Qing Empire's Ambassador to the UK and France, that a telegraph had been received from Beijing saying that the Chinese government would send 12 students to the UK to study. The British Government responded by saying that "every extended courtesy" would be shown to them.

On March 31, 1877, 30 students and teachers from the Naval Academy, led by the Chinese Principal Li Fengbao and the Foreign Principal Prosper Giquel, boarded the 'Ji-An' boat, which has been manufactured by the Fuzhou Shipyard itself. It shortly arrived in Hong Kong, along the western side of the Taiwan Strait, and they then boarded the Xiguo Company's ship that was heading to Europe.

Arrival 抵达英伦



The first group of Chinese naval students arrived at Portsmouth port in 1877 to continue their education at the Royal Naval Academy. 1877年，中国第一批海军留学生抵达英国伦敦，开始在海军学院继续学习。



The Imperial Commissioner of Fuzhou Naval Academy, Shen Baozhen (1820-1876). 福州海军学院院长沈葆楨 (1820-1876)。



Fuzhou Arsenal in 1870, an important project of the Qing Empire's self-strengthening movement. 福州船政局在1870年，是清政府自强运动的重要项目。



Left: Chinese principal Li Fengbao. Right: Foreign Principal Prosper Giquel. 左：中国学院院长李凤苞。右：外国学院院长普罗斯佩尔·吉克尔。



The telegraph from the Qing government to the British Foreign Office in 1877. 1877年，清政府向英国政府发来的电报。 1877年，清政府向英国政府发来的电报。

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1877年5月11日，英国海军学院，迎来第一批中国留学生。他们是一群来自香港的海军学员，他们有着黑头发和黄皮肤，脸上带着灿烂的笑容。他们好奇地打量着这个全新的世界，眼中闪烁着求知的光芒。他们是中国历史上第一批由政府派往欧洲学习海军技术的留学生。

这一批海军留学生，是从福州船政局选拔出来的优秀学员。福州船政局是1866年由清政府大臣沈葆楨设立的。颜福庆在1871年成功考取了船政学堂的第一名，并在毕业后在铁甲舰上开始了他的航海生涯。沈葆楨在选拔这些学生时，写下了这样一段话：“知道自强自强的计划，唯一的愿望是从西方学习。他们将努力工作，寻求西方文明的真相和秘密，以便在他们回国后承担重要的职责。”

在1877年3月12日，英国政府收到了来自北京的一份电报，说中国政府将派12名留学生到英国学习。英国政府回应说：“我们将给予一切可能的礼遇。”

1877年3月31日，30名学生和教师从福州船政局乘“吉安”号，由福州开往香港，然后转乘西格玛公司的船前往欧洲。



Study in Greenwich

The 12 naval students arrived in the UK and stayed for only 1 day at the seaside in Portsmouth. They then presented themselves before the Chinese Ambassador to Britain, Kuo Sungtao, along with Li Fengbao and Prosper Giquel, on 13 May, 1877.

On July 9, 1877, the Foreign Office began to annually admit a limited number of foreign officers to study at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. The college was opened in 1873, in buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It was founded with the aim of providing officers with "the highest possible scientific instruction in all branches of study bearing upon their profession." Before the arrival of the Chinese naval students, the college never admitted any overseas students. The records show that college staff debated whether or not to accept the foreign students, and the outcome of this discussion was to request that the Chinese students could be accepted under the following restrictions:

- (1) "Candidates for admission must send in their applications not later than the 1st of September of each year, in order that they may join the College on the 1st of October."
- (2) They should "possess an adequate knowledge of English and sufficient proficiency in the subjects of instruction as to prevent them being a hindrance to the other students."
- (3) "The course at the college will be of nine months' duration and each candidate will be required to pay a fee of £31.10 to the accountant general of the navy before commencing the course."

On 21 August, 1877, Kuo Sungtao sent the list of Chinese naval students to the British Foreign Office. The table of contents described Yan Fu as: "Yan Tsung Kwang (his original name), age of 23-years-old, 5 years of education in the Naval Academy at the Imperial Arsenal Fuzhou, and 6 years of service on board the training vessel as a navigating officer, studied from May 1877 in the UK, 5th rank in the Chinese hierarchy." Captain Tracey R.N., on the training vessel in Fuzhou, commented that Yan Tsung Kwang was a "very clever officer and navigator".

Among the first group of 12 Chinese students, Liu Buchan, Lin Taizeng and Jiang Chaoying arrived in the UK to join the different naval ships directly for apprenticeship. The rest of 9 then took an examination organised by the Royal Naval College, but Huang Jianxun, Lin Qiying and Jiang Maozhi failed to pass and joined the naval ships for their apprenticeships later. Yan Fu and other 5 Chinese students successfully joined the Royal Naval College and became the first group of foreign students to study at the famous institution.

