



China Oxford Scholarship Fund

HRH Prince William Launches Bodleian's New Weston Library

Summer 2016

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It was another crowning moment for the University of Oxford when HRH The Duke of Cambridge officially launched the new Weston Library on the 11th May. The impressive building is the newest addition to the Bodleian Libraries with the help of a £80 million refurbishment. The Garfield Weston Foundation provided £25 million towards the redevelopment to transform the structure from an ancient library to a 21st century state-of-the-art research, special collections and digital resource hub. "It is humbling to know that the tradition of libraries here in Oxford goes back over 800 years. Everything about this place is steeped in a long experience of imparting knowledge and education, and the humanising and civilising effect that has on our societies," said Prince William. He also visited Magdalen College where he unveiled the College's revamped Longwall Library which has tripled its capacity of work spaces for its students. He also formally opened the new home of the Blavatnik School of Government, the first school of government in the United Kingdom. A pictorial is on the next page. Photos are courtesy of the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, John Cairns and IWP Photographic.

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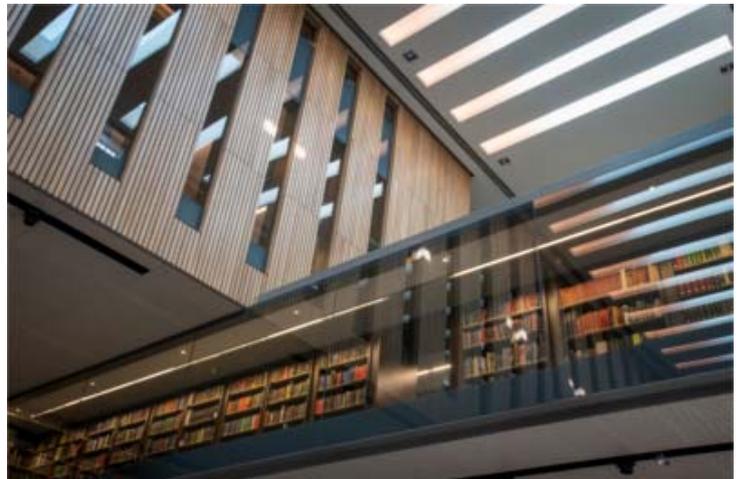
'It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.'

- William Shakespeare





Bodleian's Weston Library on Broad Street



The Library is home to more than one million rare books



Prince William's official unveiling of the Weston Library



Prince William is shown some of the rare collections



Lord Patten greets the Prince at Magdalen College



The Prince meets with students and staff at Magdalen



The Duke of Cambridge tours the Blavatnik School of Government which currently has 117 students from 54 countries enrolled in its Master of Public Policy programme. There are also 9 doctorate students in its Public Policy programme.

Shakespeare's 400th Anniversary Celebrations in Britain and China

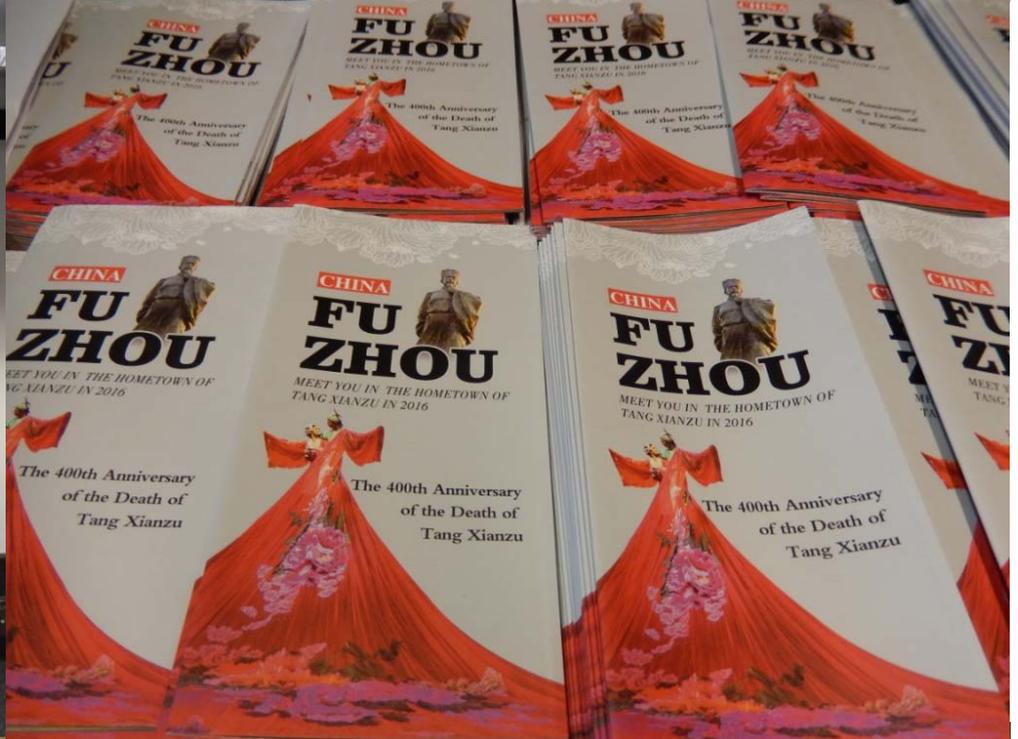
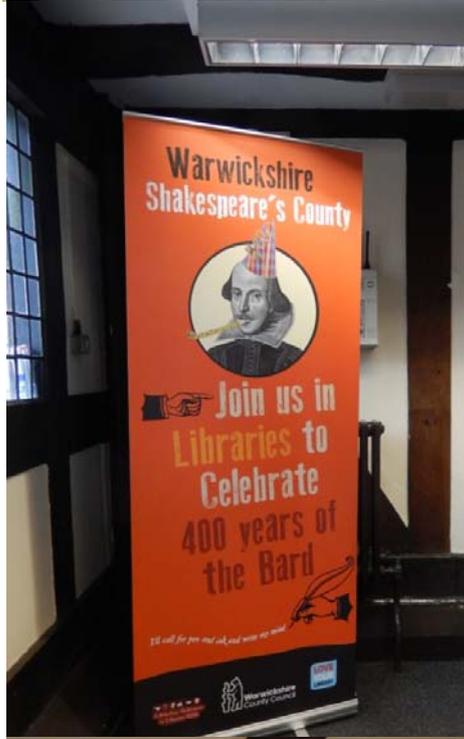


