

PACIFIC RIM

M A A Z I N E

1994

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Making Sense of the Spratlys

Ian Townsend-Gault, UBC's Ad
Hoc Diplomat is trying to turn
confrontation into co-operation

SING TAO VS. MING PAO

FENG SHUI AND ARCHITECTURE

VIETNAM, LAOS AND
CAMBODIA'S GROWING PAINS

KOREAN CUISINE

ROBERT SHIOZAKI:
CARVING NATIVE ART
ON JAPANESE POTTERY

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To The Reader

The major event for all of us at Vancouver Community College this year was the establishing of the Langara campus as an independent college. Now both institutions are pursuing their own destinies with new organizations and new resolve. We are, however, working together on several co-operative ventures to ensure that separation causes no loss of opportunities for our students. Notable among these is *Pacific Rim Magazine*.

Ownership of the magazine has passed to Langara College, but the preparation of it continues as before. Writing, editing, photography, research, and advertising sales operate out of Langara, and design and production are undertaken at Vancouver Community College. Faculty share equipment and facilities to offer students from both institutions a stimulating educational experience, helping to prepare them for the challenges of a workplace in which dramatic technological changes are occurring.

We look forward to continuing with this co-operation. Congratulations to all those who fostered it and to the student volunteers who benefitted from it to produce yet another fine issue of *Pacific Rim Magazine*.

Linda Holmes
President,
Langara College

John Cruickshank
President,
Vancouver Community College

At *Pacific Rim Magazine* we try to work to acceptable industry standards, challenging our student volunteers to meet the demands involved. Our aim is educational in the broadest sense.

This year the educational effort received a tremendous boost from Bryon Lawes, President of WYSIWYG Graphics Inc. In addition to providing technical assistance, he and his staff introduced our students to their latest desktop equipment in the kind of new work environment that is rapidly evolving today.

A detailed account of the prepress process at WYSIWYG forms part of a two-page article in this issue dealing with the preparation of the magazine. We hope this kind of collaboration between institutions in the public and private sectors will continue to the benefit of both, and we thank Bryon Lawes and his wife Ginny for their help.

We also offer grateful thanks to the Hongkong Bank of Canada for generous support which helped sustain the magazine in a difficult year that involved budget problems and the transition to Langara's independence. Thanks, too, to the *Financial Post*, as ever, and to Nathon Printing who once again assisted with the launch.

Such sponsorship helped us survive to produce this, the sixth annual issue of *Pacific Rim Magazine*. Seven is supposed to be a lucky number. Let's shoot for it.

Richard Hopkins
Publisher

After four years of volunteering as an editor and writer, I can sincerely say that being a *Pacific Rim Magazine* contributor was the best part of my learning experience at Langara College.

Not only did I acquire invaluable knowledge of the workings of a magazine, but *Pacific Rim* welcomed me to explore many different cultures I otherwise might have not been exposed to.

But above all, I enjoyed meeting and sharing ideas with many student volunteers. I am lucky to have made some life-long friends.

Beth Hume
Editor

OTTAWA
House of Commons
Room 307
Confederation Building
Ottawa, K1A 0A6
Phone: (613) 996-1995
Fax: (613) 996-1560

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I am pleased to send my warm greetings and congratulations to all those involved with *Pacific Rim Magazine*. The launch of the magazine highlights the recognition within Canada of the tremendous importance of the Asia Pacific Region. Prime Minister Jean Chretien certainly recognizes the importance of the region and appointed me Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific). My role is to advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Andre Ouellet, on Asia-Pacific matters and my responsibilities therefore cover both geographic and sectoral issues.

I believe the time is right for us to realize our full potential as a partner in the dynamic developments taking place in the Asia-Pacific region. Canada's main interests in this important region of the world during the years to come are threefold:

1. Politically, Canada will contribute to general security and peacekeeping in the region, as well as to issues related to human rights and democratic development, the environment and sustainable development;
2. Economically, Canada will be sensitive to the liberalization now underway in markets such as China, Vietnam and India, the reinforcement of our relations with APEC countries, including the promotion of international education and human resource development, and;
3. Socially, immigration and refugee issues, as well as international development co-operation, will be at the forefront of our priorities.

Once again, congratulations to all those involved with *Pacific Rim Magazine* and good luck!

Raymond Chan

Raymond Chan, PC, MP
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Japan Airlines

A WORLD OF COMFORT.

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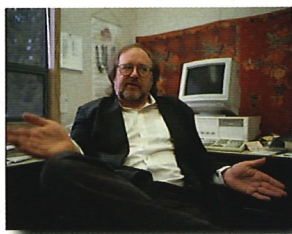
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STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

EDITOR

Beth Hume

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

David Nevin

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Wendy Bone, Jo-Ann Chiu,
Kevin Diakiw, Karol Morris,
Christopher Sinkawicz, Azam Tyab,
Yolanda Waskito

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ashish Anand-Campbell,
Wendy Bone, Brenda Chen, Jo-Ann
Chiu, Beth Hume, Paul Kamon,
Kasimir Kish, Diana Lamare, Michael
Laycock, Karol Morris, David Nevin,
Richard Overton, Andrew Rennie,
Mario Sasso, Raeanne Steele

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Leah Bromley, Dekort Chan,
Reid Cohoon, Alex de Dives,
Francesca Kok, Beth MacLaren,
Shannon Mendes, Joseph Meneley,
Satu Wainio

DESIGNERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Chris Baird, Artur Barbiarz,
Joy Boyson, Lily Hawrysh,
Richard Hoeve, Brenda Lee,
Catherine Lee, Lisa Loo, Ross Lowe,
Steven Sorrenti, Nancy Sorg, Mickey
Sylvestre, Jessie Tse, Christi York

FILM STRIPPING

Students in the Printing
Production Litho-Prep Department

Cover photo by Satu Wainio

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Fax: (604) 323-5555
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RESEARCH

Jamie Anderson, Britt Baker, Irene
Brooke, Shabnam Eskandani, Eric
Halstead, Nicole Van Hembeck,
Kasimir Kozlowski, Michael Monroy,
Monica Mooney, Anne Olsen, Kyra
Penman, Laurette Rojotte, Denyse
Rasmussen, Zenobixa Rivhera,
Andrew Roddick, Joni Sherman,
Beverley Slater, Cathy Slota, Deb
Storey, Janet Streat, Pat Sweet,
Sheila Taylor, Laura Toerper,
Christine Wallace, Margaret Wallace,
Ivy Wong

ADVERTISING SALES

Jeff Bacon, Wesley Brown, Calvin
Cane, Jason Carruthers, Brenda
Chen, Frank Ciano, Jeremy Dieser,
John Fornelli, Harbindar Ghag, Shilla
Gramigni, Kyle Grant, Jane Hardy,
Conny Ho, Julie Hunter, Steve Jan,
Zach Klippel, Fanny Kwok, Andy Lee,
Michael Lee, Dat Luong, Winnie Ma,
Kevin MacIsaac, Maureen McGonigal,
Nathan McTague, Amy Mok, Yvonne
Pozniak, Jennifer Reid, Lisa Schock,
Roy Sekulic, Denisa Senovsky, Ching-
chi Su, Navdeep Takhhar, Neil Toone,
Danny Truong, Erno Vas, Jody
Wenschlag, Grace Wong, Danny
Woodrow, Jackie Woodrow

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MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

PUBLISHER

Richard Hopkins

ADVERTISING SALES

MANAGER Shaun Fitzpatrick
ASSOCIATE Keith Murray

ART DIRECTOR

Peter Manning

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Michael K. W. Lee

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Ruth Bromley, Ann Calla, Brian
Pendleton, Jim Placzek, Anne Roberts

MAGAZINE LAUNCH

Brenda Chen, Elizabeth Chong,
Karin Giron, Parveen Jiwani

COMPUTER GRAPHICS

CONSULTANT Judy Roy

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

Beth Callahan, Ken Francis, Grant
Gibson, Curt Gislason, Doug Gordon

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Brissenden, Michael Callaghan,
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Bryon Lawes, Sandra McKenzie, Peter
Manning, Doug Taylor, Steve Vrlak

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Gerson, Richard Hopkins, Michael
Lee, Peter Manning, Keith Murray,
Larry Sherwood

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Glen Erikson, Tao Junfeng

SUPPORT

Bob Altwein, Deanne Bates,
Langara College library staff,
Ginny Lawes, Catherine O'Brien-Bell,
Linda Prince, Alvin Schafer,
Cathie Thorneycroft, Victoria
Woodward, Fred Wuhner

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The sky is no longer blue, it is “the color of television, tuned to a dead channel.” In this vision of the future, the world’s econ-

omy is dominated by multinational technology mega corporations known as “zaibatsus.” At the centre of this dynamic world lies Cyberspace, “a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators, in every nation,” a virtual world within the mind.

Cyberspace is “a graphic representation of data abstracted from the banks of every computer in the human system. Unthinkable complexity. Lines of light ranged in the nonspace of the mind, cluster and constellations of data. Like city lights, receding.” These are the words of Vancouver sci-fi writer and cult hero, William Gibson.

Gibson’s first novel, *Neuromancer*, written in 1983, won all three major science fiction awards: the Hugo, the Nebula, and the Phillip K. Dick. *Neuromancer* is the first of three installments in the hugely popular *Cyberspace* series which includes his second and third efforts, *Count Zero* and *Mona Lisa Overdrive*.

The novel’s advanced interactive computer technology blurs the fine line between what is real and what is hallucination. Gibson laces his descriptions with organic and techno metaphors, which mix up the definition of reality itself to create a vision of a tarnished future. His eclectic prose style combines explicit images with souped-up computer jargon, a far cry from the tidy prose of past sci-fi gurus such as Robert Heinlein (*Stranger in a Strange Land*), and Arthur C. Clarke (*Childhood’s End*). It is as

if he took their “elegant, patrician future . . . into a back alley and beat the crap out of it,” says columnist John Masters.

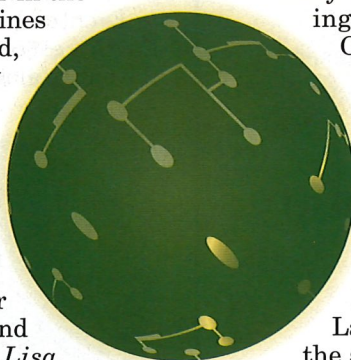
What makes William Gibson’s fiction so interesting is that it is now becoming fact; “the speed in which this technology has manifested itself continues to amaze me,” says Gibson. With the immense popularity of personal computers, the establishment of a global communications network (a.k.a. the information highway), and fresh new developments in virtual reality, Gibson’s vision of Cyberspace is rapidly materializing in the real world.

With the world’s economic focus shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific Rim, it is inevitable that Southeast Asia (already known for being on the cutting edge of technology) will be at the forefront of these developments.

Many corporations around the Pacific Rim, including Japan’s computer giant Fujitsu and California’s VPL Research, are vying for a niche in tomorrow’s Cyberspace marketplace. Fujitsu builds a wide range of unique hi-tech products, ranging from micro circuits to communications satellites. Their slogan, “What Mankind Can Dream, Technology Can Achieve,” sums up the company’s progressive work ethic.

VPL Research Inc., headed by an exuberant computer scientist named Jaron Lanier, is the company that originally provided the spark which ignited the VR industry. VPL Research designs and builds the virtual reality hardware found in almost every VR lab in the world.

Japan further reinforces its position as a serious contender in tomorrow’s technology, building Kansai, a city devoted entirely to the research and development of twenty-first century technologies. At the centre of this amazing state-of-the-art city is the ATR (Advanced Telecommunications Research) Institute, where Japanese scientists working in highly advanced biotechnology and robotics labs continually make new breakthroughs in their



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fields—hoping one day to create a direct computer link with the human mind.

ATR also boasts the world's richest virtual reality research laboratory, the sole objective of which is to merge "communication with realistic sensations," as author Howard Rheingold notes. Although we do not as yet mentally "jack into the matrix" of cyberspace or contend with multinational zaibatsus, as in Gibson's *Neuromancer*, we do see more and more people logging onto the numerous worldwide computer networks (Internet, Mindlink, etc.), and the Sony Corporation is as close to a present-day zaibatsu as any.



William Gibson's ideas have not only influenced the development of technology, they have also permeated popular culture. Numbers of his stories have been optioned for motion pictures. *Johnny Mnemonic* is currently in pre-production with rumours of actor/rap star Ice T, and martial arts expert, Dolph Lundgren in the starring roles. Gibson is also the catalyst of a diverse subculture of writers, artists, technophiles and data thieves (hackers) known as "cyberpunks."

Over the last decade, the computer net has been discreetly weaving its cables and fibre optics into the foundations of our society. New condominium developments such as Concord Pacific's in Vancouver's False Creek are being fully wired for computer services, giving all its residents direct access to the world's computer networks.

Singapore, a tiny island state lying at the foot of Malaysia, is working towards completing a full computer infrastructure, making it the first "intelligent island." Currently, 17,000 of Singapore's two and a half million people subscribe to Teleview, an interactive information system which combines TV, computer, and telephone into one smartly dressed package. Japan has developed a system similar to Teleview, also opening their population to a world of almost limitless data.

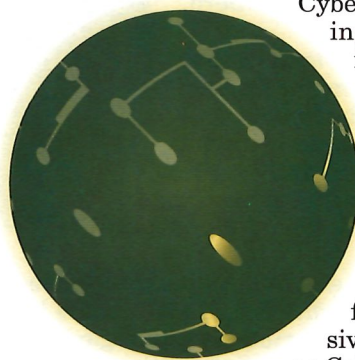
Eventually all the connections will be complete and the Earth's computer net will be in full operation—serving the entire globe. With the amount of research and money going into the development of Cyberspace, it is clearly becoming more than just a 'novel' idea.

Creating a real-life Cyberspace has become a huge multinational investment in the future.

It is 1994, and we are at the beginning of a dynamic new era known as the information age.

The way is being prepared for the arrival of the massive computer matrix known as Cyberspace.

Gibson's pragmatic imagination has spawned a culture and sparked a revolution, all of it originating in his Kitsilano basement on a defective 1927 Hermes typewriter. His vision is no longer a hallucination, it is . . . real. ♦



At Chinatown South

Complete with Buddhist temple and day-care centre, Richmond's newest shopping plaza will serve the needs of a growing East Asian community.

By Mario Sasso

Not so many years ago, green fields and stables still stretched east of No. 3 Road and south of Cambie Street in Richmond. Nowadays on No. 3 Road chances are you'll get stuck in what seems to be a rush-hour traffic jam between Cambie and Westminster Highway. You glance at your watch and to your surprise you discover that it's only 2 p.m., and it's Tuesday!

This scene is now quite typical of downtown Richmond. The influx of Asian, mainly Chinese, immigrants is largely responsible for the tremendous growth of the municipality over the last 10 years. This rapid settlement into the community has changed its ethnic make-up, so that now 30 per cent of its 135,000 residents are Chinese.

Over the past four years, foreign investors and developers have focused their attention on the area around the intersection of Cambie and No. 3 Road. In July 1990, Aberdeen Centre opened for business. It is now considered one of the largest Asian malls in North America, attracting 5,000 shoppers a day.

This \$20 million project has 120,000 square feet of commercial space and contains 60 retail shops, a 360-seat cinema, that shows Chinese films, a 24-lane computerized bowling alley and a selection of Asian restaurants and cafes. It was developed by Thomas Fung, of Fairchild Holdings Ltd., the son of Fung King Hey, the founder of a prominent Hong Kong investment house.

Two years later Mr. Fung opened Parker Place, another Asian mall adjacent to Aberdeen. Other restaurants and retail stores have sprung up in the area including, in 1993, the Japanese

Yaohan Centre just north of Cambie. The design of these malls reflects the way Asians like to shop. Shopping is seen as an outing and it's common for families to go to dim sum and stroll through the malls afterwards. Hence the emphasis on recreation with bowling and video arcades located near the restaurants.

The latest project, President Plaza, is being developed across from Aberdeen Centre. The final phase is due for completion this month. This 3.5 acre site represents one of the largest Taiwanese investments in the Lower Mainland so far. A multi-faceted \$50 million complex, it comprises an 11-storey hotel, an international ballroom, a commercial centre, and an adjoining

The Radisson President Hotel reflects the dramatic changes in Richmond's cityscape.

five-level parkade. Together, President Plaza, Yaohan Centre, Aberdeen Centre, and Parker Place are forming a new Richmond Chinatown.

In November 1993, the commercial centre and parkade joined to celebrate completion of the first phase of the project. The base of the parkade is now occupied by the T&T supermarket, fully stocked with many different kinds of Asian foods—Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, as well as some Southeast Asian varieties.

The market offers over 30 kinds of fresh fish, as well as dried shrimp,



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購買者 22 品

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種與改宗者，其目的在於使他們能與社會融和，而不至於被社會排斥。但這種做法，是否真的能達到目的？這是一個值得探討的問題。因為，如果我們只注重於表面的融合，而忽略了內在的價值觀與文化傳承，那麼，這種融合是否真的有意義？

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cuttlefish, and squid, and shrimp balls, fish balls, and squid balls to flavour your noodle soup. Depending on what you fancy, you can also try pig's brains and ears, beef jerky, dried duck meat, black silky chicken, preserved and salted ducks' eggs, plus quail and quail's eggs.

The next three floors, with over 200 vehicle spaces, comprises the parkade. Under the influence of Chinese superstition, the "fourth" floor is labelled as the "fifth" to avoid any perils. (Because the intonation of the number 4 in Chinese closely resembles that of the word "death," it is considered bad luck.)

At the top, or "sixth" floor, you can take a break from the stress of shopping and eating. A Buddhist temple, a day-care centre, and a multicultural adult education facility offer a place to relax and learn.

The second building houses the commercial centre. The lower three floors contain 40 retail shops, a food fair, a dental office, and medical facilities including a chiropractor. The upper floors are devoted to office space.

By crossing a walkway from the commercial centre you can enter the new Radisson President Hotel and Suites. Originally, the Sheraton franchise was slated to control the 184-room hotel, but that decision changed in March of this year. The Radisson Hotels International, part of the Carlton Hospitality Group, secured this location in their aggressive expansion across Canada.

Radisson Hotels has more than 345 properties encompassing 33 countries world wide. The organization is adding approximately one new location every 55 days and has chosen to target the Asia-Pacific region for their expansion in the 1990s. With such strong growth in the Pacific Rim, potential business from overseas became very appealing to an international hotel. "We will increase demand with our presence," says Bonnie Buckhiester, General Manager of the Radisson President "Richmond is ready for a new hotel."

Todd Jacob, Project Co-ordinator for Stuart Olson Construction, the development's major contractor, notes that this expansion of shopping and hotel space accompanies the growth of the Asian community in Richmond. "There is a need to make the area a little more cosmopolitan and bring the different cultures together," he says.

Richmond's new malls and plazas are setting the pace for Asian commercial real-estate development locally. With tremendous growth in Asia, and continued immigration into British Columbia, it seems likely the trend will continue. ♦

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**Chinese entrepreneur
Mah Bing Kee built a business
and battled the coal barons in
turn-of-the-century Nanaimo.**

Commanding RESPECT

By Raeanne Steele

“There’s an old saying,” says Dick Mah, “You don’t have a Chinaman’s chance.” It means “Give up. Your luck has run out.” That describes the lives of the Chinese labourers who came to Nanaimo to eke out a living just before the turn of the century.

I don’t think Mah Bing Kee paid much attention to old sayings. He came to North America with nothing. By the time he died at age 95, he had accumulated extensive real estate holdings and businesses ranging from a logging company to a gambling house. His grandson says he lived his life trying to convince his fellow Chinese to be like him. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. Command respect.

Some listened—those who agreed with his aggressive, take-no-prisoners, business philosophy and didn’t mind exchanging permanent servitude to the white coal barons for a slightly shorter indentureship to Kee. Those who did mind fought him fiercely, forcing the entrepreneur to battle on two fronts: against the white business establishment who were determined to prevent his gaining too strong a purchase on their power structure, and against his own people, who were unable to erase memories of the ancient

shackles of their own cultural elite. Although Kee desired a better life for his compatriots, his my-way-or-the-highway philosophy blocked their view of his vision.

I came across Kee’s story during my attempt to piece together the past of Nanaimo’s

Chinese coal workers. Two weeks before, in the archives of the Nanaimo District Museum, I’d gone through bits of paper in dusty files and had laboured through a local book on the city’s pioneer coal miners. To my surprise, I found little published on the Chinese; just a few academic papers, 10 to 15 pages in *Three Dollar Dreams*, and a handful of names. It was as if the 2,500 Chinese who were in Nanaimo, one-third of the town’s coal workers at the height of the coal boom, had been invisible.

At the end of my search, in a pile of papers, I found a handwritten story about the life of a Chinese businessman from Nanaimo. It was a fascinating narrative of gold rushes, court battles, and fortunes won and lost in an era of unabashed racism. The chronicle had been penned by Kee’s grandson.

Dick Mah sits in the kitchen of his tidy, white, two-



Mah Bing Kee and family—circa 1900.

storey home in Nanaimo's Cilaire district—an explosives manufacturing plant now transformed into a silent, manicured subdivision overlooking Georgia Strait. A grandfather clock ticks. Grey hair winning over black, wearing a neat, slate-coloured sweater and dress slacks, brown, flip-slop slippers on his feet, Mah is in his sixties. Time has etched gentle lines into his face. Born in Nanaimo, he speaks in an accent that is pure western Canadian.

A curio case in his living room is filled with family memorabilia: the tiny slippers his grandmother wore on her bound feet, his father's long tobacco pipe and pouch. On the wall is an oil painting of an American clipper ship. It is the *Flying Cloud* and it brought his grandfather to the "Golden Mountains" in 1861.

Mah describes how the Chinese people came to Vancouver Island. Out of work after the railway was built, some found their way to Nanaimo's coal mines. They all came from a small area in China—Guangdong province. If they didn't know each other personally, they knew the families. Kee, who couldn't stand to see skilled men working menial, back-breaking jobs, saw both a business opportunity and a chance for these men to improve themselves, Mah says.

"Bing Kee would say to these different people: 'What are you doing working like a mule for 10, 15 cents an hour?'

Look, you're a herbalist, you're a tailor, you're a baker, you're a cobbler. That's what you should be.'" Easy for you to say, they told Kee. You've got money. "Look, if you have the desire, I have the funding," was his reply. So for 50 per cent of the profits, on a handshake, Kee loaned them the money to set up their businesses. It was a sweat equity deal that got some of them away from the mines.

The Chinese businessman started with nothing. He came from a farming family where land was passed on in increasingly smaller portions to the male descendants. Hearing about the California gold rush, his family scraped together the passage money and Kee sailed to America in 1861. He was 14 years old.

For 26 years he worked in California and amassed enough of a nest egg to be an eligible suitor for the daughter of a prominent San Franciscan Chinese family. Kee married Wong Foon in 1887. The newlyweds headed to Nanaimo and Kee, 40 years old, got into the real-estate business. He owned property up and down the island, says Mah. Wherever there was a Chinese community Kee was there with a business offer to help them set up.