Study in Greenwich

留学英伦



Portsmouth Harbour in 19th century. Chinese students arrived here first night in the UK.
19世纪中叶的朴茨茅斯港，中国学生在此第一夜抵达英国。



The British Embassy. The Royal Naval College and Chinese Ambassador negotiating the admission.
英使署、皇家海军学院及中国驻英公使商谈学生入学事宜。



Royal Naval College in the 19th century.
19世纪皇家海军学院建筑图。



List of the Chinese officers presented for admission to the Royal Naval College in 1877.
1877年呈交皇家海军学院的中国军官名单。

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此表為1877年呈交英使署、由中英海軍官員商談後所擬定之12名中國海軍學生名單。1877年呈交英使署、由中英海軍官員商談後所擬定之12名中國海軍學生名單。

1877年7月13日，英國外交部開始每年有限度地招收外國海軍官員來此學院學習。該學院於1873年開辦，建築師為西里士多華。學院成立之目的，是為海軍官員提供「與其專業有關之所有科學知識之最高程度之科學教育」。在中國海軍學生抵達之前，該學院從未招收過任何海外學生。紀錄顯示，學院職員曾就是否接受外國學生進行討論，最後決定在以下限制條件下接受中國學生：

1. 有意申請入學者必須於每年9月1日前將申請書寄到學院，以便於10月1日加入學院。
2. 申請者必須具備足夠之英語知識及足夠之專業知識，以確保其不會成為其他學生之障礙。
3. 該學院之課程為期九個月，每名申請者必須在開始課程前向海軍會計長繳納31.10鎊。

1877年8月21日，中國駐英公使向英國外交部呈交了中國海軍學生名單。名單中描述顏福慶為：「顏福慶（原名），23歲，在福州海軍學院受過5年教育，並在福州海軍訓練艦擔任導航員，自1877年5月起在英國受過6年導航員訓練，在中國海軍中排名第5。」駐福州訓練艦之英國海軍上校Tracey R.N.評論說，顏福慶是一個「非常聰明且導航能力強」的官員。

在第一批12名中國學生中，劉步蟾、林泰曾和蔣超英直接到英國加入不同海軍艦隻進行實習。其餘9名學生則參加了皇家海軍學院組織的考試，但黃建勳、林啟英和蔣兆志未能通過，隨後加入海軍艦隻進行實習。顏福慶和其他5名中國學生成功加入了皇家海軍學院，成為第一批在該著名機構學習的外國學生。

Study Life

It has been difficult to find detailed records during that time when Yan Fu and the other five Chinese students were living and studying at the Royal Naval College. But, according to the British National Archives' records, most of the lectures were taught at the King Charles building and the laboratories were located in the King William building. The students rented houses nearby and walked to the college to pursue their studies.

The Chinese students were occasionally invited to attend their British classmates' social activities, which mainly took place at the undercroft in the Painted Hall. A precious photo of 6 Chinese students mixing with their British counterparts was taken in front of the chapel, but unfortunately the person who took the photo could not be traced.

Kuo Sungtao formally wrote to the British Foreign Office on 3 August, 1878, that the six Chinese naval students had completed the courses and passed their exams. He requested the Foreign Office to allow five of them to be assigned as apprentices in Royal Navy fleets, and to extend Yan Tsung Kwang (Yan Fu)'s study for one more year to enable him to be capable of taking a teaching role at Fuzhou Naval Academy, which the Qing government had assigned him to do.

On July 31, 1879, the British Foreign Office was informed that the Lords Commander of the Admiralty had arranged that: "Yan Tsung Kwang will be appointed to 'HMS Newcastle' now at Sheerness for one year." But apprenticeship cancelled because of the order from the Qing government to summon him back to China.

The Qing government sent several groups of naval students between 1877 and 1887. The last group students were taught by Yan Fu when he was President of the Tianjin Beiyang Naval Academy. The transcripts of these students have shown that they earned very respectable results amongst the English students, and the courses they took included mathematics, physics, chemistry, navy navigation and fortress defence, etc.

There are 10 panels as following: Friendship, Return, Naval Education, Awakening from the Jiawu War, Enlightenment through Translation, Education, Politics and Diplomacy, Achievements, East-West Fusion, In others' words and Epilogue, which stating stories of Yan Fu and his classmates from Fuzhou Navy Academy graduated and played an important part in China's road to the modernisation after studied on British soil.

