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Cover calligraphy Yan Zhenqing 顏真卿, Tang calligrapher and statesman

Cover picture G. E. Morrison with his two 'adopted' children, sons of his head servant, photographed in 1905 in the front courtyard of his house at 98 Wang-fu-ching Ta-chieh, Peking

THE GEORGE ERNEST MORRISON LECTURES
IN ETHNOLOGY

—*An Introduction*

The George Ernest Morrison Lecture series was founded in 1932 by Chinese residents in Australia. It was, in their words, “to honour for all time the great Australian who rendered valuable service to China.” It was also hoped that the lectures would contribute to the cultural relations between the two countries. The early success of the foundation was due in particular to the efforts of William Liu, a Sydney businessman, and William Ah Ket, a Melbourne barrister, leaders, respectively, of the Chinese communities in those cities, assisted by a number of interested Australians. The Chinese Consul-General, who gave the inaugural as well as the fourth lectures, also provided timely assistance to this pioneering enterprise. Later, following the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Ambassador in Canberra has also lent support

From its inception, the Lecture series was associated with the Institute of Anatomy in Canberra where, of the first ten, all but one were delivered in May each year. This annual event was interrupted by the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1942, and the Morrison Lecture might never have been heard of again but for two fortuitous happenings: the founding of the Institute of Advanced Studies the newly-conceived academic institution that provided substance to the new “Australian National University,” and the advent of Sir Douglas Berry Copland. This New Zealand-born economist-guru, academic and civil servant, upon completing his assignment as Australia’s first post-War Ambassador to China, was called upon to assume the foundation Vice-Chancellorship of the new institution. Whether he had anything to do with the currency of a jocular description of the new institution as the ‘Australian Institute of Advanced Studies of New Zealand’, he was certainly responsible for reviving the Morrison Lecture. The first address he gave, in 1948, marked the re-foundation of this series of lectures, sponsored henceforth by the ANU. Mindful of the unprecedented changes and turmoil which he had personally witnessed taking place in China, Copland persuaded C. P. Fitzgerald of the British Council, whom he had met in Peking, to come to Canberra to join the new university, entrusting him with an investigatory tour of universities and centres in Asia, Europe and America where teaching and research on China and East Asia was being undertaken. This resulted in the creation of the Department of Far Eastern History within the Institute’s Research School of Pacific Studies.

To George Ernest Morrison, a panegyric

The following inscription was written by Kwok Sun, the founder of the Wing-on Department Store in Melbourne, in 1932, the year the Morrison Lecture series was inaugurated. We have been unable to identify the pavilion of which Mr Kwok speaks [—Ed.]

莫利孫博士澳產也道德學問夙絕一時尤長於政治
 中華民國初元任總府顧問參與密勿多所獻替生
 平彈精竭慮為華及世界服務厥功甚偉至其闡揚
 藝術溝通中澳文化尤有足多順曩年游澳獲交
 先生深得攻錯之助今人琴已杳感懷往會黯然神傷
 爰藉斯亭之成特識數言以留紀念
 中華民國二十一年春月
 中山郭順謹誌

This chain of events brought to the Morrison Lecture a new intellectual and international character, as visiting scholars from various countries were invited to contribute, interspersed with local speakers. There would doubtless have been many more distinguished speakers had the available dates for delivery not been restricted by term- and exam-times of students, who have always been encouraged to attend, not to mention the limited stays and tight schedules of many of the potential lecturers. The permanent scholarly contribution to the series would also have been greater if all the speakers had been able to submit a written text for publication. Therefore it is with great regret that we will never have the texts of Wang Ling's "Calendar, Cannon and Clock in the Cultural Relations between Europe and China," Fang Chao-ying's "The Great Wall of China: Keeping Out or Keeping In?", Eugene Kamenka's "Marxism and China," Tuan Yi-fu's "Chinese Attitudes to Nature: Idea and Reality," Jerome Ch'en's "Peasant Activism in Contemporary China," Lord Lindsay of Birker's "China and the West," and the offering of the Dalai Lama of Tibet. But even then, the speakers so far represent no less than fifteen nationalities in double that number of disciplines. It is hoped that the recent drastic and rash reduction of support for higher education and research in Australia will not succeed in relegating this event of more than national interest to a parochial backwater.

We hope in the future to reprint further selections from the Morrison Lectures so these fascinating talks may reach a wider audience.

—The Editors

Dr George Morrison, a man of unique character and ability, was from Australia. He was particularly wise in the way of politics and, following the inauguration of the Republic of China, became an adviser to the President's Office. As such he was privy to many matters of great sensitivity and offered his counsel unstintingly. Throughout his life he devoted his energies to serving China and the world; his achievement is a monument to his efforts. His contribution to the cultural contact between China and Australia was particularly rich and varied.

Some years ago, while sojourning in Australia, I had the good fortune to make his acquaintance. He was of the greatest assistance to me. This rare friend is now no more; his passing has left a void in my heart. Thus I avail myself of the opportunity, on the opening of this pavilion, to record these few words of remembrance.

*Respectfully inscribed by Kwok Sun of Chung-shan,
 on this Spring Day, 21st Year of the Republic of China*