Mah brings out an old letter from his aunt describing her father. Over the years, she'd sent him these letters to help him piece together his grandfather's story. Bing Kee was "outgoing and forthright," a no-nonsense type who

Bing Wye Mah, according to his father's instructions, allowed tenants to remain in the buildings during the hard years of the Depression.

"commanded respect" from both the whites and Chinese, Mah reads aloud. Commanding respect. Acting with dignity. Always. This is what was passed down to Mah—from his grandfather, to his father, to him. Because of the colour of their skin, the shape of their eyes, the pitch-black of their hair, whatever they did reflected not only on them; it reflected on their whole race. They were Chinese.

With his stature rising within the community at the turn of the century, Kee was invited to the Capitol Theatre's grand opening. All the dignitaries, including Nanaimo's Mayor Hilbert, were invited. As was custom, Indians and Orientals were segregated upstairs. As Kee entered the main floor, the theatre manager asked him to go upstairs. Hilbert intervened but the manager was adamant—until the mayor threatened a special session to revoke his license. Kee was allowed to sit downstairs. But the Chinese businessman, who had watched the humiliating exchange, stood impassively.

"Bing Kee said, 'Not only me, but all Chinese,' and he wouldn't budge," says Mah. And so it was that Nanaimo's Chinese came to have the right to choose where they sat at the town theatre. "These old boys used to tell me that if it wasn't for your grandfather we'd still all be segregated upstairs," Mah says.

Kee won that skirmish, but when he went to battle against the coal barons of Nanaimo, chutzpah and temerity notwithstanding, he was no match against the white establishment, whose connections extended all the way to the courts of London.

It began with a real estate deal in 1917—the sale to Harry Whitney Treat of the option to purchase an old cranberry farm Kee owned, minus the coal rights. Unbeknownst to Kee, Treat was just a front for the Granby Consolidated Mining Smelting and Power Company who were at the same time obtaining coal rights to Kee's property through another front, the executors of the cranberry farm estate who had originally sold the property to Kee.



*Bing Wye Mah, son of Mah Bing Kee
and father of Dick Mah,
lived 1890-1961.*

Curiously, the B.C. Legislature had just passed an act that provided a three-month window for homesteaders to apply for coal rights to their land, an opportunity the coal-mining company took advantage of. The coal rights had originally been granted by the Crown to Robert Dunsmuir for all the land abutting his E & N Railroad. (Not so coincidentally, the railroad track just happens to follow the same route as the Douglas coal seam.) The cranberry farm was part of that grant. In their application, the executors of the estate contended that they had reserved the coal rights when they sold the land to Kee. So they, not Kee, were entitled to them.

Sensing either a rat or a marvelous business opportunity, Kee took them to court, arguing that the coal rights were rightfully his. Mah says Kee wanted to open his own Chinese-operated coal mine using the skilled workers who had been legislated from working underground 20 years earlier. Through his wife's San Francisco contacts, he had a ready market.

Kee lost the first round but was successful in the appeal. So the coal barons took him across the Atlantic to London's Privy Council. And that's when Kee gave up. Says Mah, his grandfather made it a policy to pay his lawyers only if they won the case for him. It's the way the Chinese do business: the herbalist gets paid if he cures you. Kee's lawyer, Senator

A. E. Plantal advised him to quit: "There's a lot of prominent English people, the Royal Family included, that have interests in a lot of these colonies, and they're not going to rule in your favour."

They didn't. By the time it closed in 1932, the Granby coal mine on the old cranberry farm had produced 2,450,289 tons of coal from the land that had once belonged to the feisty Chinese businessman.

But it wasn't only the white establishment he fought in the courtroom. He battled his fellow Chinese as well. The dispute began because Kee raised the dollar a month rents on the ramshackle houses in Chinatown to make a bigger

Commanding respect.

Acting with dignity.

Always.

**This is what was passed
from his grandfather, to
his father, to him.**

profit, says Debra Bodner, the Curator of the Nanaimo District Museum. The year was 1908. Kee and his partner Ching Chung Yung had just bought the 13 acres that made up Chinatown from the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, along with an adjacent 30 acres of farmland. In 1901, rent revenues from the Chinatown property had been around \$70 a month; hardly a profitable venture. The coal company had wanted out. The buildings were run-down; sanitation was poor.

Mah says income from the property just wasn't enough to allow for maintenance or upgrading. Kee wanted to develop the area into a "proper subdivision" inhabited by both whites and Chinese, where he planned to offer serviced lots for sale at an average price of \$350. Chinese people would be given first choice. It would be a better way of life for the Chinese; a chance to improve themselves by buying property and building a decent house in an attractive subdivision.

The reason the Chinese didn't take up Kee's offer was simple. They were just plain tired of the economic power Kee wielded, says Chuck Wong the son of a herbalist from the old Chinatown. Kee owned everything—the stores, the rooming houses, the gambling tables.

"He controlled the entire area. In the olden days, most of the people were bachelors. Their only recreation was to go to play poker and fan tan. And Bing Kee monopolized on that. They didn't want their lives to be controlled like that. Everything's through him."

Class conflicts were a major dynamic within the Chinese communities, according to a B.C. study by Gillian Kreese. Memories of servitude to the Qing dynasty were fresh. The dispute went to court to decide who owned the buildings on the land Kee had bought and the newly-formed Lun Yick Company of Chinatown won. In 1911, they dismantled their buildings, took them across the street, and surrounded themselves with an eight-foot wall and two gates that they closed every night. The residents of the new Chinatown kept to themselves. And those who

were not part of the Lun Yick Company continued to pay rent.

Mah says that the reason the old Chinatown residents didn't share Kee's dream of an integrated subdivision was simply jealousy. "I guess they felt safer amongst themselves living basically in a kind of ghetto atmosphere. That was not progress. Either advance or you fall behind. . . . I guess everybody wants to be a big frog in a small pond." He insists that history proved Kee right. Because of the low rents, no money was accumulated for improvements and Chinatown's buildings became rundown, according to a University of Victoria academic paper by Kathleen Savouly. Finally, they burned to the ground in 1960.

A fatal decision to visit his daughter in Shanghai in 1927, and the subsequent Japanese invasion of China, trapped Kee leaving him unable to return to Canada. He died in his home village at age 95.

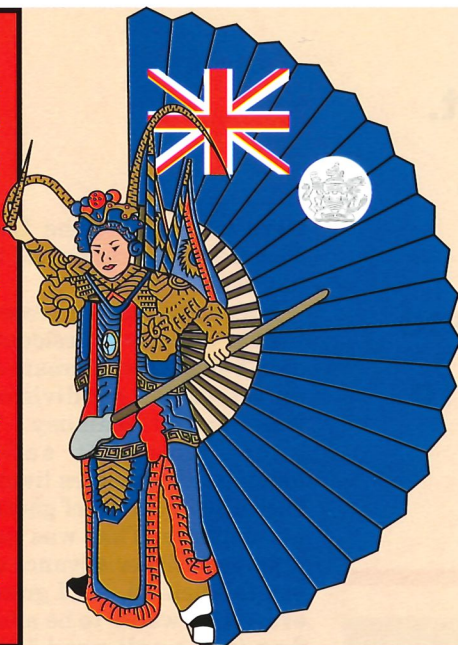
The running of his businesses he left to his only son, Bing Wye Mah, who according to his father's instructions, allowed tenants to remain in the buildings during the hard years of the Depression. A promise to pay was the only requirement. As the Depression ground on, the Mah family was forced to sell off property to maintain some of their holdings. Ironically, the investment strategy that created Kee's

wealth ended up costing him it.

Dick Mah sifts through the old papers that show the subdivision Kee finally created from the abandoned Chinatown. There are neat initials opposite each of the lot numbers, probably made as the lots were sold, incidentally mostly to white buyers. Mah tells me it's still a very nice subdivision up there. He laments the old people who were left in Chinatown. Instead of embracing the subdivision Kee had planned for them, he says, "those people paid fifty years in rent and what did they get? Absolutely nothing. Just a pile of rent receipts. They could have bought it. They could have had dignity."❖



*Dick Mah with his father's long
tobacco pipe and pouch.*



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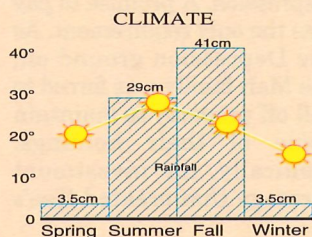
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GENERAL INFORMATION



Languages: Chinese and English, official languages; most widely used Chinese dialect, Cantonese; English is used in hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.

Time Difference:
PST +16 hr.

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Feb. 10-12 (var.)	Lunar New Year
April 1,2,4 (var.)	Good Friday, Sat., Easter Monday
April 5 (var.)	Ching Ming Festival
June 11 (var.)	Queen's Birthday
June 13 (var.)	Monday Holiday
June 14 (var.)	Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival
Aug. 27 (var.)	August Holiday
Aug. 29 (var.)	Liberation Day
Sept. 21 (var.)	Mid-Autumn Festival
Oct. 13 (var.)	Chung Yeung Festival
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	Boxing Day
Dec. 27	2nd Week Dayafter Christmas Day

Major Centres:
Hong Kong Island, New Territories, Kowloon;

principal business district is Victoria (or Central)

Population: 5,900,000 (1992)

Notes: make prior appointments and be punctual. Handshakes are common when being introduced or when leaving a meeting. Business cards are essential. Conservative clothing recommended for business. Present small gifts (using both hands) when first meeting business people. Accept and try to reciprocate any luncheon or dinner invitation, for business is often conducted at restaurants or private clubs. Avoid situations causing loss of face. Avoid white and royal blue, the Chinese colours of mourning. Electrical outlets are 200v, 50 cycle AC.

WAR of the WORDS

Mathew Lai: assistant editor-in-chief of *Ming Pao* (left).
Paul Tsang: editor-in-chief of *Sing Tao* (right).

There's There's a silent battle going on in Vancouver. It rages all over town, with fronts on the west side, the east side and the suburbs. But there are no bodies, no tanks and no guns. Just characters. Chinese-language characters, that is.

Sheffield and Sons, a smoke shop in Arbutus Village shopping centre, is the location of one of the fronts. Shop clerk Angela Song says the battle has been a draw so far on this mid-January Saturday—the count for each side tolls seven or eight.

The battle is for the hearts and wallets of readers and advertisers. The combatants are Chinese-language newspapers. The stakes are high.

The Lower Mainland's Chinese-Canadian community numbers more than 200,000 and is growing fast. In the period 1991-92, almost 15,000 Hong Kong immigrants settled in B.C. In the first quarter of 1993, more than 25 per cent of all Chinese immigrants to Canada chose B.C. to settle in. That's a lot of potential readers and advertisers. And a lot of potential dollars to be made from both.

If you don't read Chinese, it may surprise you that Vancouver now has two Chinese-language daily newspapers, *Sing Tao* (which translates into "star island daily report," a poetic description of Hong Kong) and *Ming Pao* ("bright newspaper" or "clear report").

It's somewhat of a David and Goliath struggle between *Sing Tao*, the long-established Goliath, and *Ming Pao*, the up-and-coming David. Both are branches of parent papers of the same names in Hong Kong and receive much of their news from there.

But what separates these two papers from the half-dozen other Chinese-language papers found in Vancouver is the dailies' emphasis on Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver reportage. And both papers show some

Headlines

become

front lines

as rival

newspapers

compete

for

Chinese

readership.

by Michael Laycock

fascinating differences from Western papers like the *Sun* and *Province*.

Sing Tao was launched in 1938 in Hong Kong, with a current readership of 159,000 on its home turf. The Vancouver edition (which has siblings in Toronto, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, and Sydney) began in 1983, and has a current circulation of 25-30,000. A typical 55-cent issue runs a weighty 72 to 92 pages per day, of which advertising makes up about 65 per cent (by comparison, ads made up about half of a recent randomly selected, 126-page *Vancouver Sun*).

Of its news content, about one-third is Canadian and the remainder covers Hong Kong and international news. If you are able to read Chinese, a browse through *Sing Tao* might bring you coverage of a speech by B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt, or a U.S. demand that China cease selling military hardware abroad. You might also read pieces on fung shui (energy balance in the environment) or an update on, yes, the Bobbitt severed-penis saga.

Sing Tao publishes two pages in English, dealing primarily with Asian business news, and prints in two or three basic colours. The paper has at least six reporters on its Vancouver staff to cover local news, and receives other Canadian news from its Toronto reporters and the Canadian Press wire service.

Later the same mid-January Saturday at Broadway's bustling Mayfair News, shop clerk Ike Ahn says *Sing Tao* is winning the daily battle. Mayfair orders 24 copies of *Sing Tao* per day, and all of them were gone by my mid-afternoon visit. Ahn says the store orders 15 copies of *Ming Pao* and usually sells seven or eight.

"*Sing Tao* is the best," Ahn says. "We're almost sold out every day."

WAR OF THE WORDS

Ming Pao's Hong Kong presses rolled for the first time in 1959, and the paper claims a current readership there of 494,000. The ownership made a half-hearted attempt to establish a Vancouver edition in 1989, but failed (disastrously, as one report put it). Under new ownership *Ming Pao* tried again, and started printing a 10,000-copy daily edition from its Richmond plant in October 1993. *Ming Pao* currently employs eight reporters and five editors in Vancouver.

The paper sells for 55 cents and averages 64 pages in full colour, just over half of which are ads. Unlike its main competitor, *Ming Pao's* pages are divided into sections like the *Vancouver Sun's*.

Ming Pao focuses more on China and other international reporting than local Canadian news, but this appears to be changing. A skim through the pages of *Ming Pao* might yield stories on the U.S. challenging Canada over wheat subsidies, or a political cartoon lampooning China for the harshness of its dealings with Hong Kong. You might also read about Hong Kong horse racing results, developments in Cambodia, or the latest in the Harding/Kerrigan figure-skater-meets-lead-pipe epic.

Across the city in Chinatown, the battle continues at Pender Street's Superior Bookstore, where manager Raymond Lau won't give precise numbers, but concedes that here, too, *Sing Tao* has the edge. Senior citizens buy *Sing Tao*, Lau says, while the younger generation and new immigrants pick up *Ming Pao*. Lau says you can't even compare the two combatants to the *Sun* or *Province*—both *Ming Pao* and *Sing Tao* have much more news.

So is there really a battle going on? "For sure," Lau says, making disdainful remarks about the lack of competition between the local English-language dailies. "Competition makes you better. It's good for everybody."

Interestingly, Lau says he doesn't read either Chinese competitor any more. He reads the *Province*.

From his busy Chinatown office, *Sing Tao* editor-in-chief Paul Tsang says his newspaper's readership is mostly Chinese-Canadians who have been here for more than three years. "They might be our die-hard readers," says Tsang, who moved from Hong Kong to

Vancouver in 1985. "A lot of our readers have built up an invincible, invisible relationship with the newspaper. It has become a habit to read our newspaper."

Much of the habit stems from *Sing Tao's* emphasis on local news, Tsang says, not only in its general news and business pages but also in its sports and features. "When we first started in 1983, we might have had only one local page. Now we have ten or more some days," Tsang says, adding the paper will eventually use more local news and more colourful pages.

Tsang is reluctant to talk about *Sing Tao's* competition, preferring to emphasize the need to better oneself. When pressed, he concedes, "You can't ignore [*Ming Pao*].

They are our competition, of course. I don't consider them a serious competitor at the moment, because they still have quite a long way to catch up. But of course, it's good for the readers. It's good for the general public because they can have a choice.

"Given time, [*Ming Pao*] can improve a lot. They have a lot of experienced people. They can do much better. And they are improving, from what I can see."

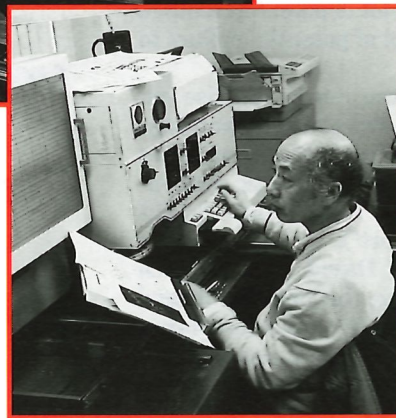
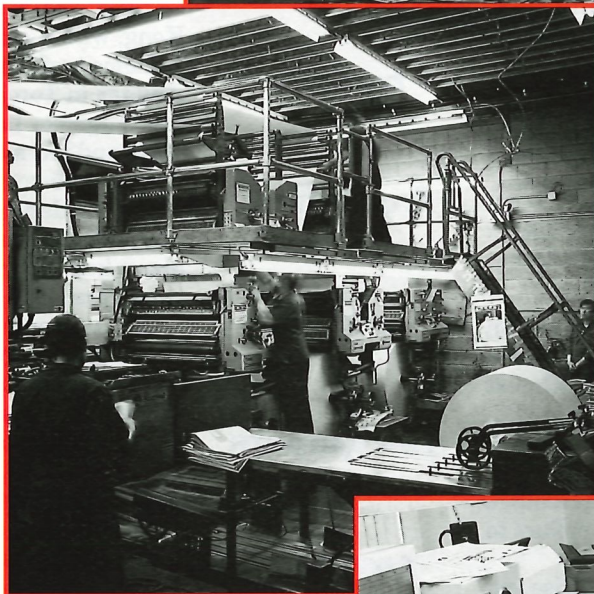
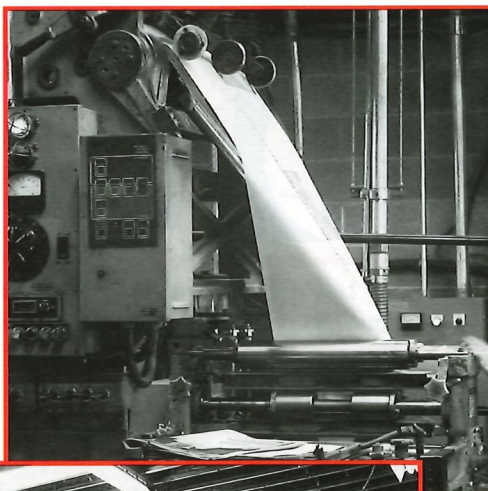
He says *Ming Pao* is targeted at recent arrivals from Hong Kong, but

he adds that this strategy may not be a long-term success. "Our reasoning is that when those new immigrants settle down, they'll want to know more about Canadian news instead of reading news from thousands of miles away."

Tsang suggests *Ming Pao* has increased its local news content and moved it

toward the front of the paper because of a realization that it can't rely solely on newcomers.

Resurrecting *Ming Pao* in Vancouver wasn't an easy task, according to *Ming Pao's* assistant editor-in-chief. "When we organized the launch we had difficulty in



Sing Tao's
press
began
rolling in
Vancouver
in 1983.

WAR OF THE WORDS

recruiting staff, especially editors and reporters, because lots of people with these skills went back to Hong Kong," Mathew Lai says from his Richmond office.

"It's quite different from Hong Kong," Lai adds in reference to the circulation problems his paper has had due to the vast area covered by Greater Vancouver. Lai has been with *Ming Pao* since 1971 in Hong Kong, and was part of the team that started the Vancouver editions in both 1989 and 1993. He faces the formidable task of carving a niche in a market dominated by *Sing Tao*, and he's the first to admit it.

"[*Sing Tao*] has a deeper link in the local community. I think up to now they are stronger for the news in the local community. But it's going to change." Lai may be right. Problems aside, *Ming Pao* has been going strong since its October launch. The home office in Hong Kong must be feeling secure—Lai says the company is preparing to launch a New York branch of the paper in the next few months.

A key to *Ming Pao's* success in carving a niche in the Vancouver market has been its target audience: recent arrivals from Hong Kong. Lai argues that as long as the number of new arrivals remains high, *Ming Pao* can assure itself a market.

Lai recognizes *Sing Tao's* long history with the Chinese-Canadian community here. At the same time, he sees no reason why there isn't room for one more choice for the reader.

"But as a newcomer, we must improve the quality of the newspaper," Lai says. "We have a better printing quality. We are strong in China reporting, and also we have more news from Toronto and Ottawa. That means that we have a bigger coverage. What they have, we also have."

"We try to do our best in the local news section because Chinese who've lived in Canada for a long time change their thinking, their habits. So we must try to meet their needs."

The battle between *Sing Tao* and *Ming Pao* has involved advertisers as well as readers. But how do you crack a market that for the most part doesn't seem aware you exist?

Tsang says it's the newspaper's responsibility to change that. "We have to make it known to them [advertisers] that we can carry the message directly to their potential customers."

He says *Sing Tao's* plan is to expand advertising revenue into supermarkets, department stores, and other large retail outlets.

And *Ming Pao's* Lai echoes his competitor's plan. "Our market is not confined to the Chinese. . . . We not only aim to get advertising from the Chinese community, we also aim at the mainstream."

Although mainstream advertisers have historically avoided or ignored the Chinese-language media, Lai says they are beginning to realize and make use of the great purchasing potential of the Chinese-Canadian community. And if you pick up either *Ming Pao* or *Sing Tao*, you can easily see the result. Both papers are known to run full-page ads (generally from real-estate companies) on page one—a practice unheard of in Western papers. For \$2,100-\$3,000 the front page is yours.

Veteran Chinese-language broadcaster Hanson Lau says it's tough to say who is winning the war. "There's a common saying in Chinese," Lau says. "Until the nails are into the coffin, you don't make a judgment on the man."

But if there's anyone in this town who's qualified to make such a call, it's Lau. He worked at Vancouver radio station CJVB-AM for 20 years and is now executive producer of Overseas Chinese Voice Broadcasting on 1320 CHMB-AM.



Ming Pao's
Vancouver
staff
currently
includes
eight
operators
and five
editors.

WAR OF THE WORDS

Lau knows the Chinese-Canadian community here, and has some keen observations on the battle between *Ming Pao* and *Sing Tao*. "[*Ming Pao*] readers tend to be more recent immigrants, more professionals and academics. *Sing Tao* is more of a family paper," he says, adding he reads both to get the pulse of the community.

On the editorial front, Lau says the two papers sometimes treat news differently. This past winter, a bus leased to a Chinese travel agent collided with a snowplow in the Roger's Pass. Lau says the agent ran advertisements in both newspapers prior to the accident, but only *Ming Pao* mentioned the name of the agency in its coverage of the accident.

"*Ming Pao's* stand is that 'We're not afraid to tell everybody the facts.' *Sing Tao* is more discreet," Lau says.

Can *Ming Pao* compete with its established rival? "*Ming Pao* seems to be coming on strong," Lau says. It has strong financial backing and an eager, aggressive team, he explains.

The paper has been exercising its muscle since its October re-launch, when it ran an ad reading "You should have this paper," alongside the names of all its major ad agencies. The meaning behind the words was actually a wise Chinese saying: "You deserve this now." Lau explains it was clearly a jab at *Sing Tao*—advertisers now have a choice.

But in keeping with Chinese philosophy, a strength can also be a weakness. Lau says *Ming Pao's* owners are throwing a lot of money at their paper but they can't get the desired return fast enough.

"They have taken a Hong Kong style of approach. In Hong Kong they come on very strong, they make their money and they move on. Here, I don't think it works. People here are a little bit more laid-back."

The competition between the two papers hasn't led to the vandalism and threats Montreal saw in 1991 when six Chinese newspapers battled it out. But it hasn't been entirely friendly.

For example, Lau says *Ming Pao* has lured staff away from *Sing Tao* by offering them more money. It's a charge echoed by *Sing Tao* general manager Kenneth Fung, who

says 10 per cent of his staff, including half of his advertising sales team, moved to *Ming Pao* between May and October last year. Fung says *Ming Pao* offered specific *Sing Tao* staff better salary and commission packages.

But all this wooing carries woes. "The weakness of *Ming Pao* is there are too many chiefs. . . They hired everybody," Lau says, adding where there are too many chiefs, egos tend to get in the way. "Either you get bruised or you get tossed out."

Lau doesn't see this kind of approach coming from *Sing Tao*. Its long history and loyal advertiser support has given it a solid base. "*Sing Tao* delivers," Lau says, so advertisers have been staying with *Sing Tao* in droves.

The conservative *Sing Tao* has changed very little despite its new-found competition, Lau says, but he has some cautionary words for the newspaper in case it becomes complacent. Hong Kong Chinese have to anticipate change because of the stiff competition there, he says, but "Most of us here just sit and wait until the govern-



Ming Pao opened the doors of its Richmond plant last October.

ment taxes us to death."

A block west of Superior Bookstore, James Woo is closing up shop at Sino United Publishing. Woo is co-manager of the four-year-old bookstore. He says *Ming Pao* was the victor today—all 50 copies sold, while nine of 50 *Sing Tao* copies remained on the shelf.

Woo says he reads both papers when he has time because they both have lots of local news. He particularly likes *Sing Tao's* established columnists. The market for Chinese newspapers is pretty much saturated now, he says, adding that there simply aren't enough Chinese-speaking people to make another paper worth starting.

But Woo sees more local people reading Chinese-language newspapers in the future—both non-Chinese trying to learn the language and Chinese-speakers aiming to do business in Asia. He says the two dailies give extensive coverage of Asian stock markets and have a more accurate view of Asian events than Western media.

Can both dailies survive? Woo believes so. "The number of people reading them is increasing—there are more people coming over from Hong Kong and Taiwan all the time."

Woo finishes putting security bars on the outside of the windows of his store, and another day of battle draws to a close. ♦

INDONESIA



TRAVEL

- **Visa:** not required for Canadian citizens for visits of less than 60 days; passports must be valid for at least 6 months from arrival date; proof of onward or return ticket required
- **Health Precautions:** 10-year boosters for tetanus, diphtheria, polio, and typhoid; for rural areas, hepatitis A and B immunizations, and vaccination against Japanese encephalitis; use bottled water, or water disinfected with iodine; avoid ice, raw seafood, salad greens, and dairy products; peel and wash produce
- **Tipping:** for restaurants and hotels, 10% if service charge not added; for porters, bellboys, Rp500 per bag; for taxi drivers, Rp200-300 or small change from fare
- **Currency and Exchange:** rupiah (Rp); Rp1490 = C\$1 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** 87% Islam, 10% Christian, 2% Hindu, 1% Buddhist
- **Airlines:** from Vancouver: Canadian Airlines: 3 flights/wk. Cathay Pacific: daily via Hong Kong (overnight stay). Garuda Indonesia: (ex Vancouver via Delta, connect in L.A.) 4 flights/wk. (6 in summer)
- **Distance from Airport:** 35 km to Jakarta; taxis into Jakarta add surcharge of Rp 2,300, road toll of Rp3,500-4000
- **Transportation:** air-conditioned taxis, Rp800 first km, then Rp400/km; non air-conditioned, Rp600 first km, then Rp300/km

BUSINESS

Canadian Representatives:

Canadian Embassy
5th Fl., Wisma Metropolitan 1
Jalan Jendral Sudirman Kav 29,
Jakarta 12920, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 510-709
Fax: (62-21) 578-2251
Tlx: 73-62131 DMCAN IA
Cable: DOMCAN JAKARTA
Mail Address: PO Box
1052/JKT, Jakarta 10010, Ind.
**Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada**
Indonesia Desk, Asia Pacific
South Trade Development
Division, Lester B. Pearson
Building, 125 Sussex Dr.
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0G2
Tel: (613) 996-0910
Fax: (613) 996-1248
Tlx: 053-3745 EXTERNALOTT

**B.C. EXPORTS
to INDONESIA**
\$75,323,000 (1993)

**CANADIAN EXPORTS
to INDONESIA**
\$442,813,000 (1993)

**B.C. IMPORTS
from INDONESIA**
\$100,779,000 (1993)

**CANADIAN IMPORTS
from INDONESIA**
\$439,963,000 (1993)

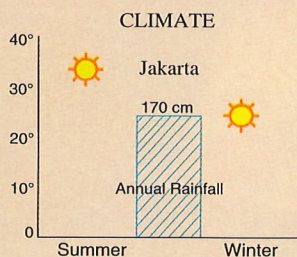
Indonesian Representatives:

**Embassy of the Republic of
Indonesia**
287 MacLaren St.
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 0L9
Tel: (613) 263-7403/7404
Fax: (613) 563-2858
Tlx: 053-3119 INDONESIAOTT
Indonesian Consulate
2nd Fl., 1455 West Georgia St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2T3
Tel: (604) 682-8855
Fax: (604) 662-8396
Tlx: 04-508353 INDONESIA-
AVCRKADIN
Business Organizations:
**Ind. Chamber of Commerce
and Industry (KADIN)**
Chandra Bldg, 2nd Fl.
Jalan M.H. Thamrin 20

Jakarta 10350, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 324-000/064 or 829-
1607 (Asia Pacific)
Fax: (62-21) 380-6098
**Importers' Association of
Indonesia (GINSI)**
CTC Building, Jl. Kramat Raya
94, Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 390-1559/8480
Fax: (62-21) 390-8479
Canadian Banks:
Hongkong Bank, PO Box 2307
Jakarta 10023, or World Trade
Centre, Jalan Jenderal
Sudirman Kav 29-32, Jakarta,
12920
Tel: (62-21) 521-1010,
521-1062 (Forex)
Fax: (62-21) 521-1103,
521-1104
Tlx: 60137/8 HSBC 1A

GENERAL INFORMATION



Climate: Dry season, June-Sept.; Rainy season, Dec.-March

Languages: Bahasa Indonesia (official), English, Dutch, numerous dialects

Time Difference:
PST +15-17 hr.

Capital: Jakarta

Other Major Centres: Surabaya, Medan, Bandung, Semarang, Palembang, Cirebon

Population: 195,000,000 (1992 estimate); 4th largest nation

Notes: Don't use your left hand to give or receive anything, or point at or touch anyone; Electricity supply in most hotels 220v, 50 cycles, AC for a 2-pronged plug; in the provinces, some hotels use 110v. Business hours: 0800-1600 or 0900-1700 M-F; government hours: 0800-1500 M-Th, 0800-1130 F.

Public Holidays (1994)

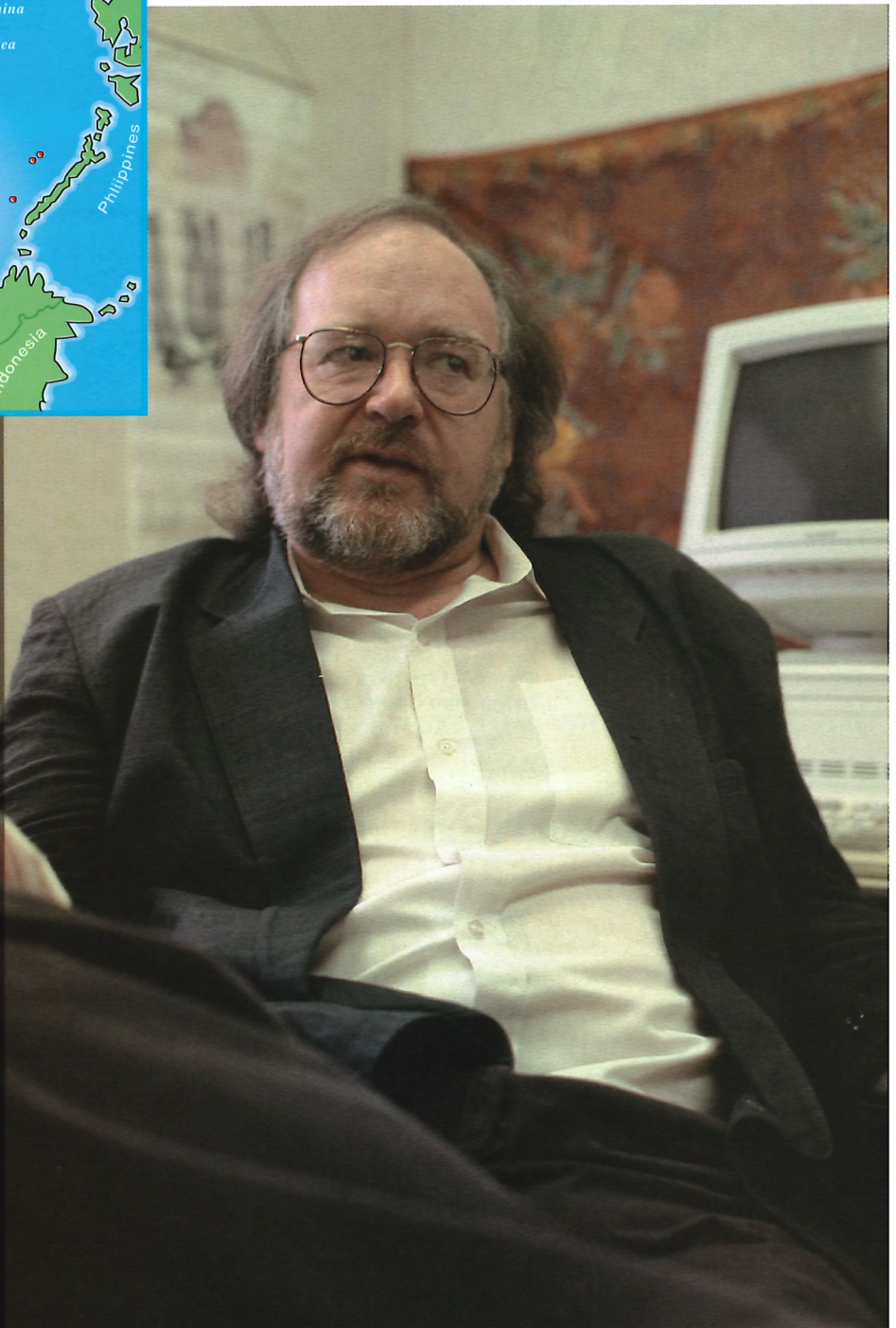
Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 10 (var.)	Ascension of Mohammed
Mar. 14-15 (var.)	End of Ramadan
Apr. 1	Good Friday
Apr. 12	Hari Raya Nyepi
May 12	Ascension of Christ
May 21	Idul Adha
May 25	Hari Raya Waisak
June 11	Islamic New Year
Aug. 17	Independence Day
Aug. 30 (var.)	Mohammed's Birthday
Dec. 25-26	Christmas Holiday
Dec. 30	Isra Mi'raj Nabi (Ascension of the Prophet)

SEA OF T



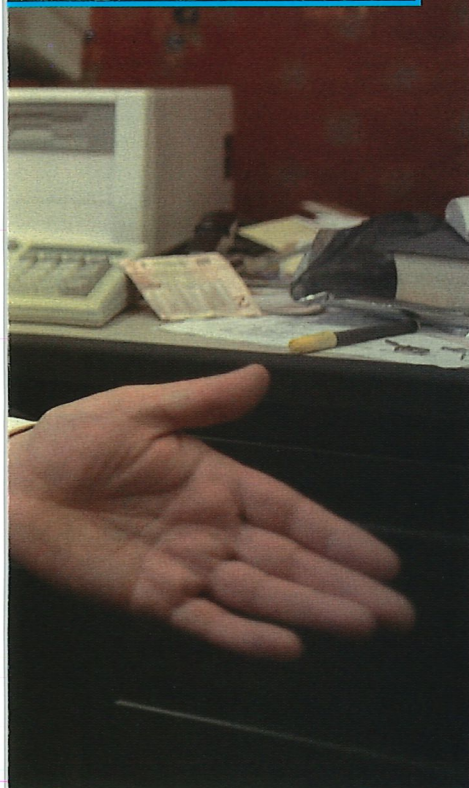
A CHINESE TERRITORIAL MARKER LEAVES BARELY ENOUGH ROOM ON THE 'ISLAND' FOR THE SOLDIERS DEFENDING IT.

The soldier could be any one of thousands stationed on the Spratly Islands, located in the southern waters of the South China Sea. Depending on the island, he could be wearing the military uniform of China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, or the Philippines. Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, has said that, after Cambodia, this could be the next major flash-point in Southeast Asia. In 1988, claiming to be setting up weather research station for UNESCO, the Chinese took control of six Spratly islands. The resulting naval clash sank three Vietnamese transport ships and killed 72 seamen.



ROUBLES

B Y D A V I D N E V I N



What does a group of scientists discussing marine biology with a University of British Columbia law professor have to do with a soldier standing on an island no bigger than a house plot many miles away? Everything, if you consider that the soldier is not shooting or getting shot as long as the scientists keep generating good feelings and sound ideas.

The soldier could be any one of thousands stationed on the Spratly Islands, located in the southern waters of the South China Sea. Depending on the island, he could be wearing the military uniform of China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, or the Philippines. Brunei is also involved but occupies no islands. The scientists meeting in Manila have come from throughout the Pacific Rim, and everyone is worried that the Spratlys are going to erupt in armed conflict. Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, has said that, after Cambodia, this could be Southeast Asia's next major flash-point.

Ian Townsend-Gault, director of the University of British Columbia's Centre for Asian Legal Studies, also sees the potential for rapid escalation of armed conflict, a "nasty dust-up," as he calls it, in "the most bitterly divided ocean space, almost, in the world."

To say that the stakes are high is to understate the obvious. Six of the eight littoral states (bordering the South China Sea) have claimed all or part of this island group as their own. The grounds on which they justify their claims vary, but each seems willing to

defend its territory with arms. Excepting Brunei, they have all sent contingents to defend islands under their control and to artificially increase the size of the islands to permit the construction of small airstrips and the deployment of more troops.

Coupled with this military build-up are historical animosities among the nations involved. Enmity is most pronounced between Vietnam and China. The two countries have a long

history of violent disputes, and have skirmished in the South China Sea before, over the ownership of the Paracels. In 1988, claiming to be setting up weather research stations for UNESCO, the Chinese took control of six Spratly islands. The resulting naval clash sank three Vietnamese transport ships and killed 72 seamen.

Nations outside the region would also be impacted by the outbreak of hostilities. "Millions of barrels of oil are afloat in these waters," says

Townsend-Gault, mostly on their way to Japan. Major shipping routes leaving the Gulf of Thailand or passing through the Straits of Malacca also cross the South China Sea.

Professor Townsend-Gault has researched the South China Sea conflicts, and believes that international law will not help resolve them or ease the tension. "Western law is inimical to an Eastern solution," he says. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the only multilateral treaty that could provide a legal resolution to the dispute.

*UBC's Ian
Townsend-Gault
is trying to avert
a "nasty dust-up"
in the
South China Sea.*



OF THE APPROXIMATELY 200 SPRATLY ISLANDS (CALLED THE NANSHA ISLANDS BY THE CHINESE), ONLY ABOUT TWENTY ARE NATURALLY ABOVE SEA LEVEL. OF THESE, ONLY SEVEN HAVE AN AREA GREATER THAN ONE TENTH OF A SQUARE KILOMETRE. FAR RIGHT: CONSTRUCTION OF A RADAR FACILITY ON YONGSHU REEF. BELOW: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES BY THE PRC IN 1988, AT THE REQUEST OF UNESCO, GAVE THE CHINESE A FOOTHOLD IN THE SPRATLYS.



There are drawbacks, however. Firstly, no-one who stands to lose by doing so is going to appeal to an international court for a resolution, and there is no way to bring an unwilling participant into that process. Secondly, there are ambiguities in the treaty, requiring the participants to provide their own definitions of certain words and clauses, and the littoral states will only agree to definitions that will benefit their claims.

Townsend-Gault doesn't feel that the situation is hopeless, obviously, because he has been trying to find a solution. Through other work in Southeast Asia on Law of the Sea matters, he listened to people in the region discuss the Spratlys. They would talk freely with him because he is a Canadian, and therefore uninvolved. Recognizing that there is, in his words, "very little prospect of negotiation or third-party settlement in a formal way," he looked for glimmers of hope, and found Dr. Hasjim Djalal.

Dr. Djalal, formerly Indonesia's ambassador to Canada, was also looking for a way to persuade the states involved to resolve their disputes peacefully. Indonesia is the largest ocean state in Southeast Asia, and it is not in Indonesia's interest to see the situation deteriorate. Like Canada, Indonesia has no claims of its own in the South China Sea and is on speaking terms with all of the littoral states. Both Indonesia and Canada, and therefore Djalal and Townsend-Gault, are in a good position to mediate discussions.

The two agreed that in their search for a solution they should create an informal forum in which the countries involved could "discuss the undiscussable." Their goal therefore was to provide the environment inside which the "almost non-resolvable" conflicts could be addressed.

Townsend-Gault put the proposal for a Canadian and Indonesian initiated response in a suitable form and approached the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for financial backing. The idea was to set up a series of meetings enabling government officials, military officers, academics, opinion-makers, and scientists to gather unofficially. If co-operative projects could be established to extract resources and carry out scientific research, the impetus for "owning" islands would diminish. Projects geared towards the co-administration of safe navigation routes and coping

with environmental problems would also benefit the participants.

He was given \$60,000 to travel to each of the capital cities of the region to discuss the problem. He and Djalal pointed out to their diplomatic contacts that they were "not going to be able to negotiate this because everyone is so deeply entrenched, the positions are so hard." They convinced those who would listen that although a meeting of foreign ministers was doomed to failure, under the guise of quasi-academic, unofficial meetings, people could "still talk." They might even agree to manage the sea co-operatively.

The Canadian government offered to fund the meetings and Canadian scholars undertook to conduct comprehensive studies of the sea's living and non-living resources, which may include large oil and gas reserves. With this information, negotiations would be based on realities and not on the theoretical potentialities of the waters.

The meetings are called "Workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea." Agendas include no discussion of sovereignty or other contentious issues. Instead, opportunities for co-operation in areas such as marine scientific research, navigational safety, living and non-living resource management, defense, and security are considered. The participants are present in their personal capacities only, not as representatives of their countries. As Townsend-Gault says, "There are no flags, no anthems, and no national delegations."

The first meeting was held in Bali in January 1990. Only participants from the ASEAN countries were invited. It was felt that the meeting, if successful, could progress to include the other Asian countries involved. It became obvious to all that participants were eager to find a peaceful way out of the dilemma, and that the countries were willing to co-operate if they could do so without forfeiting their claims. The meetings have become annual, with delegates from the littoral states, ASEAN, Laos, and Cambodia now attending. Smaller working groups have also met to focus on more technical issues such as co-operation on marine scientific research.

The project has not avoided growing pains. Some of the internal difficulties have been overcome with help from the mediators. Townsend-Gault recalls an incident when Chinese and Taiwanese representatives faced each



other at the second workshop, held in Bandung in 1991. The discussions began to digress into the all-too-familiar argument over Taiwan's legitimacy as a separate entity from mainland China. Dr. Djalal took the delegates aside and warned them that they were endangering the process and that the Canadians might stop supporting the project if they did not co-operate. The Chinese and Taiwanese delegates were later seen at a nearby restaurant "plotting strategy" together.

Another setback came in May of 1992 when the Chinese government sold an oil concession to an American company, Crestone Energy Corporation. The president of Crestone said that the oil exploration would be protected by the Chinese navy. The concession lay in Vietnamese-claimed waters, and tensions rapidly heightened. This spring the Vietnamese responded in kind by granting a concession to the Mobil Corporation to explore for oil south of the Spratlys. According to the *Vancouver Sun*, China's foreign ministry declared the contract "illegal and an infringement of China's interests." But as Townsend-Gault noted about the Crestone episode, "all this saber-rattling was going on, but in Bandung people were still talking."

Why in fact should the countries involved co-operate? One reason is that they have to co-operate on some issues, someday, regardless of the outcome of the claims. Fish and pollution do not respect international boundaries. Over-fishing by one country would deplete the stock of the whole South China Sea. As well, it is in no one's interest to resort to violence. In the event of war, it would be highly unlikely that any one nation's military could defeat the other five to gain control over all of the Spratlys. To maintain that control indefinitely would be impossible.

Canada's role in fostering this co-operation is accepted without question. "The one problem we've never had in selling our part is why Canada is involved in this—no-one has ever asked us that," says Townsend-Gault. "The

only time I was really asked that in an aggressive way was by the BBC World Service—but I soon told them."

A valuable credential is Canada's work on ocean development in the region over 20 or 30 years. So is the fact that "we are neutrals" with "no axe whatever to grind in the South China

ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEUR

In one corner of Professor Ian Townsend-Gault's cluttered office is a camping mattress and a sleeping bag, unfolded and ready for use. Ready for his 15-minute "power naps," or for the days when work has kept him from the last ferry to his Bowen Island home. "He doesn't sleep much," says one of Townsend-Gault's assistants, and it's no wonder.

Acting as the Joint Project Director of the Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea Project (MPCSCS) is only one of many titles that the 41-year-old professor carries. He is the director of UBC's Centre for Asian Legal Studies. He heads a half dozen projects in Southeast Asia dealing with the legalities of coastal states and offshore oil exploration, and the protection of the environment. He is also one of the founding directors of the Oceans Institute of Canada, and remains a member of the board of directors. The MPCSCS is his largest and most far-reaching project to date, and the most ambitious.

"He's an incredible academic entrepreneur," says Peter Tyedmers, a member of Townsend-Gault's team. "It's very dynamic working here." Peter is a post-graduate law student, and has worked under Townsend-Gault for two years, travelling with him to Asia on occasion. Colleague William Stormont is an International Relations graduate and has been on board for one year.

They are two of a staff of 15, and both feel that the team is part of a broader plan, that Townsend-Gault has more ambitions after the MPCSCS project. "[The project] has allowed Ian to build up a group of people at the beginning of their careers to work on this and other projects," William observes, "people from a whole range of disciplines." Peter agrees. "He provides a tremendous amount of opportunity. He gives you a lot of rope to hang yourself."

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Townsend-Gault received his LL.B at the University of Dundee in Scotland in 1976. He went on to do graduate studies at Queen's College, Cambridge. Before coming to Canada in 1980, he taught law in England and Norway. In Canada, he taught at the University of Calgary for three years and Dalhousie Law School in Halifax for five before taking the appointment at UBC.

Since graduating from the University of Dundee, Townsend-Gault has written or co-authored about 45 papers and articles and has acted as consultant to various public and private institutions, including the United Nations, CIDA, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Dome Petroleum, Mobil Corporation, and Texaco on land and water-resource management.

Charlotte Townsend-Gault, Ian's wife, is also well published. She has her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, and works freelance. They have two children, and witnessing high-school drama productions and other critical events of parenthood are crowded into their father's schedule alongside the mediation of international disputes.

How did he become involved in international diplomacy, this Irish-Canadian academic with a rumpled tie stuffed in his pocket and sandals on his feet? "I just sort of fell into it," he says, "after experiencing the horrors of a conventional career."

—David Nevin



Sea." Professor Townsend-Gault's initiatives therefore enhance Canada's reputation as a mediator while reducing the risk of war in an area of major strategic importance. ♦



KONNICHIIWA,

TokYO

By Diana Lamare

I arrived at Narita airport in Tokyo with \$1,000, a backpack, and a lot of hope. I'd finally made it to Japan. Now all I had to do was find a teaching job and a place to live. But first I had to find my way out of the airport.

I had directions to the apartment of Jeff, my brother's friend, scribbled on a brown paper bag. I was going to stay at Jeff's for a week while he was out of town. The apartment was somewhere in the middle of 13 million people. I had to find a shuttle bus to Shinjuku station, take the subway one stop, transfer to another line, go six more stops, then get off and walk for ten minutes. No problem.

The only Japanese words I knew were *konnichiwa* (hello) and *sayonara* (good-bye); I said many hellos and good-byes my first day in Japan. The third word I learned was *sumimasen*. As I bumped my way through the dark blue suits, tailored skirts, and the occasional kimono, I heard "sumimasen . . . sumimasen" from both elbows. I soon realized this meant "excuse me" and I added it to my hellos and good-byes.

The Japanese consulate in Vancouver had given me a very general map of Tokyo and I clung to it like I used to cling to my favourite stuffed penguin.

With a tired smile I approached the driver of the shuttle bus for Shinjuku and said "Sumimasen. Konnichiwa. Shinjuku?" He nodded and said something in high-speed Japanese while pointing to my money belt. I figured he'd asked for money and gave him my biggest bill in yen in hopes that it would cover whatever amount he needed. It did. He gave me a clump of change, and I climbed on the bright orange bus.

I made my way down the aisle and looked at the seat

next to an elderly woman with kind eyes and bluish-grey permed hair. She nodded three or four times, smiled, and squeezed herself and her suitcase-sized shopping bag way over to the side to give me more room.

I'd never had much trouble getting into bus seats, but as I lowered myself beside the smiling woman, I suddenly felt as if I'd grown eight inches and gained 80 pounds. The seat was about as wide as an ironing board and incredibly close to the one in front. With my knees poking up and my arms hugging the day pack in my lap, I felt the way a basketball player must feel sitting in a Volkswagen bug.

My neighbour's grin got wider and she began pulling things out of her shopping bag to show me. During the one and a half hour trip, we managed to communicate using hand gestures and drawing pictures. Little did I know, these two techniques would become my most effective tools for teaching English as a second language during my stay in Japan. By the time we reached Shinjuku station, I'd learned that she was a mother, a grandmother, and a widow, and that she'd just spent three busy days shopping in Seoul, South Korea.

We said our sayonaras in the midst of subway chaos, people swarming around us. Before we parted, she reached in her goody bag and handed me a Seoul souvenir—two packs of Korean cigarettes. I was a little puzzled because I don't smoke, but smiled gratefully and put them in my bag.

I gave her a wooden maple leaf pin I'd made at home and she gave it back. I said, "No, no. You take it. Sumimasen. Sumimasen." She took it, then handed it back again, this time with a pen. She gestured for me to sign the back. I scratched my name into the wood and then scratched two

*An intrepid Canadian teacher remembers
her frantic first day in Japan.*



"I faced the throngs of people and realized I had no idea which direction to go."

more for her grandchildren. She bowed her way graciously into the thick crowd and I waved until all I could see was her curly, grey head bobbing through the businessmen and office workers.

After she was gone, I was hit with a wave of nausea. I faced the throngs of people buzzing from ticket machines to trains and realized I had no idea which direction to go or how to buy a ticket.

I tried my "Sumimasen . . . Konnichiwa" technique, but in the busy station few had time to stop for a frazzled foreigner clinging to a crumpled map.

Announcements blared from loudspeakers about incoming and outgoing trains, but to me they sounded more like the soundtrack for the *Seven Samurai*.

The walls were lined with larger-than-life advertisements for everything from oolong tea to telephone cards. I almost tripped when I saw a 20-foot spread of Mickey Rourke smiling over a glass of Suntory whiskey.

After what seemed like hours but was probably only minutes, a 20-something man in a blue suit stopped and asked in English if I needed help. I said yes, please, thank you, and he escorted me to the ticket machine and gave me my first lesson on how to use the Tokyo subway system.

I thought he must be going the same way because he bought a ticket for himself. But he got one just so he could take me through the ticket takers and walk me all the way to my platform.

He wished me luck and said a fast sayonara before disappearing into the wall of people. I quickly looked up my fourth word in my Japanese dictionary and shouted "Arigato!" above the heads. But my thanks were drowned out by the sound of my train pulling up to the platform.

I caught a glimpse of my reflection in the train window and discovered why he had wished me luck. My hair was frizzed out from 12 hours of airplane air, my backpack was falling off one shoulder, and my other bag hung around my neck, choking me slightly.

Beads of perspiration were dripping down my nose from the humidity, anxiety, and heavy bags. I was wearing the same rumpled Levis and T-shirt I'd put on in Vancouver two days before and my expression looked pretty desperate. I took a deep breath and stepped on board for my first Japanese subway ride.

I looked around for the men with white gloves I'd heard about, who push people onto packed trains, but I couldn't see any. It wasn't rush hour, but the train was not exactly roomy. By the time I'd stacked my stuff in a lopsided pile, we'd reached the one stop I had to go before transferring.

I hauled it all off and while I stood there teetering under the weight of my load, a young woman in a black dress touched my arm and asked if I was okay. We were both going to the same area, so she picked up one of my bags and we walked side by side through the freeway of faces, smiling and nodding at each other. I thanked her four or five times before cramming on my last train of the day.

I found a subway map on the ceiling and looked for my destination. The diagram looked more like spaghetti than a map, but eventually I figured out where I was headed. I had six stops to go. Paranoid about missing my station, I stuck out a finger to count each stop. When I got to my sixth

finger, I hopped off the train.

Now came the tricky part. Jeff had warned me that the 10-minute walk from the station was a little confusing.

Because there were no street names, he told me which landmarks to look out for. I put away my Tokyo map and got out my brown paper bag. His directions read something like this: "Exit station from west end, go up stairs. At top of stairs turn right. There is an intersection with three roads coming together. Cross to the middle road with the tracks going across it. Cross the tracks.

The road sort of splits after the tracks. Follow the left split. It curves round to the right and you'll see a reddish fake brick building on your left and a bunch of little stores on the right. Pass all of this until you see a tall building on your right with shiny metal siding. That's my building.

Go in the foyer and look for the silver mail boxes. I'll leave the key in number 116. Take the elevator to the tenth floor. Get out of elevator and turn left. My place is at the very end of the hall. Make yourself at home."

The landmarks seemed sketchy to me, but I held on tightly to my brown bag and started walking sentence by sentence. I spent about five minutes in the station wishing I had a compass, but finally figured out which exit was west.

When I reached the top of the stairs and turned right, I immediately saw the three-way intersection and breathed a sigh of relief. I plodded along, looking for my guides. I realized there was more than one reddish fake brick building and quite a few shiny metal apartments, but I was too exhausted to worry about it.

I kept going until I saw a glistening apartment building towering above the street like a gigantic filing cabinet. That was the one. I entered the foyer, saw an entire wall covered with silver squares, searched for mail box number 116, and couldn't find it. The numbers were stuck on with plastic tape and many had fallen off.

I counted the boxes in order until I got to where 116 would be then opened the metal door and a crammed batch of colourful Japanese junk mail sprang to freedom. I dug through the layers of ads and still couldn't see the key.

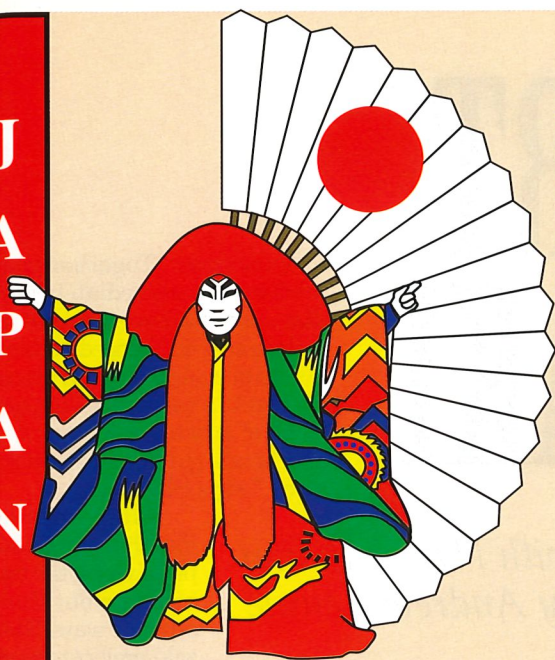
On my knees, I started to sift the papers spread out on the floor. A family shuffled by and stared at my predicament. After a few minutes of slight panic, I heard a soft "clink." The key lay on the tiles next to my Birkenstocks.

I sighed, scooped it up, straightened the mess, and got in the elevator. It jerked to a stop somewhere between the fourth and fifth floors, waited a moment, then chugged its way up, delivering me safely to the tenth floor.

It was the smallest apartment I'd ever seen. Everything seemed miniature. The living room was about ten-by-eight with just enough space for a 12-inch TV, a ghetto blaster, and a loveseat. The bedroom was barely big enough for a single futon on the floor and a narrow closet with built-in drawers. Two posters and a map of Japan hid the grey wallpaper.

I was not concerned with the limited leg room or the decor. I was thrilled to be there at last and especially happy to see the neatly made bed waiting for me to fall into. I dropped my bags next to the futon, peeled off my well-worn clothes, crawled under the comforter, and zonked out for 18 hours solid.

I dreamt of orange buses, blue suits, and a grey-haired woman with a beautiful smile signing a pack of cigarettes.❖



TRAVEL

- **Visa:** not required by Canadian tourists for visits up to 90 days; required by long-term visitors, business people, and students
- **Health Precautions:** vaccinations not required unless travelling from an infected area; tetanus booster advised after 10 years. Japanese B Encephalitis vaccine is advised for travellers in rural areas 1 June and 1 Oct.; available at Vancouver health Dept. Travel Info. Clinic at \$45 per dose
- **Tipping:** uncommon; but 10-15% service charges at higher priced hotels and restaurants
- **Currency and Exchange:** yen; Y74.16 = C\$1 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** most Japanese observe both Shinto and Buddhist rites; other religions 16%, Christian 1%
- **Airlines:** direct ex Vancouver: Canadian Airlines: daily with 2 flights on Tues. JAL: at least 4 times/week. Air Canada: Osaka service due to start fall '94
- depending on completion of airport. Korean Airlines: 3 flights per week, via Seoul. Flying time approx. 9 1/2 hr.
- **Distance from Airport:** Tokyo International Narita-Tokyo, 60 km
- **Transportation:** car rental, Y4,000 (subcompact) to Y25,000 (standard) per day; taxi, Y750-1500 for short rides; efficient train, bus, and subway services

BUSINESS

Canadian Representatives:

Canadian Embassy
3-38 Akasaka 7-chome
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107
Tel: (81-3) 3408-2101
Fax: (81-3) 3479-7280
Tlx: 22218 DOMCAN

Canadian Consulate
Daisan, Shoho Building
12th Fl., 2-2-3 Nishi
Shinsaibashi
Chuo-ku, Osaka 542
Tel: (81-6) 212-4910
Fax: (81-6) 212-4914
Mailing address: PO Box 150
Osaka, Minami, 542-91, Japan

Japanese Representatives:

Japanese Embassy
225 Sussex Dr.

**B.C. EXPORTS
to JAPAN**
\$4,918,111,000 (1992)

**CANADIAN EXPORTS
to JAPAN**
\$8,393,263,000 (1993)

**B.C. IMPORTS
from JAPAN**
\$4,209,207,000 (1993)

**CANADIAN IMPORTS
from JAPAN**
\$10,689,823,000 (1993)

Ottawa, Ont. K1N 9E6
Tel: (613) 236-8541
Fax: (613) 241-7415
Tlx: 053-4220

Japanese Consulate General
900 - 1177 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 2K9
Tel: (604) 684-5868
Fax: (604) 684-6939

**Japan External Trade
Organization**
660 - 999 Canada Pl.
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3E1
Tel: (604) 684-4174
Fax: (604) 684-6877

Business Organizations:

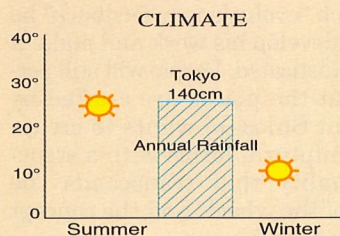
**Japan Chamber of
Commerce and Industry**

2-2, Marunouchi 3-chome
Chiyado-ku
Tokyo 100, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3283-7824
Fax: (81-3) 3211-4859
Tlx: 224920 JPN

**Japan External Trade
Organization**
2-5, Toranomon 2-chome
Minato-ku
Tokyo 105, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3582-5511

Canadian Banks:
Hongkong Bank,* Bank of
Montreal, Bank of Nova
Scotia,* CIBC, National Bank,
Royal Bank, Toronto Dominion
Bank--all in Tokyo (*also in
Osaka)

GENERAL INFORMATION



Languages: Japanese; English is taught in schools and is widely used by businesses catering to tourists and foreign business people

Time Difference:
PST +17 hr.

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 15	Coming of Age Day
Feb. 11	National Foundation Day
March 21	Vernal Equinox
April 29	Greenery Day
May 3	Constitution (Memorial) Day
May 5	Children's Day
Sept. 15	Respect for the Aged Day
Sept. 23	Autumnal Equinox
Oct. 10	Health-Sports Day
Nov. 3	Culture Day
Nov. 23	Labour Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 23	Emperor's Birthday

Capital: Tokyo
Other Major Centres:
Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya

Population:
124,611,000 (1992)

Notes: the giving of small gifts to business and personal acquaintances is very common. Exchange of business cards almost mandatory and done with great formality. Shoes are removed before entering houses and restaurants. Private entertaining is usually done in restaurants. In polite conversation, the suffix san is added to the surname in place of Mr., Mrs., or Miss (e.g. Suzuki-san). Electricity, 100v, 60 cycles, AC in west Japan (Osaka, Kyoto, Fukuoka, Nagoya); 100v, 50 cycles, AC in east Japan (Tokyo); flat 2-pin plugs.

ROBERT SHIOZAKI

"Only a master knows how simple it isn't." This saying stuck in the mind of Robert Shiozaki, a British Columbia artist (born in New Denver) who draws an important part of his inspiration from Japan's samurai tradition. Another

in Vancouver. Together they produced an immediately popular style: Native art carved on to Japanese-influenced pottery. Shiozaki sculpted blank pieces for Hunt to carve. This unique blend of artwork sold very well and "made gallery status right away," says Shiozaki.

A local potter combines Japanese traditions with Native Indian designs to create his own distinctive style. By Andrew Rennie

part he derives from B.C.'s Native Indian tradition. In both cases a master, or mentor, stimulated Shiozaki's artistic imagination.

While studying (for two years) at the Vancouver School of Art, Shiozaki met sculpting instructor Leonard Epp, a "fabulous mentor," as Shiozaki says. Epp was learning pottery at the time and so they worked together after hours in the ceramics workshop, perfecting their techniques.

In his second year Shiozaki decided that he wanted to pursue ceramics and, returning to his roots, left to study in Japan. Starting in first year ceramics at the Kyoto School of Fine Arts in 1968, Shiozaki "submerged" himself, as he says, "in the whole process of what they were doing." The language barrier proved to be merely an inconvenience as he watched and learned from experience.

Although strongly influenced by the work of the post-graduate students, he was allowed to proceed on his own, to find his own means of expression. At that time, the education program at the Kyoto School differed greatly from those in the West. Professors stressed the individual as belonging to a tradition. Art forms have been handed down from generation to generation over centuries.

In 1970 Shiozaki returned to Vancouver and completed the art program at the Vancouver School of Art to acquire his diploma. He then went on

to take courses at the Langara campus of Vancouver Community College before transferring to the University of British Columbia.

After discovering he "couldn't cut school any more," he quit UBC and worked for a few years in graphic design, creating advertisements for various companies. He always held on to his pottery, though, maintaining it as a hobby to pay for further education.

In 1985, Shiozaki met another mentor, Bradley Hunt, a Kwakwaka'wakw artist commissioned to produce work for Expo 86

alone. "Nothing beats this solitude," he says. So he adopted and adapted the Native designs he learned from

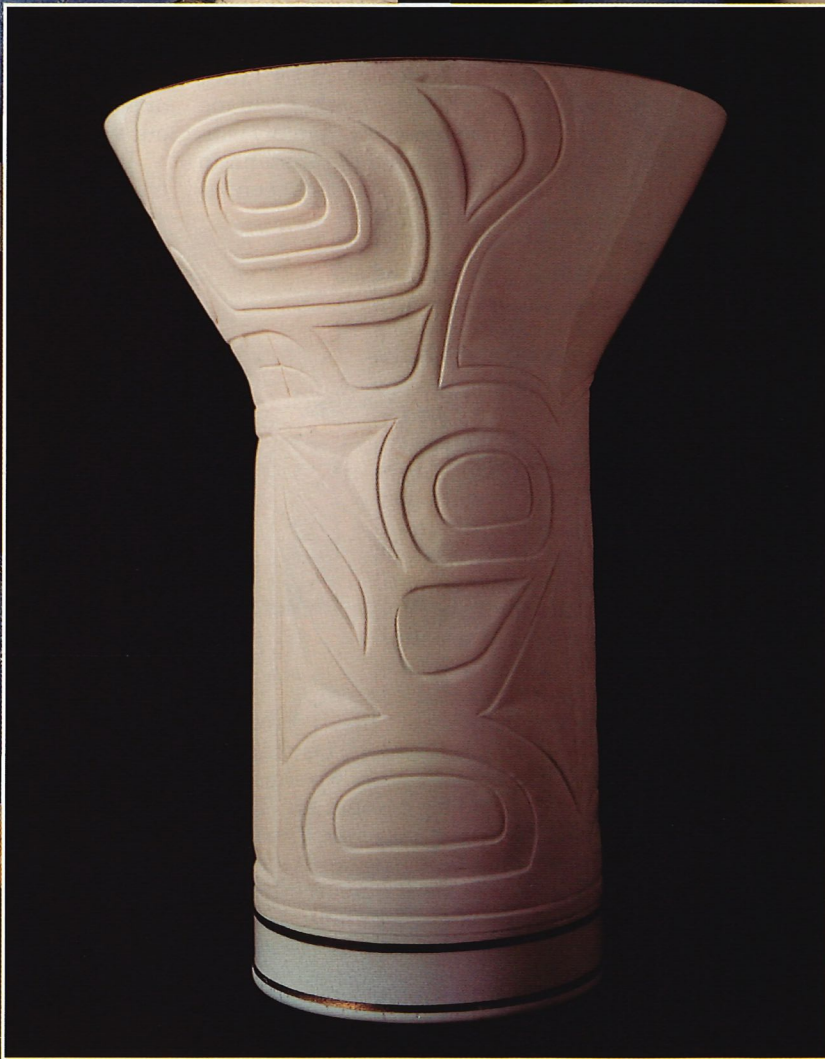
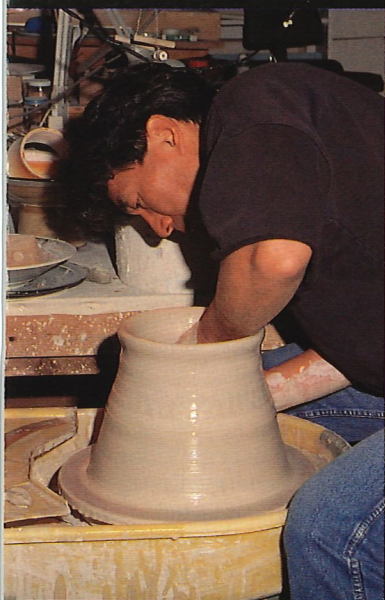
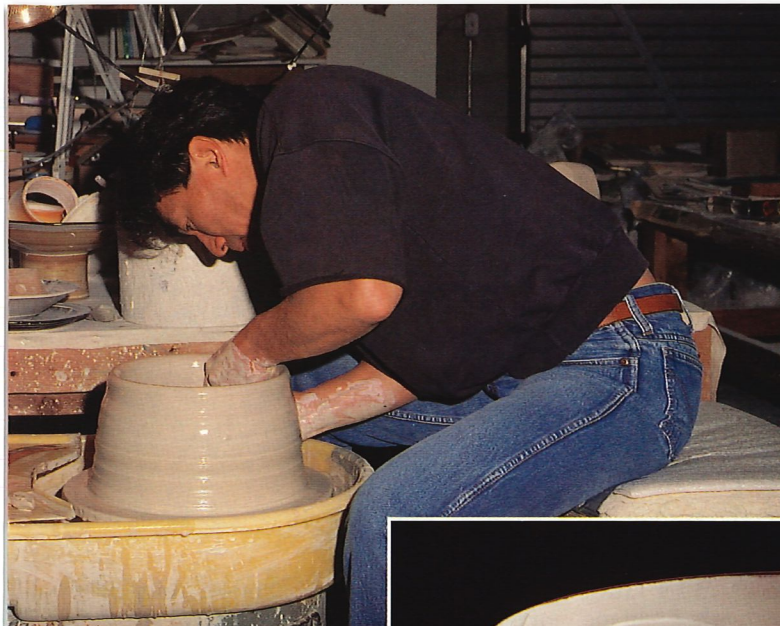
Hunt to create his own distinctive ceramics style. At the Filburgh Festival in Courtney, B.C., in 1987, his work sold immediately. Galleries previously supplied with Shiozaki-Hunt collaborative works were introduced to the new solo Shiozaki style and made excellent sales.

Shiozaki has been carving Native Indian artwork on to his pottery for over seven years now and is constantly revising his pieces. "If I have something in mind," he says, "I'll produce a dozen or two dozen of them and along the way one piece or two pieces will give back the thing I'm looking for."

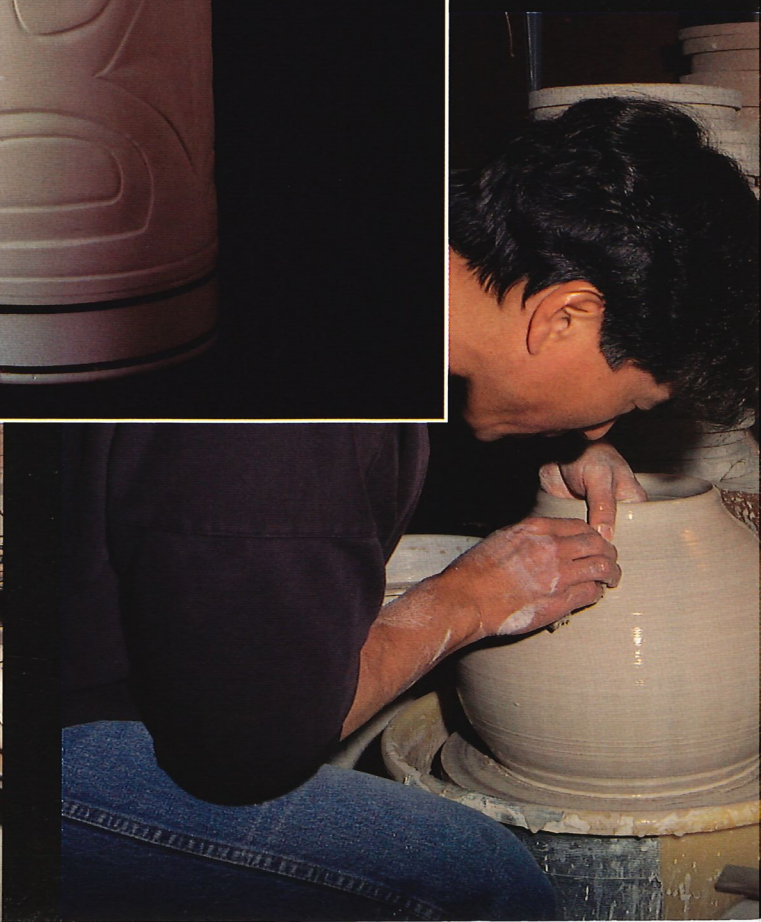
By such "evolutionary feedback" he hopes to develop his work and make it more sophisticated. People will still perceive that the pieces are crafted by hand. But Shiozaki wants to create "more sculptural forms with a structural quality that transcends the process of the wheel" and the concept "made by hand."

Robert Shiozaki's art is currently showing in Vancouver at the Canadian Craft Museum's Gift Gallery, the Circle Craft Gallery, and the Queensdale Gallery. This year he is expanding into the United States with an exclusive showing at the Kirkland Images in Time Gallery in Washington State. ♦





*At work
in his studio,
Robert Shiozaki
displays
the latent energy
in his
pottery technique
as he strives
to achieve powerful
sculptural forms.*



FORM, FUNCTION, AND ENERGY BALANCE



Feng Shui

master

Joseph Ip

is changing the

shape

of real-estate

projects

in Vancouver.

By Brenda Chen

Feng Shui (literally “wind, water”) first influenced my life when my mother told me that I must move my bed away from my window, and place a plant on a night stand to the right. Placing the plant didn’t seem so hard, but moving the bed was an adventure. I’m five feet three inches on my good days, and the owner of a queen-sized bed measuring approximately six feet by four feet. Dragging the box spring and mattress across the room, I laboured to enable my room and me to achieve a balance of energies, as Feng Shui would call it. I wondered if I was alone in this pursuit—until I met Mr. Joseph Ip, a Feng Shui master and consultant.

Mr. Ip has practiced Feng Shui for some 30 years. He is the founder of the Institute of Chinese Prophecy (with offices in Hong Kong, Osaka, and Vancouver), and for six years was host of a television show in Hong Kong. Mr. Ip has consulted on many projects in the Vancouver area, among them the Expo lands site, the David Lam Management Research Library at the University of British Columbia, and Solheim Place (Shun Lai Lau) in Vancouver’s Chinatown.

Feng Shui dates back to the Shang Dynasty which ruled China from 1500 BC to 1027 BC, and is based on principles of Taoism written about in the *I Ching*. It is considered to be a means of channeling energy. The name highlights the two major forms of energy transmission: wind and water. The direction of the wind, and the location of water could represent the difference between prosperity or mere survival. The emperors used Feng Shui to help them align their political and military forces to best advantage. Eventually, the practice spread as a kind of payment to commoners who helped the emperor in times of civil strife.

The guidelines for Feng Shui application have changed. The strategy involves defence

not from opposing armies, but from opposing energy flows which may disrupt our well-being.

Interviewed in his Vancouver Chinatown office, Mr. Ip asserts that “Feng Shui is a science using everyday elements to take advantage of one’s surroundings.” If our surroundings are aligned properly, we will find harmony and be protected from negative forces that could harm us.



Mr. Joseph Ip, Feng Shui master and consultant.

Energy forces in Feng Shui are described as positive and negative. But don’t let the classifications fool you: an overabundance of positive energy can be just as harmful as an overabundance of negative energy. Energy balance can be affected in many ways, for example by doors that are positioned so that they are caught in a stream of excessive energy flow, and so on. Energy should not only be balanced but be allowed to linger and benefit those who receive it. It is the combined energy forces of people and their surroundings that determine their well-being.

Demand for Feng Shui has increased steadily in Greater Vancouver. Mr. Ip says that requests for his services have skyrocketed in recent years, reflecting immigration patterns. The outcomes of many housing transactions now rely on Feng Shui principles. A house with undesirable characteristics may sit on the market for a long time unless cured of its flaws. Compass and charts in hand, Mr. Ip has undertaken such cures. In one case, a sign certifying that he had changed some features of the home, prior to completion, helped it to sell almost immediately. A sort of Feng Shui equivalent of the “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.”

Four major components of a home that can affect not only occupant harmony, but marketability as well are doors, house position and interior design, landscaping, and address number.

"Doors," Mr. Ip explains, "are much like the human mouth; they take in hot air (equivalent to positive energy), and cold air (equivalent to negative energy). When positioned in the wrong direction, they will receive an excess of one or the other which in both extremes can hurt the lungs."

If you think of your house in the same way, with the door being the mouth and the interior being the lungs, the positioning of the front door towards a source of excessive negative or positive energy may endanger you. A door which faces rushing traffic can permit pollution, or negative energy, to enter the home. A front door which aligns directly to the back door of the house is undesirable because energy goes in one door and out the other with no chance for it to linger and benefit the inhabitants.

A building's position is important, too. Stale air may collect at the end of a cul de sac or street and enter a house situated there. Solheim Place (Shun Lai Lau), a Downtown Eastside Residents Association project, illustrates Feng Shui principles applied to maximize positive energy flows, restrict negative energy flows, and distribute energy flows generally. Located on Union Street in Vancouver's Chinatown, this project provides low-cost housing for the local community.

The front door of Solheim Place originally faced a viaduct where traffic moves rapidly day and night. To counter this, Mr. Ip specified that a stretch of green grass with trees be used to buffer the pollution and erratic energy flow that would otherwise impact the building.

He also recommended that the building design include three attached towers with the central tower being set back from the other two. Looking out the front of the building, the left tower is considered the "Green Dragon" and the right tower is considered the "White Tiger" in Feng Shui. The colours attached to these guardian towers are not significant but their placement is. Every house should have a Green Dragon and White Tiger, as these two elements help to funnel in desired energy flows.

The positioning of these towers also leaves no doubt that the central section is where the entrance is located. "A building should never have one guess where to enter it. If the building does this, energy flows may bypass it, and people may not feel welcome," says Mr. Ip. To enable energy flows to travel to all areas of the building, Mr. Ip also designated where the elevator should be placed for maximum energy movement.

When I asked Mr. Ip about the popular-



Facing page:
Luopan.

A Feng Shui master's compass, an instrument for the divination and orientation of buildings.

Above left:
Solheim Place.

Shows placement of left tower (Green Dragon) and right tower (White Tiger) which protect the centre portion of the building.

Bottom:

David Lam Management Research Library.

Shows placement of elevator which enables energy flows to travel up and out amongst the floors.

ity of "monster houses," he said that they are not dictated by Feng Shui. "A house should have enough space per person no more, and no less. Homes that do not have enough people living within them are unable to attract enough energy, and are out of balance. Homes which have the right proportion of people to space will give the inhabitants and all who visit, a feeling of comfort and warmth."

If you want to change the interior of your home so it conforms to Feng Shui principles, consider these possible remedies. Put an aquarium in the hall. Hang a wind chime near trouble areas. Change the room you are using. Move furniture so it does not



impede air circulation from windows and doors or movement of people around the room. Change the paint colours to more inviting warmer tones: peach, yellow, brown. Install skylights in dark areas to let the energy of the sun come into the house. The list goes on, but these remedies must be right for the person. "The appropriateness of the object is the deciding factor," says Mr. Ip. "What may be the right object for one, may not be right for another."

For Mr. Ip, Feng Shui is a science whose balance lies in the delicate hands of nature. Trees, quite often a cause of contention in Vancouver, can provide great benefit for homeowners. Although large trees in front of a home are sometimes removed as they are thought to impede wealth, owners should not remove every tree on their property with abandon. Says Mr. Ip, "Feng Shui considers the tree to be

a very important object. It provides an outlet for positive energy from inside the Earth's inner core to move and be released in particle form to the atmosphere. Without the tree, the Earth would lose the ability to receive positive energies essential to overall energy balance and life."

Perhaps the best known feature of Feng Shui, especially in Vancouver, concerns the significance of numbers. Many a BC Tel customer-service representative and ICBC Autoplan agent is familiar with the number game. But what has been written about numbers assumes that the same rules apply for everyone. Numbers are associated with five elements in Feng Shui which may be creative or destructive, depending upon the combinations that they are in. The five elements are wood, fire, earth, metal, and water which are bound together in a creative and a destructive cycle (see adjacent boxes).

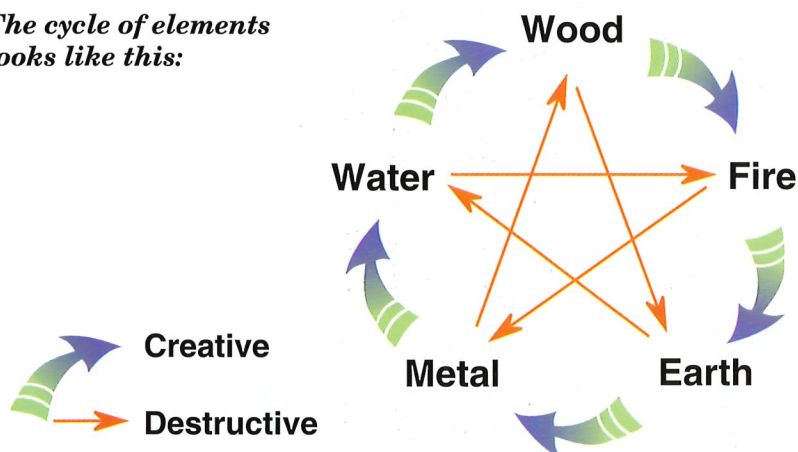
According to the creative cycle:

WOOD	produces	FIRE
FIRE	produces	EARTH
EARTH	produces	METAL
METAL	produces	WATER
WATER	produces	WOOD

Contrasting this is the destructive cycle:

WOOD	destroys	EARTH
EARTH	destroys	WATER
WATER	destroys	FIRE
FIRE	destroys	METAL
METAL	destroys	WOOD

The cycle of elements looks like this:



One should avoid signs located directly across from their personal sign.

Feng Shui and



The Expo Lands embody many desirable Feng Shui features according to Mr. Ip. Water runs past the lands in a west-to-east direction and is calm and peaceful, an effect achieved by the position of Granville Island. The lands are bordered by two bridges which act as protective arms to help direct desirable energy flows and deflect undesirable energy flows. On the east side is the Cambie Street Bridge (the "Green Dragon" in Feng Shui); on the west is the Granville Street Bridge (the "White Tiger").

B.C. Place Stadium with its dome shape acts like a mystical army "drum," a backdrop for the five flags located nearby which act as soldiers facing outward against enemies. In olden Chinese times, armies used a drum to motivate troops to charge ahead at the enemy as well as distract them.

So desirable are the Expo Lands because of their Feng Shui features that Concord Pacific's

As you can see from the box below (right), the numbers are associated with elements that have either positive or negative signs attached to them. When picking the right number, be it for a house, phone number, or car license plate, you must try to balance these positive and negative signs, as well as stay within the parameters of the elements identified with your birth year.

To show how this works, I'll use my birth year as an example. I was born in 1969. On one of Mr. Ip's charts, the associated number for females from this year is 2. This number is associated with Earth (-). Since my sign is Earth (-), I should avoid the number 3 which has a Wood (+) sign since when they are multiplied together I would end up with a negative balance.

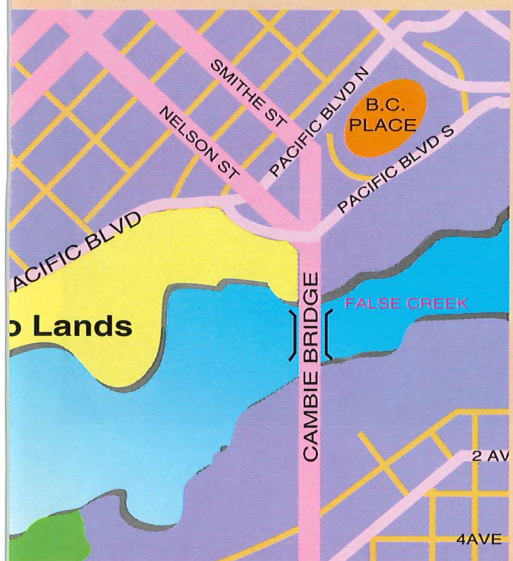
On the other hand, if the combination of numbers is buffered by an element located between them in the cycle, the result is favourable. Case in point, Mr. Ip says that

the number set favourable for me is 498. According to the criteria, this combination allows me to stay in a creative cycle within my element. Wood produces Fire, Fire produces Earth.

I found this very curious, but even more curious was that Mr. Ip suggested the number 4 in my most favoured number combination. So undesired is a 4 among Chinese people that merchants alter their price stickers, insurance agents request other license plates, and phone numbers are changed when it appears. Many would think that the combination 4 9 8 means death, longevity, wealth. Or to put it in a sentence: "Death to longevity and wealth."

But Mr. Ip asserts that the common desire for 3s, 6s, and 8s is "a tradition based on superstition, as opposed to science as Feng Shui is." My 4 is perfectly acceptable and favoured, thank you very much. Just as a shoe must fit the foot, the number must fit

he Expo Lands



new Governor's Tower project seeks to take advantage of them. Governor's Tower consists of five multi-storey towers which lead to the bigger Governor's Tower itself.

The relationship between these high-rise towers and the larger Governor's Tower is that of slave to master. The five towers are graduated in height so as to funnel in energy transported by the water that passes their front doors.

The layout of the complex is a semicircle which allows energy to linger. Each tower is said to represent one generation, where a generation is equivalent to 20 years. The first tower, which contains the fewest storeys of the five, represents the current generation. The second lowest tower represents the next generation and so on. "If one wants to be prosperous right away, they should buy into the first tower," says Mr. Ip, "and if they want to be prosperous later on, they should buy into one of the subsequent towers."

What the numbers mean:

NUMBER	ELEMENT	EFFECT
1	Water	Theft, burglary likely
2	Earth (-)	Sickness, people talking behind your back likely
3	Wood (+)	Court cases, arguments likely
4	Wood (-)	Intelligence, sexual affairs likely
5	Earth (+/-)	Obstacles, accidents likely
6	Metal (+/-)	Power increase likely
7	Metal (-)	Warriors, actors fare well
8	Earth (+)	Wealth, related to mystical philosophy
9	Fire	Glory, honour

the person according to the element that he or she is associated with.

For those who would like to learn more about these rules, Mr. Ip is currently establishing a society dedicated to the appreciation of Feng Shui. The society will teach its members the intricacies of Feng Shui and how it can help balance the energy forces in their favour. The ultimate goal of the society is to establish a school in Vancouver dedicated to study of Feng Shui on elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Mr. Ip is also trying to promote Feng Shui via a video series explaining what you can do to improve your energy balance.

Well, it's been about six weeks now since I changed my room around. I'm not too sure exactly how the changes I've made have affected my life, but I do know that my luck has turned. I received a good grade on an exam in my most difficult course, and I seem to be sleeping much better at night. The forces must be with me.❖



The Art of the Diplomat

Profile of Sukartini Sabekti

Painters with nine-to-five jobs to keep them in canvases are common enough, but it isn't every day you come across an artist who doubles as a diplomat. Meet Sukartini Sabekti, consul general of the Republic of Indonesia. By Karol Morris

I liked drawing from the time I was in high school," says Ms. Sabekti, "but I didn't start to paint until I could buy my supplies from my own salary."

Her first canvases began to appear in the mid '50s, after she was accepted into the Indonesian foreign service. It was a dream career for a young woman just out of high school.

"I always wanted to go abroad and there was a need for foreign service people because we were just independent and the foreign service was new." (The former Dutch colony, after a struggle, was officially declared independent on August 17, 1950). "The foreign service," she continues, "was open to everybody, but at that time it was still difficult for a woman to get a position."

After completing an entrance exam, Ms. Sabekti underwent three years of intensive training at the foreign service academy. The ability to speak more than one language was a definite advantage. Ms. Sabekti speaks English, Dutch, French, Javanese, and the country's official language, Bahasa Indonesia.

But, as the diplomat explains, it takes more than a talent for languages to be successful in the foreign service. "Being in this career, you need to adapt yourself to so many different circumstances."

Frequent changes of scenery provide a great opportunity for the artist in the diplomat to express itself. A walk through Ms. Sabekti's personal gallery in her Vancouver home tells the story of her career. Singapore, London, Paris, Copenhagen, and Vancouver have all left their mark. She says simply, "Wherever I am, I paint."

All of this travelling has enabled Ms. Sabekti to do more than add local colour to her palette. It has also allowed her to study a variety of techniques, including ceramic painting in Denmark, and silk painting through Vancouver's Maiwa Handprints, as well as water-colour brush work at Langara College.

But as Ms. Sabekti notes, unlike her foreign service training, her art education has largely been by "trial and error."

"I started it as a hobby," she says. "I never received formal instruction. But I often go to exhibitions and you can always learn from other people's work. [From] Emily Carr's paintings you can

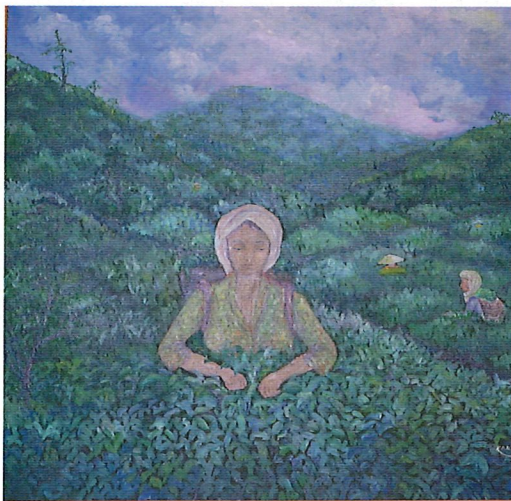
see she has very strong strokes." She pauses, then adds, "You can see the difference between an artist who is a real artist and somebody who just wants to paint."

For Ms. Sabekti, each period abroad is followed by a return to Indonesia for a refresher course on recent developments in the country. The periods of the postings are limited to three to four years. "We are not allowed to stay for a long time in a foreign country otherwise the environment influences you and then you start thinking like the people in that country. So then you lose your identity."

The consul general has less than a year left of her three-and-a-half year sojourn in Canada. At 63, she may find this is her last position abroad. But retirement is never guaranteed. If her country needs her, she is obliged to serve.

In the meantime, one of her retirement plans is to visit the outlying regions of Indonesia. "I have been nearly all over the world but I haven't seen all of my country." And of course, there is her art.

"Being a diplomat is my job, but I feel a painter is what I really am," says Ms. Sabekti. "With office work, you have so many things to do but it's not creative. But with painting you can say, 'this is mine.' It's a way of expressing yourself. Some people, if they are happy, they sing or write. I paint."❖



"Being a diplomat is my job, but I feel a painter is what I really am."

Meeting The Three

Vancouver's

antique stores

offer treasures

from China's

past to the

discerning buyer.

By Wendy Bone



Immortals



Michiko is looking down at the small figure of a wizened old man. He stands silently in flowing robes on the shelf, wearing a delicate ceramic grin and a long white beard. His forehead is high and smooth, save for the large round lump protruding in the middle.

"That's called a peach head," Michiko says. "In China it means long life." No wonder the old man is smiling. He is one of the Three Immortals: Emolument, Good Fortune, and Longevity, popular figures in Chinese culture. In a glass case on the other side of the store, amid faded pottery figurines and gleaming porcelain vessels, another peach clings to the side of an intricately carved piece of wood.

Chinese antiques have been getting more popular recently, says Michiko, who works at Martin Antiques on Granville Street. "If you open up an architectural magazine, you'll see a lot of Chinese pottery."

It conjures up a vision of a stylish West-Coast living room, where a cobalt-blue Ming vase perches on a stand amongst the palm fronds. An exotic treasure, much sought after as an emblem of an ancient culture steeped in mystery. The porcelain arts of China are considered precious because they are rare as well as beautiful. During the rise of Communism the doors of China closed to the West, allowing no artifacts out of the country. Interest in them has increased steadily ever since.

Although China has made efforts to keep artifacts at home, some have been brought to Western shores. Aileen Walker of Aileen's Antiques has shelves full of curios, including a tiny family of ducks carved out of ivory, and a naked porcelain boy with a fish (the symbol of prosperity) slung over his shoulder.

"They were brought in by a man who lived in China during the Cultural Revolution," she explains. They are popular, most often with people who buy them to take back to Hong Kong.

Yet in the centuries before its closed-door policy, China often sent merchant ships laden with palatial treasures to foreign lands for trade. China's porcelain, a product of over one thousand years of development, became famous throughout the world for its beauty and was

widely imitated by Persia, Egypt, Italy, and other countries. (Hence the use of the word "china" as a generic term.)

Trade with Europe was extensive early in the seventeenth century, but not much porcelain reached the shores of North America until after the Revolutionary War of 1812.

America, eager to trade on its own terms, bypassed England and sent clipper ships directly to the Orient. Many of the antique wares collected today came to this continent after this time.

Not all, however, are the result of friendly trade. At the turn of the century, when a railway system was extended across China, lines were driven right through ancient cemeteries. Those who dug the graves found a wealth of worldly possessions buried with the bodies. They had unearthed evidence of the Chinese reverence for the souls of ancestors: figurines of servants, guardian spirits, and animals meant to accompany loved ones on their journey to the next world. All were easily divided up and sold.

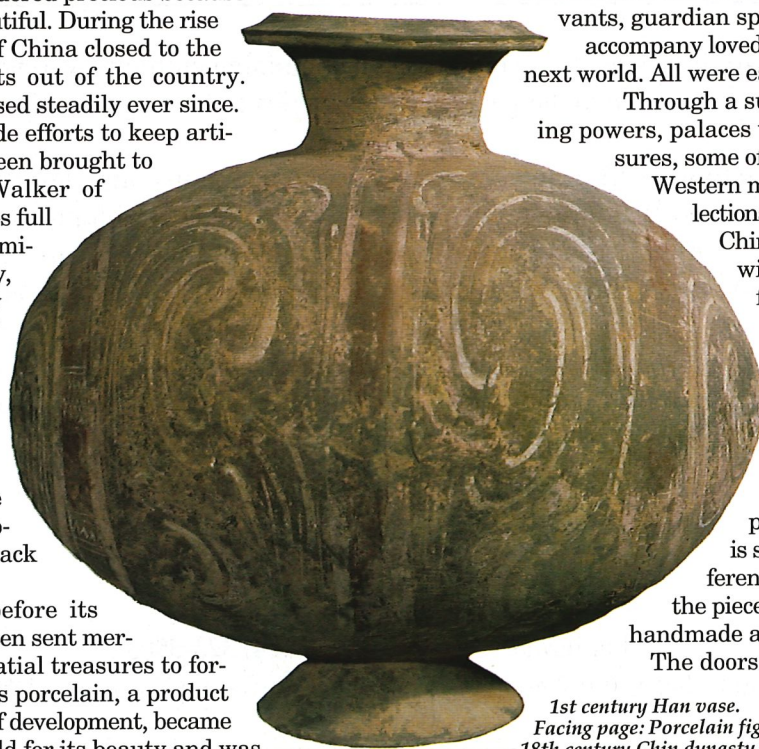
Through a succession of wars and shifting powers, palaces were stripped of their treasures, some of which found their way into Western museums and private art collections. When Chiang Kai-shek left China to occupy Taiwan, he took with him priceless antiquities from Beijing. China has tried to off-set these losses by retrieving antiques from other parts of the world; its agents are competitive buyers among collectors.

Great quantities of reproductions are now exported in place of valuable originals. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between the two, because the pieces can be of high quality, still handmade and hand decorated.

The doors of China may be opening a



Guardian spirit from 10th century Tang dynasty tomb.



1st century Han vase.
Facing page: Porcelain figure of Longevity,
18th century Chin dynasty.

little wider to the rest of the world, but the ancient treasures behind them are no less precious. The old man is still smiling. ♦

For Chinese antiques try:

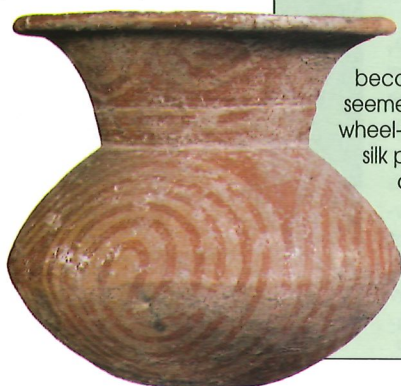
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926-9891

*A Ban Chiang vessel
(300 BC-200 AD).*



The earliest pottery found so far in China dates as far back as 7,900 years. Jars, basins, plates and bowls unearthed by archaeologists in the southern Zhajiang Province were found to be made out of ground leaves, crushed seed hulls and clay molded into simple shapes. They are evidence of a primitive people who learned to blend their creative spirit with the tools they needed in daily life.

They began to decorate pottery and experiment with different forms. Their love of the land inspired pieces adorned with flowers, frogs, birds, and fish. Paintings show clan members hunting, fishing, or wearing ceremonial head-dresses. Bold strokes, zig zags, and waves emerged in symmetrical patterns similar to Native tribal designs of North America.

Pottery and porcelain were honed by centuries of practice and influenced by a succession of political and religious changes. Around 475 BC a new era opened in China as it passed from a slave society of warring states to a system of feudalism. Labour became more specialized, and some people entered workshops to become more skilled at their craft. The world seemed to speed up and take on a new shape: wheel-turned pottery, glazes in a variety of hues, silk painting, and bronze-casting heralded the dawn of human new awareness.

During the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), the arts reflected the increasing influence of Buddhism. Chinese pilgrims travelled to India, the original land of Buddha, to bring back relics and sacred writings.

Chinese Pottery

People sculpted figurines of Buddha and his saints, as well as a host of other gods and goddesses from Chinese culture.

Animals were often the subjects of a craftsman's hands. Some were depicted in their natural state, some as servants of man. Horses stand proud and arrogant with their chests thrust outwards and ready for war; others rear up on their hind legs or stand calmly, heads bowed down. Dragons, symbols of prosperity and peace, twist and turn in a flash of vibrant colours. Camels bearing a group of acrobats on their backs, lions prone and ready to leap, cows standing quietly—all give a spirit of life to pieces of stone or clay.

During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1643 AD), intricate blue and white patterns of lotus flowers, dragons and phoenixes appeared on the gleaming surfaces of jars and vases. But the golden age of porcelain was during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), the last era before Western influences took hold in China. Specialized trades were developing rapidly, and the quality of porcelain, produced in workshops rather than in scattered country kilns, was at its finest. Pieces shone with hues of red, green, brown and purple, as well as the traditional gold and cobalt blue from earlier periods. Artists decorated vessels with paintings of mythical episodes from famous poems or historic battles. Landscape artists refined their uniquely eastern perspectives by painting human figures to blend into their natural surroundings. The people are so tiny they seem to almost disappear in the landscapes of weeping willows, waterfalls, and misty mountains. —Wendy Bone

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- **Health Precautions:** vaccinations not needed unless travelling from infected area; in rural areas, typhoid and hepatitis immunization advisable; malaria risk; drink bottled or boiled water
- **Tipping:** 10% hotel service charge and 11% government tax charged on room bill; tip 10% if the service is good and no service charge is stated; porters (airport and hotel) and hairdressers, approx. 20 baht
- **Currency and Exchange:** baht; 100 satang = 1 baht 17.92 baht = C\$1 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** 95% Buddhist, 4% Islam, 1% Hindu, 0.5% Christian
- **Airlines:** Canadian Airlines: daily flights (exc. F) ex Vancouver, stop in HK, flying time 17 hr. 55 min. Cathay Pacific: daily flights Vancouver to HK with connecting flights to Bangkok. Thai Air: M,W,F,Sa flights ex Los Angeles. JAL: ex Vancouver via Tokyo Su,T,F,Sa. Korean Air: 3 flights/wk. ex Vancouver via Seoul Su,T,F,Sa
- **Distance from Airport:** Don Muang Airport-Bangkok 25 km; taxi 130 baht; bus 100 baht
- **Transportation:** car rental widely available; international driver's license required; taxis plentiful, negotiable fares; 30-100 baht within Bangkok (the most expensive city); prices higher in the morning and in wet season; no tipping

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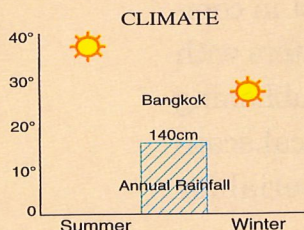
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Canadian Banks:
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Bank of Nova Scotia

GENERAL INFORMATION



Climate: Hot season, March-May; rainy season, June-Oct.; cool season, Nov.-Feb.

Languages: Thai, Chinese; some English spoken in all

major centres by hotel and restaurant staff, market workers, taxi-drivers

Time Difference:
PST +15 hr.

Capital: Bangkok (Krung Thep)

Other Major Centres: Chiang Mai, Phuket

Population: 57,800,000 (1993); 75% Thai, 14% Chinese, 4% Malay, 7% other

Notes: do not touch anyone on the head; do not point your feet at anyone—sit with your feet aimed away from others; always remove footwear when entering a temple. Electricity 220v AC; adaptors supplied in hotels. Always show respect for Buddha and the Thai Royal family.

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Feb. 25 (var.)	Magha Puja
April 6	Chakri Day
April 12-13	Songkran (water) Festival
May 5	Coronation Day
May 11 (var.)	Royal Ploughing Ceremony
May 24 (var.)	Visakha Puja
July 23	Buddhist Lent
July 26 (var.)	Asalha Puja
Aug. 12	Queen's Birthday
Oct. 23	King Chulalongkorn Day
Dec. 5	King's Birthday
Dec. 10	Constitution Day
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve

The Making of a Magazine

What you see is what we got.

By Wendy Bone

Every weekend this past spring a group of student volunteers and staff from Langara College and Vancouver Community College met to put together this year's edition of *Pacific Rim Magazine*. With background education and experience in writing and editing, and page layout and computer graphics, everyone brought their indi-



Editors revised text and checked proofs at an editorial table in a corner of VCC's Computer Graphics Department as designers worked on page layouts and illustrations on the Macintosh computers behind them.



In the past, traditional prepress shops photographed artwork and colour separated images to create print-ready film. These days, service bureaus like WYSIWYG scan photographs to create electronic images that are placed on computer pages. These are then outputted electronically to printer's imposition. In this case, WYSIWYG provided the magazine's designers with high- and low-resolution scans of selected photographs. They then designed the pages of their assigned articles using various computer programs: QuarkXPress, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe Photoshop. The designed pages were then stored on an external hard-drive and sent to WYSIWYG for outputting.

vidual skills together in the magazine's production. Often having to turn their backs on a warming Saturday morning sun, they put in countless hours in the Computer Graphics Department of Vancouver Community College's downtown campus, writing, rewriting, selecting photographs, designing the artwork, and attending to the hundreds of other design details that demanded careful attention.

The task was challenging—nowadays writers and designers must not only be good at their craft, they must be technical experts as well, since magazine publishing has undergone something of a computer revolution.

Scissors, glue, and paste-up tables are anachronisms in magazine production. The latest in computer technology is now the norm: computers with massive memory capabilities, desktop publishing software for specialized tasks, and optical scanners and imagesetters to prepare material for printing.

Magazine publication is now a streamlined digital process. The boundaries between the creative aspects of a magazine and its technical production are much less distinct, and much of the work



To find out more about the next step in production, students took a trip to WYSIWYG, where the *Pacific Rim* computer files were converted to film through a series of steps. Bryon Lawes (right), is enthusiastic about the recent changes in technology. Since he founded the business with his wife five years ago, they have been able to streamline the process for the benefit of their customers. For example, instead of taking computer files to the bureau in person, many customers send them by modem directly into the care of WYSIWYG's computer operators.

requires knowledge and skill in both areas. For everyone involved, and especially students, *Pacific Rim* was an opportunity to learn from and adapt to the rapid changes in the publishing industry. Often they looked over each other's shoulders at the computers to see their work progress through the first stages of preparation.



Magazine photographs are taped to a drum scanner, which translates them into digitized images. Operators then inspect and colour correct the images on calibrated monitors and store them in the computer. Lawes employed people with little or no experience and trained them in this and other departments at WYSIWYG. Some, in fact, "wouldn't have known a drum scanner if one had bit them on the nose," said Lawes. As it turned out, however, their enthusiasm and attention to detail were more important than lack of experience. Now they are responsible for scanning, colour correcting, and sending the finished product to customers.

They also took a tour of WYSIWYG Graphics Inc. (the name is pronounced "wizzy-wig" and stands for What You See Is What You Get). WYSIWYG is a colour prepress service bureau which handles the initial production stages of such publications as *Beautiful British Columbia*, *Maturity Magazine*, and this year by special arrangement, *Pacific Rim Magazine*. Bryon Lawes, and Ginny Lawes, co-owners of WYSIWYG, set aside some time one afternoon to acquaint the *Pacific Rim* team with some of the latest in publish-

ing technology. These photographs provide a summary of the prepress process that the students observed.

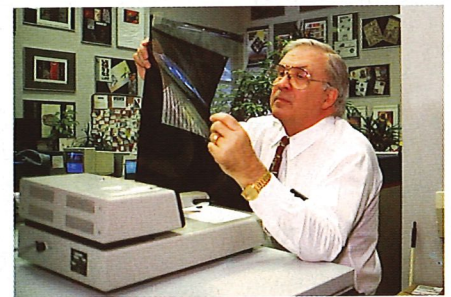
The final product is what you see here, the result of the combined efforts of students, staff, and professionals. The students may have learned the most from this project, but the publishing field is changing so rapidly that to remain on top of it requires constant education for all those involved.

The technology changes, just barely under-way, will be a constant source of surprises, according to Lawes.

"I'm one of those white-haired pioneers who was in this business first," he said. "I can tell you, I didn't have the vision to know where we'd be today, and I think that's pretty good evidence that we don't know where we'll be five years from now."❖



The image is printed on a Canon colour Fiery Postscript printer in the initial stage of colour proofing. The proof is checked carefully for errors. A booth with daylight-balanced lighting is set up for the task. "[Here] you can look at the images and see them in a more precise way," said Lawes, which is preferable to different settings which may skew the light in which one sees the picture. Not only must the colour be correct, it must also be consistent. "If you are doing a job for Coca Cola, they won't thank you for a job that's kind of close to Coca Cola red—it's got to be spot on," said Lawes. Here a transparency of a Robert Shiozaki pot is being inspected.



The pages are written onto film through a high-resolution imagesetter. The term "print resolution" refers to the number of dots per inch (dpi) an image contains. High print resolution is desirable because the more dpi, the sharper and clearer the image will be. Through the imagesetter, a picture can have a print resolution of 3386 dpi, a very high number indeed when compared to regular laser prints which usually contain only 300 dpi. The magazine's film was sent to Ronalds Printing in Vancouver for plate-making and printing. Ronalds is a division of Quebecor, the second largest printing company in North America.



TRAVEL

- **Visa:** Canadian citizens require visa and valid Canadian passport; onward or return ticket needed; check with consulate or embassy; visa extensions can be acquired from the Foreign Affairs Dept. of the Security Police within 2 days; non-opened areas of China require special permit
- **Health Precautions:** yellow fever, smallpox, cholera vaccination required if travelling from infected area within previous 6 days; malaria risk throughout the country, esp. in rural areas; immunization for typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and B advisable; AIDS test required for long-term visitors; drink boiled or bottled water
- **Tipping:** not recommended but permitted for some service sector workers; taxi drivers will not accept tips
- **Currency and Exchange:** renminbi (yuan); Rmb6.1 = C\$1 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** officially atheist; Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism; also 2-3% Islam and 1% Christian
- **Airlines:** Air China: Vancouver to Shanghai (12 hr.) and Beijing (14 hr.) M, F. Canadian Airlines: Vancouver to Beijing,
- **Distance from Airport:** Capital International Airport-Beijing, 25 km; Hongqiao Airport-Shanghai, 15 km
- **Transportation:** taxis available in most cities; fares 1 yuan/km approx.; train, bus, riverboat, coastal steamers, buy tickets 3 days in advance from the China International Travel Service (CITS)

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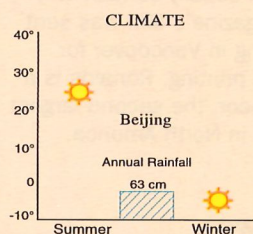
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GENERAL INFORMATION



Climate: In the north, high humidity and rainfall, April-May; risk of dust storms; in the south, rainy season, July-Aug.

Languages: the official language is Mandarin; many

dialects and minority languages, esp. Cantonese; English sometimes spoken by those having contact with foreigners

Time Difference:
PST +16 hr.

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1
Feb. 10-12 (var.)
May 1
May 4
Aug 1
Oct. 1-2

New Year's Day
Lunar New Year
International Labour Day
Youth Day
Army Day
National Day

Capital: Beijing (Peking)

Other Major Centres:
Guangzhou (Canton),
Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang

Population: 1,175,000,000
(1994)

Notes: avoid business in the week preceding and following Lunar New Year. Do not photograph buildings, police or military personnel, some museums, unless authorized. In China, family names come first. Electrical outlets may be 220v-380v, 50 cycles, AC or 110v-220v, 60 cycles, AC; wall sockets take plugs with 2 round or 3 flat prongs; adaptor and converter needed. Designated hotels, restaurants, and stores accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Diners' Club cards.

From Red Tape to Red Carpet

China is leading Asia's economic expansion into the 21st century, but the road to prosperity is a bumpy one.
By Ashish Anand-Campbell

In this prosperous year of the dog, it is hard not to be excited by the prospect of double-digit growth within China's economy as its officials and bureaucrats roll up the red tape and roll out the red carpet for foreign investors.

The growth of China's economy is part of a wider trend in East-Asia and will possibly spearhead "mega-growth" in the region. Dr. William Saywell, President and CEO of the Asia-Pacific Foundation, says that "Estimates of spending on infrastructure . . . for all of Asia run as high as US\$2.5 trillion." China remains at the centre of this growth, offering business opportunities and a most lucrative consumer market combined.

In the telecommunications sector alone, China might account for 20 per cent of the world's demand. The unofficial target is 30 per cent. China would emerge with a market twice the size of Japan's and substantially larger than that of Germany or the United States. The Chinese could be spending anywhere up to US\$90 billion. Conglomerates from Sweden, Germany, Japan, and the United States have already begun joint ventures to produce the telecommunications equipment that the accelerating economy will need.

The *Economist* reports that Ericsson, Alcatel, Siemens, NEC, and AT&T have already established technology transfer programs. From a business perspective, the advantages of high-tech production in China are too good to be true. China offers more than cost-efficient labor. There also exists a vast pool of highly educated and trained professionals. Engineers and other high-skilled workers are paid close to one-fortieth the wages earned by their counterparts in developed nations.

The eradication of bureaucratic red tape has enabled the market to operate much more freely. In 1992, China was regarded as the world's 11th largest trader with exports and imports exceeding US\$165 billion. The projected figures show a potential for it to grow to twice that size by the time Hong Kong becomes a part of its domain. These figures do not include the wealth and growth that the inclusion of Hong Kong will bring. By the turn of the century,

China could well be the largest trader in the world.

The opportunities created by an expanding Chinese economy are not limited to investment in manufacturing. The rising potential of the average citizen as an "almighty consumer," is turning more than a few heads. As Dr. Saywell notes, "The integrated economies of Hong Kong and neighbouring Guangdong . . . represent a market of 70 million people with enormous liquidity and a passion for consumer goods." All coastal regions included, the market could potentially be as large as 400 million.

The *Economist* claims that China already has 60 million homes with an annual income above the magic threshold of US\$1,000—the threshold for spending on non-necessities like colour televisions and washing machines. This in a country where the GDP per capita has fluctuated between double digits to the current average of US\$360.

Most economists predict a larger jump in consumer spending as the GDP per capita rises to the \$4,000 mark—that is, when people start buying cars. Concerns remain as to the environmental impact of sustaining over a billion consumers. Nevertheless, the coastal regions are developing at lightning pace while the interior provinces are doing their best to attract investment.

If there is one piece of advice that all seem to agree on, it is this: think long term.

Gordon Wu followed that advice and invested in a 188-mile six-lane expressway costing \$3.5 billion. Wu, founder and Manager of Hopewell Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong, teamed up with the Guangdong government in a joint venture and developed a vital link between Hong Kong and Guangzhou. This super-highway running through an

area of economic expansion is privately owned. Wu has ensured himself the profits from the \$12 one-way toll collected from its users. The project is fondly termed the "New Jersey Turnpike of China."

Plans to expand the expressway through Guangdong and Hunan provinces to the shores of the Yangtze River, are going to materialize in the near future.

Entrepreneurs like Wu have also invested in shopping malls, bridges, and manufacturing and power plants.

Tomorrow's China might very well be a successful market



economy, but its people could lack the individual rights enjoyed by those in developed nations.

It is no secret that China's human rights record is miserable. The economic restructuring is causing what is described as "the largest human migration in the world." Five thousand people migrate to the economic zone of Shenzhen every week. Many work one or two years to save enough money for a week's stay in Shenzhen. In the economic zones, a waitress can earn over three times the wage of a state-assigned doctor elsewhere in China. Better salaries mean higher living standards, but the larger fraction of the population remains isolated outside of the growth areas.

Earl Drake, former Canadian ambassador to China, believes that cultural differences may explain why many Chinese people might not even desire more liberties than they currently possess. According to him, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. And thus, the value placed on an individual's rights might not warrant the struggle necessary to acquire them. The social toll on China's population might prove to be a hefty one.

Peasant unrest in China poses a serious new challenge to Beijing. All the growth and expansion is only mak-

ing life more difficult for the peasants in rural China. Their frustrations are growing faster than their size—a whopping 900 million. The *Far Eastern Economic Review* says, "To call the rural crisis the most severe challenge to the party's rule since the 1989 Tiananmen Square killings understates the extent of the crisis."

The rapid rise in development is resulting in a decline in land available for cultivation. Farmers are being crowded off the land to be replaced by local development zones and real-estate projects.

Increased mobility fuels resentment as millions of peasants who go to the cities looking for jobs get a close-up look at the privileged classes. Now, millions of rural migrant labourers have flooded into the wealthy provinces and cities. Many farm villages only manage to survive on the remittances sent home by their migrated sons and daughters.

Despite the shortcomings, however, China's economic expansion is bringing positive changes in the daily lives of much of its population. The transition ranges from infrastructure development to the rise in living standards.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Zhu Rongji, Beijing Vice-Premier and Governor of the PBOC

(People's Bank of China), claimed that "China is determined to adopt far-reaching economic reforms, including a partially convertible currency" by some time in 1994. In his interview, he insisted that measures imposed last summer to curb rampant property and stock speculation, cool inflation, and stabilize the currency have succeeded.

As the nation's economic czar, Vice-Premier Zhu should be taken seriously. With Deng Xiao-ping widely believed to be seriously ill, the unpopular Premier Li Peng's health uncertain after a recent heart-attack, and President Jiang Zemin considered a weak transitional figure, Vice-Premier Zhu, is a strong contender for the position of pilot in China's cockpit. His future leadership depends heavily on his performance in managing China's economy. Despite views to the contrary, he remains in the best position to shape the future of China's economic—and thus political—destiny.

Zhu has succeeded, at least on paper, in reining in excessive and unsaleable industrial output, as well as runaway credit expansion. He has also been closely associated with the development of Chinese stockmarkets. When the riots broke out in Shenzhen last summer over the manner in which shares were being allocat-

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ed, Zhu took the initiative in setting up a new regulatory authority. But many abuses—questionable use of proceeds, lack of full disclosure, conflicts of interest—continue.

Zhu clearly has his work cut out for him. How he deals with the country's mounting problems will, no doubt, affect the foreign investment climate in the years to come. If the resources and privileges are diverted from wealthy coastal areas to the poorer countryside, foreign investors are likely to reassess their proposals.

Despite reduced red tape, China's red-carpet economy reveals many uncertainties. The monetary authorities have lost much of their ability to regulate the rate of its growth. The tools of central control once managed credit, and now they are gone, leaving no alternatives in their place. Although the circulating figure on China's growth (in real terms) is between 12-14 per cent, it is nearly twice that in Guangdong and Shenzhen.

Inflation still rages, mounting imports tip China's trade balance into deficit, and government revenues dwindle. As a result, layoffs and bankruptcies threaten China's state-run enterprises, and capital flight may outpace foreign investment. It is reaching worrying levels. The annualized

rate is close to 20 per cent in 35 of the biggest cities.

True to tradition, however, interest rates are still administratively determined. The PBOC maintains the potential to emerge as China's central bank, but currently functions as little more than a government cashier.

The lack of an effective monetary control system makes China's economic swings difficult to control. Neither the central bank nor the state-owned banks have independent authority over decisions. Loans are given out to those approved by, or related to, someone at the State Planning Commission. Thus, loans are not based on sound financial criteria, and many are never repaid, leading to large hidden losses in many enterprises.

Such activity undermines the sound financial position that China's banks require to control and regulate the economic factors that determine growth and inflation. As long as the economy is on course, the weaknesses of the financial system are not apparent. When the momentum becomes too intense and fixed, "the inability of the banks to make loans on the basis of genuine economic criteria has led to economic overheating. Because there is no financial discipline there is no mechanism to bring productive capac-

ity in some sort of relationship with demand," says a Hong Kong economist.

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* describes loans in China as of two types: those that fall dead on the spot and those that take a little longer to do so. This practice eventually leads to the banks becoming powerless and ineffective.

Still, the reforms introduced by the government are resulting in more freedoms for China's people. Job mobility is eroding the control of the *danwei*, or work unit, over the workers' lives. In the past, an individual needed their boss's permission to get married or divorced, and gain access to housing, medical, and other services. With new employment opportunities, however, more and more people are simply taking their fate into their own hands.

It is becoming increasingly clear that millions of passengers on the reform express are unwilling or unable to pay the required fare. Some suggest that China is stuck in a "neither-nor" status: neither market economy nor centrally planned economy. Monetary and tax policies employed by most governments don't work in China, simply because the necessary institutional and legal framework does not exist.

A totalitarian political structure cannot easily coexist with the pluralism,



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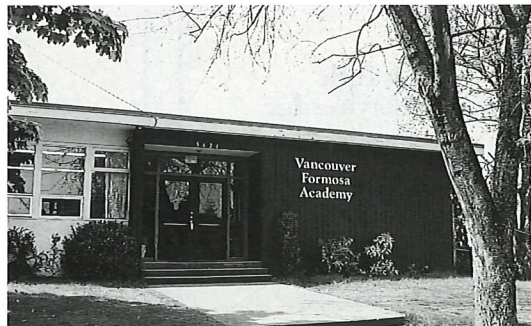
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spontaneity, outside influence, and empowerment that economic freedom entails. Dr. Saywell suggests that "To create a viable federal structure of revenue and expenditure, attract high levels of foreign funds, tap the enormous savings of their own people with sound equity markets, and distribute resources where they are needed, Beijing has recognized it must reform the tax structure, implement financial reform, reform the banking system, and its currency markets." Only when these matters are attended to, will China's red carpet be truly tempting to the most cautious of investors.

As tempting as the red carpet might be, investors are advised to tread lightly. The focus in China remains on areas that are necessary to sustain its economic growth. At the micro-level, a manufacturing plant has many needs: raw materials, energy, reliable telecommunications, legal and financial facilities, dependable infrastructure, human resources, and support facilities for the employed population.

Corruption and instability are minor worries for investors from Japan and Taiwan. Earl Drake believes that although corruption is rampant in China's economy, it will only hinder investment from the West, if at all. For Japanese and overseas Chinese investors, it remains "business as usual." Establishing government contacts and support at any level is highly advisable. In many cases, it can determine success or failure of a business venture.

Dr. Saywell urges Canadian companies to take advantage of the opportunities that will be created in the coming decades. "In the next five years alone, China will invest over C\$100 billion in transportation." Eight cities already have approved plans for mass light transit. Telecommunications, environmental products and services, mining and resource development are but a few of the sectors with massive anticipated growth.

According to China's Consul General in Vancouver, in a speech he gave at this year's Dragon Boat Festival Dinner, Canada has advantages over other countries as it attempts to tap into the emerging opportunities. Canada's resource, environmental, and communications industries produce goods and services well suited to China's current needs. Unlike the United States, Japan, and Germany, Canada has no history of colonialism in China to cast a shadow over developing relationships. Finally Canada possesses a "secret weapon"—a large, energetic Chinese business community well able to establish links with the new China. "It's up to you," he said. ♦



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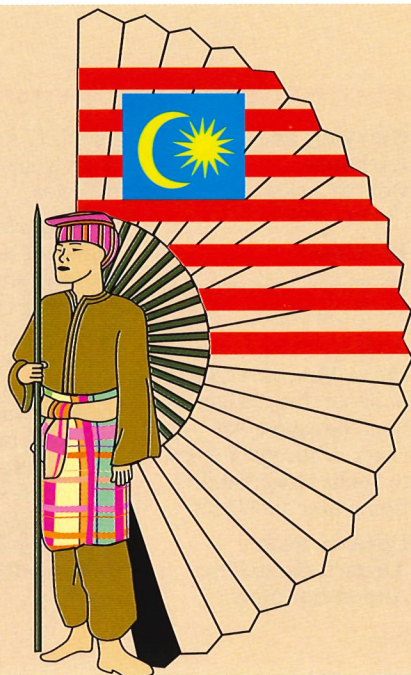
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TRAVEL

- **Visa:** not required for Canadian or Commonwealth citizens for social, tourist, or business visits up to 3 months; apply for extensions at immigration offices in Malaysia
- **Health Precautions:** yellow fever vaccination required if coming from infected area; consider cholera vaccination; tap water safe in cities, boil elsewhere; malaria risk in rural areas; good health services
- **Tipping:** hotels add 10% service charge and 5% tax; add 10% in restaurants without service charge; loonies welcome as payment for porters and taxis
- **Currency and Exchange:** Malaysian dollar (ringgit); 100 sen = M\$1; M\$1.9 = C\$1.00 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** Islam (national religion), Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Confucianism
- **Airlines:** Singapore Airlines: Vancouver to Singapore M, W, F, next day to Kuala Lumpur; travel time 18 hr. Japan Airlines: Vancouver to Tokyo T, F, Sa, Su; overnight in Tokyo (room paid for by JAL); next day to Kuala Lumpur; travel time 17 hr.
- **Distance from Airport:** Subang International Airport-Kuala Lumpur, 24 km
- **Transportation:** car rental widely available (driving is on left side of road); good inexpensive taxi service in major towns; excellent air and rail services

BUSINESS

Canadian Representatives:

Canadian High Commission
7th Fl., Plaza MBF
Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: (60-3) 261-2000
Fax: (60-3) 261-3428
Mailing address:
PO Box 10990
50732 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Malaysian Representatives:

Malaysian High Commission
60 Boteler St.
Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8Y7
Tel: (613) 237-5182
Fax: (613) 237-4852

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Malaysia Tourist Information Centre

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Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2K4
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Fax: (604) 689-8804

Malaysian Consulate

1900 - 925 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3L2
Tel: (604) 685-9550
Fax: (604) 685-9520

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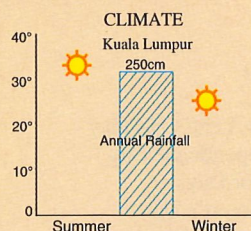
Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry

10th Fl., Wisma Damansara
Jalan Semantan, POB 10192
50706 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: (60-3) 254-2677
Fax: (3) 255-4946
Tlx: 32120

Canadian Banks:

Bank of Nova Scotia,
Kuala Lumpur

GENERAL INFORMATION



Languages: Bahasa Malaysia (Malay) is the official language; English is compulsory in schools, and widely spoken; Chinese, Tamil

Time Difference: PST + 16 hr.

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Other Major Centres: Ipoh, George Town (Penang), Kuching (Sarawak)

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1
Feb. 10-11 (var.)
Mar. 14-15 (var.)
May 1
May 25 (var.)
June 4 (var.)
June 11 (var.)
Aug. 20 (var.)
Aug. 31
Nov. 3 (var.)
Dec. 25

New Year's Day
Chinese New Year
Hari Raya Puasa
Labour Day
Wesak Day
King's Birthday
Maal Hijrah
Mohammed's Birthday
National Day
Deepavali
Christmas Day

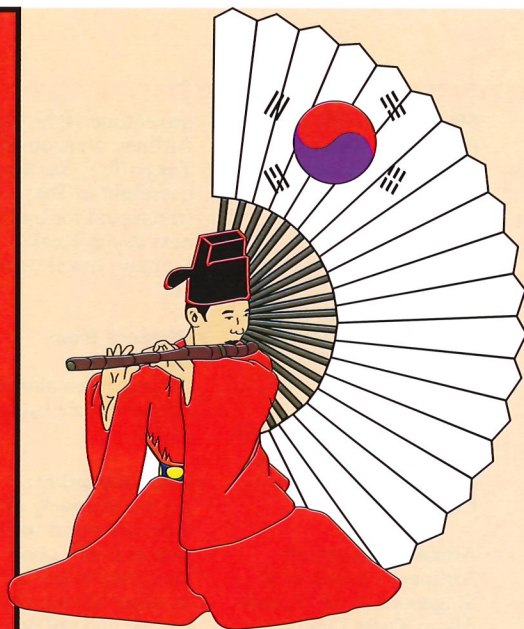
Population: 18,800,000 (1992), 90% in Peninsular Malaysia; 59% Malay, 32% Chinese, 9% Indian

Notes: excellent postal, telephone, telex, telegram, and fax services; air

mail, Canada-Malaysia about 1 week. Major opportunities for Canadian business: agriculture and food products and services; oil and gas equipment and services;

advanced technology products and services; power and energy equipment and services; defence products; transportation systems and equipment. Electricity reliable, 240v, 50 cycles, AC. Banks open 1000-1500 M-F, 0930-1130 Sa (some states vary); government hours: 0800-1245/1400-1615 M-Th; 0800-1200/1430-1615 Fr; 0800-1130 Sa; shops: generally open 0930-1900; department stores, 1000-2200; larger restaurants usually open until 2300; smaller ones often open later.

Warning: though customs controls appear light, the death penalty applies to traffickers in illegal drugs.



TRAVEL

- **Visa:** required for business regardless of length of stay; tourist visa needed for over 15 days; good for up to 90 days
- **Health Precautions:** vaccinations not required but advisable if travelling through or from cholera or yellow fever areas
- **Tipping:** not customary except in international hotels; 10% service charge added in tourist hotels
- **Currency and Exchange:** won; 583 won = C\$1 (7 May 1994)
- **Religions:** Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism
- **Airlines:** Korean Air Lines: Vancouver direct to Seoul Tues., Thurs., Sun. Singapore Air Lines: Vancouver direct to Seoul Mon. and Fri.; flying time 11 1/2 hr.
- **Distance from Airport:** Kimpo Int. Airport-downtown Seoul, 17 km; taxi, 3075 won; airport bus, 600 won
- **Transportation:** self-drive not recommended; small (less expensive) and medium-size taxis; rural taxis not metred—negotiate before trip; local bus fare, 140-150 won; modern subway system; extensive rail network; major cities connected by express buses; many domestic flights

BUSINESS

Canadian Representatives:

Canadian Embassy
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45 Mugyo-dong, Chung-gu
Seoul, 100-662
Tel: (82-2) 753-2605/8
Fax: (82-2) 755-0686
Foreign Affairs, Korea Desk
East Asia Trade Division
125 Sussex Dr.
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0G2
Tel: (613) 995-8705
Fax: (613) 996-4309

Korea Representatives:
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
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Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5H3
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Fax: (604) 681-4864
Business Organizations:
**Canada-Korea Business
Association,**
c/o MMG
100-951 16th St.

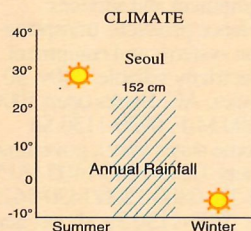
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Ottawa, Ont. K1P 6N4
Tel: (613) 238-4000
Fax: (613) 238-7643

Korea Trade Centre
1710 - 1 Bentall Centre
505 Burrard St.
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1M6
Tel: (604) 683-1820

**Korean Chamber of
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Fax: (82-2) 773-8662

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Organization (KOTRA)**
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Rep. of Korea
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Fax: (82-2) 551-4477
(call KOTRA for detail of conferences, exhibitions, etc.)

GENERAL INFORMATION



Climate: four distinct seasons; hot, wet summers, June, July, Aug.; July (wettest), 25° C; cold dry winters, Jan., -3 to -5° C; best time to visit, April-June

Languages: Korean; streets, subway maps, destination signs given in English

Time Difference: PST +17 hr.

Capital: Seoul

Other Major Centres: Pusan, principal port; Taegu, urban and industrial centre; Incheon

Population: 44,150,000 (1992)

Notes: business cards in English and Korean are exchanged upon meeting. Use both hands for shaking hands or when offering or receiving anything; use of one is disrespectful. Use title and surname to address Koreans. It is polite to decline a first dinner invitation, impolite to compliment women in public, or to brag about family. Express thanks in elaborate terms. Learn to accept "maybe" as an answer (excessive frankness is thought rude). Electricity, 120 and 220v AC.

Public Holidays (1994)

Jan. 1-3	New Year's Holiday
March 1	Independence Day
April 5	Arbor Day
May 5	Children's Day
May 18 (var.)	Buddha's Birthday
June 6	Memorial Day
July 17	Constitution Day
Aug. 15	Liberation Day
Sept. 19-25 (var.)	Choo-suk (autumn festival)
Oct. 1	Armed Forces Day
Oct. 3	National Foundation Day
Oct. 9	Han-gul
Dec. 25	Christmas Day

Beginnings of Renewal

The countries of the former Indo-China are emerging from their isolation.



Laos: Building Bridges

In April of this year, the Mitrphap bridge opened to traffic. It links Nong Khai in Thailand with Tha Naleng, a Lao border post 16 km from Vientiane, the national capital. This event marks a significant step toward joining Laos, known formally as the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with the rest of the world. The opening of the road bridge signals the opening up of the country.

The bridge is the first to span the Mekong at any point between Yunnan in China and southern Vietnam. Laos is landlocked, and so relies on Vietnam and Thailand for access to the South China Sea. Overland transportation to Vietnam is made difficult by mountainous terrain. The road to the Klong Toey ports of Bangkok is now the best connection that Laos has to the outside world and its waterways.

On the Thai side of the river, development will bring a needed boost to the local economy, which has been lagging behind the rest of the country for decades. Economic growth in this region was a part of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's election platform in 1993. Residents close to the bridge site are seeing this growth realized. Land prices in Nong Khai have increased fiftyfold in the past four years.

Surprisingly, on the Lao side, the information highway is opening along with the bridge, at least for now. Foreign newspapers, international direct dialing, private fax machines, and satellite dishes were permitted for the first time two years ago. This development means little to the peasantry in a country that has only one telephone for every 590 citizens, a television for every 140, and an average per capita income of US\$180, but it is significant as a landmark.

The opening of transportation routes into and through-

out Laos is accompanied by political changes, taking legislative form in the New Economic Mechanism (NEM). This package of reforms has accelerated private investment, particularly foreign investment, and the privatization of some state-owned enterprises. The number of private shops in Vientiane doubled between 1990 and 1991.

Of the foreigners, the Thai are the most involved, although their rate of investment was exceeded by that of PRC investors in 1992. The United States is second to Thailand, measured by total capital invested. Other sources include Taiwan, the CIS, Australia, France, and Hong Kong. Hotels and tourism, mining and petroleum, agribusiness, and garments and handicrafts are among the sectors being financed. Garments have become the leading export, just ahead of electricity, and overflight rights.

Of the 27,500 km of roadways in Laos, less than 2,000 km are paved. Better domestic transportation systems, created through projects funded by the Asian Development Bank, and access to ports will allow both Laotian and foreign companies to tap the country's enormous natural resources. American and Australian companies are already mining gold, bauxite, and lignite, and are prospecting for oil and gas.

As recently as two years ago, it could take five days to process the paperwork required to take a car into or out of

Laos. It is this barrier that can be reconstructed easily, rendering the Mitrphap bridge ornamental. The pressure will likely remain on, mostly from Thailand and China, for the country to open the door even further to allow these countries, and others, access to Lao's resources and keep the new north-south route open. —David Nevin



Cambodia: Fear and Hope

As the third poorest country in the world, Cambodia can blame its poverty largely on its tragic history. Cambodia in recent times has been plagued with war and has never had time to recover from the

destruction. Mines infest the countryside and cause fear and havoc among the Cambodian people. Vancouver resident

Doug McKinlay, a freelance photographer who covered the Cambodian elections, says "the first thing you notice are the hundreds of amputees." No-one could possibly know how many mines were laid in Cambodia, but the estimate is at least 4 million. "Each month there are between 300-700 amputations due to land-mine injuries," says McKinlay.

Clearing mines is a dangerous, time-consuming job and it may well take years before the majority of mines are disposed of. As of September 1992, the UN Mine Clearance Training Units had taught 844 Cambodians to clear mines. There are presently Canadian forces in Cambodia clearing mines, too.

As in the rest of the world, Cambodia's hope for the future lies with its children. Fifty per cent of Cambodia's population is under 15. The health of these children is vital, but they suffer from preventable diseases. Only 12 per cent of those living in rural areas have access to non-contaminated water and infant mortality is very high.

There is no basic infrastructure in Cambodia, and scarce medicine is difficult to transport around the rural areas. Playing in the fields is forbidden for fear of discovering a mine the hard way. Raising children in such conditions is no easy task.

Out of the adult population in Cambodia, 64 per cent are women and therefore they make up the majority of the voters. Women are also the majority of the labour force, but tradition leaves their status unchanged. Premarital sex for women in Cambodia is considered to be unclean and those who partake are regarded as "beyond redemption" by potential husbands. After bringing in the crops, the women are also responsible for the house-work, but must remain soft-spoken and inferior to the men of the house.

Some Cambodian women end up in Phnom Penh's red-light district, forced to make their living in prostitution. Families and boyfriends sell them to the brothels in this district and the money they make is sent home. There is very little knowledge of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. During the UN International Women's Week this year, Cambodian women marched through the red-light district to protest against the exploitation.

It is in the interest of Canada and all other richer Pacific Rim countries to aid in the restructuring of Cambodia, to help the country struggle to its knees. A revitalized Cambodia would offer much to the international community: its resources—rubber, timber, fish, and agricultural products—as well

as its unique culture. First, though, Cambodia needs to be able to feed its own people, so it is especially necessary for Canada and other Pacific Rim countries to provide aid and investment for the future. —Rick Overton

Vietnam: Opening up the Economy

All over the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, there are signs that the free-market economy is beginning to overtake and will likely replace the centrally planned economy of years past. State-run shops are losing business to private merchants in both Ho Chi Minh City and in Hanoi, the nation's capital.

Economic liberalization, combined with limited, but promising, political reforms, suggest that Vietnam has the ability to achieve high rates of economic growth and to gradually move away from centralized control towards a more democratic system. Today this nation of more than 70 million citizens is flourishing economically as it never has before.

Much of the free-market activity is taking place in the informal sector of the Vietnamese economy. It is taken for granted that many of the goods

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Minato-ku, Tokyo 107,
Japan
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available in private shops are reaching merchants after being smuggled into the country. The sheer volume of foreign goods available suggests that much of it is making it past state officials relatively easily and very likely involves bribery.

Since the embargo against Vietnam was lifted by U.S. President Clinton on February 4, 1994, many analysts have predicted the beginning of infrastructure aid from countries wishing to invest in the Vietnamese economy. Japan, never wanting to be left out of an economic opportunity, has led the way by pledging US\$550 million in development aid.

New and more liberal foreign incentives have made Vietnam a much more attractive region for investment than previously. Since 1986, the year the Foreign Investment Law was introduced, foreign investors have been granted quite a bit more autonomy and access to the Vietnamese

economy. "The Foreign Investment Law offers a guarantee against expropriation or nationalization, the right to repatriate capital and profits, assess-

es no minimum or maximum investment limits and requires no minimum levels of Vietnamese participation or equity," according to Canada's Foreign Affairs Department.

To this point, Canadian investment in the Vietnamese economy has been limited. Canadian foreign policy has tended to mirror that of the United States, which has unsuc-

cessfully attempted to isolate Vietnam, since the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea (Cambodia) in 1978. Also, Canadian investors have often been accused of being too conservative in making investment decisions. Brian Young, a consultant with Klohn Crippen Consultants, believes that the "biggest constraint for Canadians is

their own reticence to do business in Vietnam."

Outside of oil exploration by Petro-Canada in the South China Sea, Canadian investment has been negligible. It is likely agreed that Canadians will miss a great economic opportunity should they continue to ignore Vietnam's potential for investment.

The challenges facing Vietnam are extensive and varied. The country is in a position to become a global leader in economic growth rates over the next few decades, but it must clear many hurdles first. The most pressing of these is certainly the inability of political reforms to keep up with the rapid pace of economic change. Growth has been limited by a cumbersome bureaucracy, lack of infrastructure development, and the problem of successfully combining centralized political control with economic liberalization.

Still, the reforms of *Doi Moi* (literally "renovation") and the liberal foreign investment law enacted in 1986 show a commitment by reformers in the government to the opening up and revitalizing of the Vietnamese economy. This invitation should not be refused by Canadian investors if they wish to remain competitive in an expanding global economy. ♦

—Kasimir Kish



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Malaysia

Tel: (603) 241-4244
Fax: (603) 244-1089

In Canada contact:

Fred Wuhrer
Director of Canadian Operations
Malaysia Canada Business Council
Ste. 405 - 595 Howe Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6C 2T5

Tel: (604) 682-6938
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SEOUL FOOD



Beth Hume savours the flavours of Korean cuisine in Vancouver.

Hot and spicy. Sweet and sour. Salty and cool. Korean food is like no other. Its bold and subtle tastes, textures, and aromas are loved the world round.

But if you have never enjoyed this truly diverse cuisine, there couldn't be a better time than now to indulge yourself.

This year has been named "Visit Korea Year" by the Korean government and tourism industry in commemoration of the 600th anniversary of Seoul's foundation as the capital of Korea, which took place in 1394 at the beginning of the Choson Dynasty.

Many festivals and events are planned for the celebration of this historic occasion, heralded as the second biggest tourist attraction since the 24th Seoul Olympiad.

But what if you can't get away to experience the beauty and splendour of Korea this year? Well, Vancouverites, take heart.

You can enjoy a taste of Korea's rich

cultural heritage in some of the fine Korean restaurants our city has to offer. But if you're new to the cuisine, don't rush off now; a little background information will help.

When you sit down to your first Korean restaurant meal, chances are you'll notice the similarities to other Asian cuisines. Many of the ingredients, such as tofu, soy sauce, and a variety of fresh vegetables, as well as some of the cooking methods (stir-frying, deep-frying, steaming, and braising), are used throughout East Asia. And like the Chinese and Japanese, Koreans also eat with chopsticks.

But there are also elements of Korean food that make it deliciously different. Seasonings are robust: many dishes are laced with red or black pepper, onions, and garlic together with toasted sesame seeds, sesame oil, rice vinegar and ginger root.

Kimchi, which is considered *the* staple of Korean cuisine, is an extremely hot and spicy fermented pickle usually made of cabbage, but sometimes made of radish, turnip, or cucumber, and seasoned with red-hot pepper. This fiery *panchan* (side dish) is always served with *guk* (soup) and/or *pap* (rice), vital components of a Korean meal, to cool the heat of the spices. "Kimchi is one of our best sellers, especially the cucumber," says Shil-La restaurant manager Sung Ko.

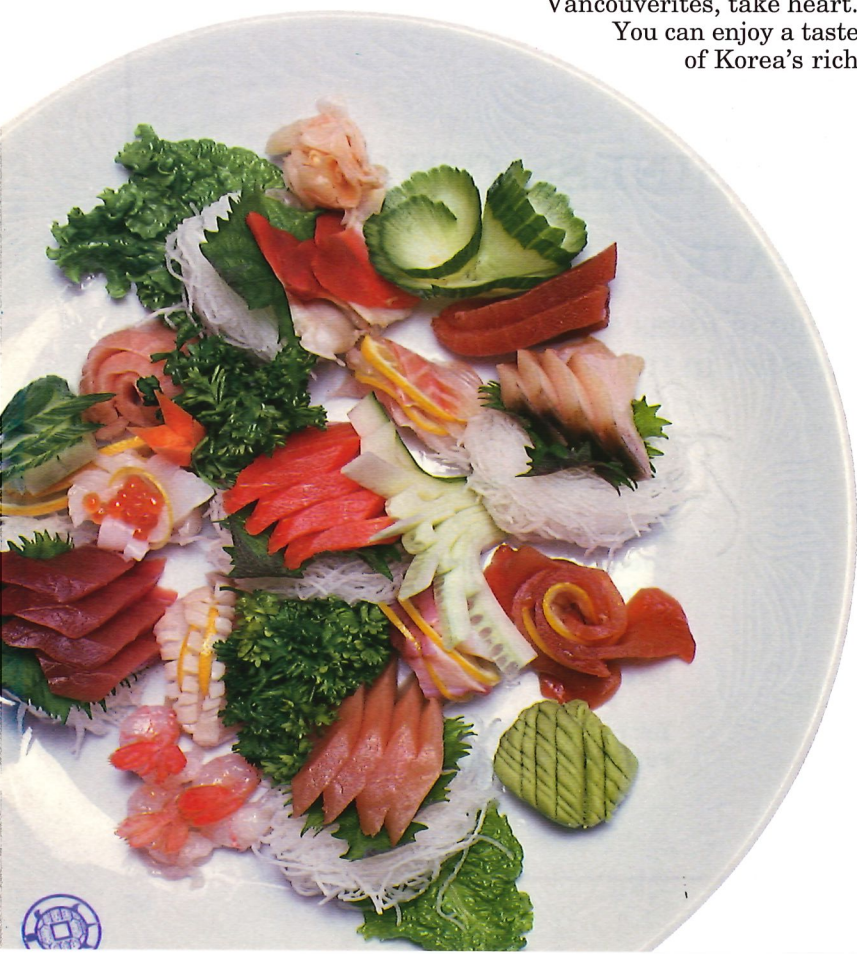
But not all dishes and ingredients are as spicy as kimchi or as potent as the garlic and chili peppers. In fact, the earliest Korean dishes consisted of understated ingredients. The chili pepper was unknown in Korea until the 16th century when it was introduced by Portuguese traders.

Many Koreans believe that almost every plant in their diet has a herbal or medicinal quality, and certain greens are eaten to warm or cool the head and/or body, among them the marsh plant, royal fern bracken, and *toraji* (bellflower root).

More common table vegetables, such as *shigumchi* (similar to spinach, topped with sesame seeds), *kongnamul* (bean sprouts), *myolchi* (tiny anchovies), black sesame leaves, and mung and soy beans, have been favourites for centuries and are popular restaurant *panchan* choices.

A seafood dish of some kind is usually included with various *panchan*. This may be a dried, salted and charbroiled fish or a hot and spicy seafood soup called *taegu-tang*, which usually includes an ample portion of codfish, onions, vegetables, tubu (soybean

Sashimi with salmon, tuna, yellowtail, shrimp, and squid.



curd), red-pepper powder, and an optional poached egg. Sashimi, which is like sushi, but served without rice, is another "popular fish dish" among the diners who frequent the Seoul House, says its manager Hyeongju Lee.

By far the most popular Korean entrée ordered by North Americans is pulgogi (also spelled bulgogi). Most beef eaters—whether Canadian or Korean—are united in their appreciation of this dish which consists of marinated beef strips grilled over a charcoal brazier. Another popular meat dish is pulgalbi—spareribs of beef or pork which are marinated and barbecued like pulgogi. Most Korean restaurants offer diners the option of barbecuing these meals at their own tables.

Almost all Korean restaurants provide brave eaters with a small selection of delicacies. Chen Koo, a server for the Seoul Garden, says the beef tongue, heart, and liver delicacies are "acquired tastes," but the secret Seoul Garden barbecue sauce they are marinated in makes the adventure for the first-timer a little less scary.

As in Korean homes, dessert is seldom served in restaurants, but when it is, it usually consists of fruit in season. At important celebrations, such as New Year's, sweets like tok (steamed rice cakes) are savoured.

KOREAN RESTAURANTS IN VANCOUVER

SEOUL HOUSE

1215 West Broadway (739-9001)
Mon.-Sun, 11:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

By far the largest Korean restaurant in Vancouver, the Seoul House has a special charm. With a wide and spacious dining area, the Seoul House is equipped with both elegant dining booths and private tatami rooms. One glance at the extensive menu tells you that you've come to the right place for an authentic Korean meal. All the favourites are there including tempura (vegetable, beef, chicken, prawn, and squid), pulgogi, and pulgalbi.

The Seoul House also provides an array of Korean delicacies—pickled mackerel, spicy grilled octopus, and a wide variety of sushi, including temaki and maki.

Ask about Seoul House's delicious lunch specials (Bento lunch boxes), which include sashimi, and their combination dinners, which contain something to please every palate.

SHIL-LA

208 - 333 East Broadway (875-6649)
Mon.-Sat., 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Sun. 12:00 noon-10:00 p.m.

Up the staircase to the second floor of its East Broadway location lies the Shil-La. They offer an amazing barbecue combination, which includes beef pulgogi, boneless chicken, pork, beef pulgalbi, prawns, squid, and scallops. Panchan of assorted tempura and a bowl of either mild ja jang myun or spicy jam pong noodles are also included with the meal.

For another great special, ask about the Shil-La's hot-pot full-course dinners. They are served with pap and six or more seasonal side dishes of your choice. The Shil-La also serves the spectacular beef jon gol, beautifully arranged vegetables topped with prime-cut beef.

For a fantastic hot and spicy appetizer, don't miss the Shil-La's cucumber kimchi.

The Shil-La also has a catering service.

SEOUL GARDEN

36 East Broadway (874-4131)
Mon.-Sun., 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Although smaller than the Seoul House and Shil-La, the Seoul Garden more than makes up for it in their wide variety of dishes.

Their barbecue platters include well-known favourites such as pulgogi and pulgalbi, but they also offer an array of delicacies: beef tongue, heart, and liver, all marinated in the Seoul Garden's traditional Korean barbecue sauce.

For tamer palates, the Seoul Garden also serves a flavourful beef/chicken teriyaki dish as well as tiger and Pacific prawn tempura.

Ask about their tasty Bento lunch boxes. Choose from either lunch A: sashimi and three kinds of sushi; or lunch B: spicy pork and assorted tempura. Both lunches include pap and miso soup.

ARIRANG HOUSE

2211 Cambie St. (879-0990)
Mon-Thurs., 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Fri., 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sat., 12:00 noon-11:00 p.m.

Arirang House is the perfect place for Korean food if what you want is a taste of it all. An ever-changing daily fresh buffet brims over with dozens of Korean favourites such as pulgalbi, pork, chicken, and seafood pulgogi, sashimi, and

Seafood shabu with an array of fresh vegetables and side dishes of kongnamul (bean sprouts), myolchi (anchovies), kakkdoogi and namool (white and yellow radishes) and kimchi.

PAGE DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE LEE PHOTOS BY LEAH BROWLEY



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The complete picture.

nigiri, maki and temaki sushi. Sample various noodles (bibim neng myun—thin noodles with hot sauce) and soups (yuke jang—beef hot-sauce soup), which are mainstays of a Korean diet.

As well as having an extensive barbecue selection, Arirang House also offers five Chinese food dishes.

KOREAN GARDENS

845 East Hastings St. (255-5022)
Mon.-Sun., 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Although small in size, the Korean Gardens provides a comfortable atmosphere offering daily lunch specials like their tender pork, chicken, and beef teriyakis.

Korean Gardens' combination dinners offer an assortment of delectable favourites like kimchi, pap, pulgalbi, sushi, oysters, scallops, squid and mandoo soup. Their barbecue dinners include jumbo prawns, beef tongue, and mackerel.

The Korean Gardens provides a take-out service.

STAPLES OF KOREAN COOKING

Toasted Sesame Seeds/KkaeSogum

The delicious, nutty flavour of sesame seeds is heightened when the seeds are lightly toasted and crushed. Toasted sesame seeds are usually made in large quantities because they are found in so

many Korean recipes.

Place 2 tbsp sesame seeds in a small frying pan (do not add oil). Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat 2 to 4 minutes or until golden brown (be careful not to burn).

Pour toasted seeds into a large bowl and crush with the back of a wooden spoon.

Makes 2 tablespoons.

Vinegar-Soy Sauce/Ch'okanjang

This light dipping sauce has a sour and salty flavour that goes well with meat, vegetables, and fried food.

4 tbsp soy sauce
3 tbsp vinegar
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp finely chopped green onions
1 tsp toasted sesame seeds

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Stir to dissolve sugar.

Vinegar-soy sauce will keep for up to a week refrigerated in a tightly covered glass container.

Makes 1/2 cup.

A KOREAN FEAST

Kimchi

You can make a simple kimchi from cabbage alone, or you can substitute any

combination of turnips, radishes, and cucumber for all or part of the cabbage.

5 cups cabbage cut into bite-size pieces
6 tbsp salt
2 tbsp sugar
1 tsp to 2 tbsp crushed red-pepper flakes
1/4 tsp finely chopped ginger root
1 clove garlic, peeled and finely chopped
2 green onions, finely chopped

In a large colander, mix cabbage with 6 tbsp salt. Let sit for 3 hours.

Rinse cabbage thoroughly 2 or 3 times. Gently squeeze out excess liquid with your hands.

Place the drained cabbage in a large glass bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly.

Cover cabbage mixture tightly with plastic wrap and let sit at room temperature for 1 to 2 days.

Chill kimchi before serving.

Makes 5 cups.

Koch'ujjim/Steamed Stuffed Peppers

This recipe contains tofu, a high-protein food made from soybeans that is found in many Korean dishes.

3/4 cup tofu
1/2 lb. ground beef or ground pork
1 tsp salt
1/8 tsp black pepper
1 clove garlic, peeled and finely chopped



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1 green onion, finely chopped
 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
 4 small green peppers cut in half length-wise and seeded

Squeeze out water from tofu with hands.

Add meat, salt, black pepper, garlic, green onions, and sesame seeds and mix well.

Fill each green pepper half with meat-tofu mixture.

Place stuffed green peppers on a pie plate. Pour 1/2 cup water into a steamer or large kettle and place pie plate in water.

Bring water to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium, cover pan, and steam for 20 to 25 minutes or until meat is brown.

Serve hot with vinegar-soy sauce and rice.

Pulgogi/Barbecued Beef

Next to kimchi, pulgogi may be Korea's best-known dish. Thin strips of spicy beef are cooked over a pulgogi, a dome-shaped charcoal or electric grill.

4 tbsp soy sauce
 2 tbsp sesame oil
 2 tbsp sugar
 1/2 tsp black pepper
 1 clove garlic, peeled and finely chopped
 4 tbsp finely chopped green onions

1 tbsp toasted sesame seeds
 1 1/2 lb. sirloin tip, thinly sliced into 1/2 by 2-inch pieces
 12 romaine lettuce leaves (optional)
 1 cup cooked rice (optional)
 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper (optional)

In a large bowl, combine soy sauce, sesame oil, sugar, black pepper, garlic, green onions, and sesame seeds. Add meat and mix well. Cover and refrigerate 1 to 2 hours.

Preheat oven or start the charcoal grill. Broil or grill meat for 2 to 3 minutes per side or until brown.

Serve with vegetable side dishes and rice, or place meat on lettuce leaves with 2 tsp hot rice and a dash of cayenne pepper per leaf and roll up leaf. Serves 4.

Yak Kwa/ Honey Cookies

These small cakes made with honey and rice wine are very rich. In Korea, they are served at afternoon tea parties.

2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/8 tsp pepper
 3 tbsp sesame oil
 2 tbsp ginger-root juice (step 1)
 3 tbsp honey
 2 tbsp rice wine

Honey syrup:

3/4 cup honey
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 cup water
 Cooking oil for deep frying
 1-2 tbsp pine nuts, minced

To prepare the ginger juice: bring 1/4 cup water to a boil, add 3-4 slices of ginger root and cook for 5 minutes over medium heat. Set aside to cool.

To prepare the honey syrup: thoroughly mix the honey, sugar, and water in a saucepan, bring to a boil for 3 minutes over medium heat, stirring occasionally, then simmer for 5 minutes without stirring. Set aside to cool.

Sift the flour with salt and pepper.

Place flour mixture in a mixing bowl, add sesame oil, ginger juice, honey, and rice wine. Mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon to make dough.

Roll the dough between 2 sheets of wax paper to 1/2 inch thick and cut with a 1 1/2 inch round cookie cutter.

Heat the oil to 310F-330F (150C-160C) in deep-fat fryer. Fry the cookies very slowly until golden brown on both sides. Soak the hot cookies in cool honey syrup for 10-15 minutes.

Remove the extra syrup from the cookies, then sprinkle with pine nuts before serving. Makes 24 cookies. Keep them in a container with a cover in the fridge as long as 4-6 weeks. ♦



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finally discovers what many Oriental theatre art buffs know: in Chinese opera, as in Japanese Kabuki theatre, female roles are played by men.

I went to see the local Vancouver showing of *M. Butterfly* at the Arts Club Theatre in February 1993. It starred Vancouver actor Mike Andaluz as the "female" lead. Interestingly, the play's costumer dressed Andaluz in both Chinese cheongsams and Japanese kimonos, to mock the confusion Westerners often have in discerning differences among Asian cultures. Chinese, Japanese, Korean—they all "seem the same."

"When I did the play," says Andaluz, "I would look at the men in the audience, and I could tell they were buying into the image. As the play wore on, they grew even more fascinated. They loved the thought of having their own little butterfly, some delicate, devoted little creature all to themselves. An obedient woman they could cheat on, dump on, and who would still be devoted to them."

Andaluz goes on to say that part of his thrill in playing the female lead was seeing audience's faces when he did his on-stage transformation into his true gender identity—wiping off the feminine diva makeup, taking off his wig, and slapping on an Armani suit. He says many men were flabbergasted.

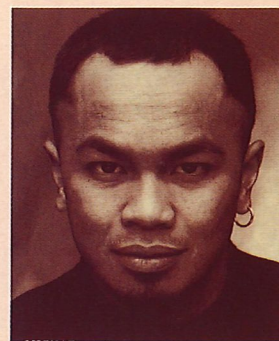
While it is considered all right for a Caucasian man to marry an Asian woman, it is not as well received when an Asian man pairs with a Caucasian woman. It is considered romantic, tragic, and beautiful when the Japanese woman in *Madame Butterfly* kills herself when her Caucasian husband abandons her with their son.

Probably few Westerners would be as moved if the roles were switched. Imagine if the story were rewritten so that a Caucasian female business executive falls in love with a Chinese man, who runs off with their illegitimate child, leaving her to commit suicide, so that father and son can have a better life without her. Few North Americans would find anything beautiful or romantic about that storyline.

Still, I do not automatically assume a sinister or patriarchal motive for every Caucasian man who looks twice at an Asian woman. I know numbers of interracial couples who are very happy together and have great respect for one another.

When all is said and done, love is an elusive thing. What matters most is mutual respect. When that exists, even the most innocent of China doll images will be shattered. ♦

Portrait of a Lady



"If I could, I would like the chance to do it all over again," says Vancouver actor Mike Andaluz. He is referring to his role as the female lead in the February '93 production of *M. Butterfly*, presented by the Arts Club Theatre. "I had so little time to prepare, and for the experience to sink in."

To prepare for his role as a female Chinese opera diva, Andaluz was tutored for 12 hours in intensive makeup application by a professional makeup artist. He learned to tweeze his eyebrows, move his hands and eyes in demure, traditional feminine gestures, and walked around for days in training corsets before moving on to training bras with artificial breasts. He had 16 days to complete his beauty training and memorize his lines for the six-week production.

"At first it was difficult," says Andaluz. "My friends would be over, and not being used to my having breasts, would be transfixed with staring at my chest the whole time, even when we talked. It was unnerving. I read some of Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*. Now I know how women feel, and what they are talking about, equality in body language. Look at their eyes, not their chests."

Andaluz's break into show business is the stuff of a film publicist's fantasy. At the age of 13, he was discovered by Carole Tarlington, artistic director of Vancouver Youth Theatre, when she spotted him in a play. She offered him a scholarship to VYT if he was serious about acting. Andaluz accepted, and has never looked back. He went on to appear in *Wiseguy*, *21 Jumpstreet*, *Neon Rider*, and *Northwood*, usually playing drug dealers, rebels, and Asian gang members.

"I used to resent being expected to be a spokesperson for Asian stereotypes, and I still don't want to be The One, but now I also see a certain responsibility in being a role model for other Asians. I don't have a problem with that."

Andaluz sees acting as a tool for his own personal growth as well. His experiences as an actor help him to find out more about himself and to understand himself. "It's about finding my voice. I have to find my voice."

M. Butterfly is Andaluz's first mainstage theatre role. He says he did not feel



his masculinity threatened from having to make the switch to play a woman. "In fact, being in touch with the feminine side in me only made me even more aware of the masculine side," says Andaluz. "Playing a woman stretched my capacity for masculinity."

The diversity of the role has helped him grow as a person. He has since gained greater respect for women and the difficulties they face each day because of their gender.

Because of this, Andaluz feels he could bring even more depth and richness to his female character in *M. Butterfly* if he could

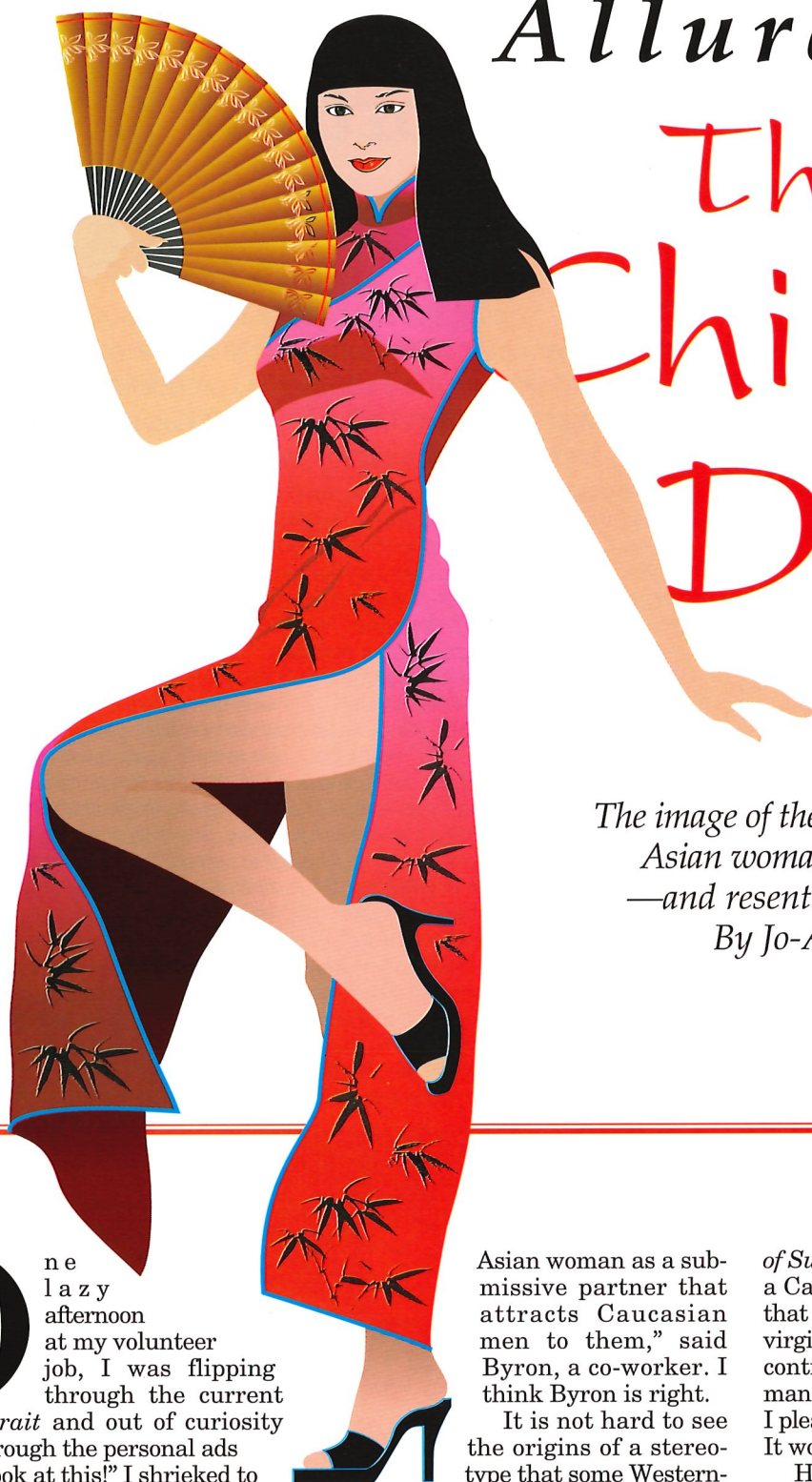
play the role again. Still, the experience has not left Andaluz without his share of new wisdoms. He has since been helping girlfriends tweeze their eyebrows, as well as sharing makeup tips.

"You know, you should try lining your lips with Auburn lip pencil," he advises, "and filling it in with MAC Viva Glam lipstick."

—Jo-Ann Chiu

Allure of The China Doll

The image of the exotic, compliant Asian woman is a powerful—and resented—stereotype.
By Jo-Ann Chiu



One lazy afternoon at my volunteer job, I was flipping through the current *Georgia Strait* and out of curiosity browsed through the personal ads

"Hah! Look at this!" I shrieked to colleagues. "A forty-one-year-old Caucasian man, a lawyer, wants an Asian woman between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-eight! Isn't that hilarious?"

"You're twenty-one, Jo-Ann, you should go!" was among the replies, along with sardonic remarks on my reading the *Georgia Strait* personals in the first place.

"I think it is the stereotype of the

Asian woman as a submissive partner that attracts Caucasian men to them," said Byron, a co-worker. I think Byron is right.

It is not hard to see the origins of a stereotype that some Westerners have of women of the

East. Historically, it was the Europeans who dominated Asia, as with the French colonization of Vietnam, and the British colonization of Hong Kong. There arises from this an image of the East as being effeminate, the feminine half of a yin/yang relationship.

Hollywood has been more than willing to romanticize the China doll image, with such movies as *The World*

of *Suzie Wong*. After seeing the movie, a Caucasian might have the illusion that all Asian girls are either blushing virgins or crazy whores who love to be controlled by some big, strong, white man. Or as Suzie Wong says, "Oh, can I please tell them that you beat me up? It would impress all my friends!"

Hollywood has recently released a movie which further explores this image—*M. Butterfly*. People are liable to mistake it for Puccini's opera, *Madame Butterfly*. The two are completely different. *M. Butterfly* was originally a play based on the true story of a French diplomat who fell in love with a Chinese opera diva. They have a 20-year affair before the Frenchman

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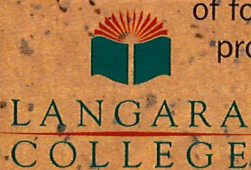
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