The life and works of William Shakespeare are being celebrated around the world as 2016 marks the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death in 1616. The University of Oxford's Bodleian Libraries is home to two copies of the treasured First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays and an extensive collection of plays and poetry by his contemporaries. So it's befitting that the Bodleian has launched a special summer exhibition highlighting the myriad themes of death in Shakespeare's works. A series of talks are featured in this special programme which kicked off on the 22nd April and will continue until the 29th June. The Shakespeare Death Exhibition at the Bodleian is part of the Shakespeare Oxford 2016 Festival.

Meanwhile in China, Shakespeare fans have been celebrating the Bard's life and works too. There are three well established Shakespeare societies in Shanghai, Jilin and Hong Kong. And in Fuzhou in the southeast of Fujian Province, a contemporary of the Bard is also being celebrated for his contribution to Chinese literature and opera. Ming Dynasty playwright and poet Tang Xianzu hailed from Fuzhou and his prolific work includes the Four Dreams of Linchuan, the Peony Pavilion, the Tale of the Violet Hairpin, the Tale of the Dream of Handan, A Dream under the Southern Bough. It's no wonder that Tang is regarded by many in China as the country's own version of "Shakespeare".

Similar to Shakespeare, Tang died 400 years ago and as a joint tribute, the town of Stratford-upon-Avon established ties with Fuzhou and invited a delegation from Tang's hometown to visit Shakespeare's birthplace and to participate in the celebrations there. The Mayor of Fuzhou as well as a number of actors and performers took part in the annual Shakespeare Anniversary parade through Stratford. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust also invited the Fuzhou actors to perform at Shakespeare's childhood home where excerpts of Tang Xianzu's plays and operas were performed in the gardens to the delight of locals and visitors. A special exhibition about Tang's life and works took place at the Stratford Library. A pictorial of these events are featured on the following pages.





纪念汤显祖逝世 400 周年

THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF TANG XIANZU

Tang Xianzu (1550-1616), courtesy name Yixang, a dramatist, poet, essayist and a profound thinker in Ming Dynasty, was born in Linchuan, Fuzhou city. He styled himself Ruoshi, Hairuo, Qingyuan Taoist. Tang Xianzu and his contemporary William Shakespeare are masters of world culture from the East and the West.

Tang Xianzu lived through the reign of Jiajing Emperor, Longqing Emperor, Wanli Emperor, in the transitional period of the late Ming Dynasty, during which the emperor was killing the days away, and the whole political system was corrupted. Meanwhile, it was a period that commodity economy and city culture developed at full speed, free thoughts and multicultural society were also highly developed.

Tang Xianzu came from an intellectual family. He was very smart and talented when he was young. At the age of 21 to the eighth he passed the provincial imperial examination. Due to refusing Prime Minister Zhang Juzheng's auxiliary recruit, he didn't pass the national imperial examination until Zhang Juzheng died (1583). He served in Nanjing successively as adviser in the Court of Imperial Sacrifices, secretary to the office of Imperial Affairs and administrative aide in the Sacrifice Bureau of the Ministry of Rites. In 1591, he wrote the famous *Commentary on the Ministers and Supervisors*, criticizing the court for officials' corruption and misadministration. As a result, he was demoted to the position of clerk in Xuwen County, Guangdong province, where he took some enlightened measures for social development. After five years in office, he returned to his hometown, giving up all his ideas of being an official and devoting himself to writing. He embodied his ideal in his masterpiece "Four Dreams of Linchuan". On July 29, 1616, he died in Linchuan.

Tang Xianzu was famous in literature circles when he was in middle age, and made a big contribution to the theatre in his old age. His masterpiece *The Peony Pavilion*, *The Tale of the Violet Hairpin*, *The Tale of a Dream in Handan*, *A Dream Under the Southern Bough* were collectively called "Four dreams of Linchuan". The Four Dreams deduce human desire, attack the feudal system, discover the Neo-confucianism, call for freedom and reemerge the glory of humanity. Besides, the plot twists and turns, as well as the beautiful words, are also reasons why the plays were performed for 400 years. Among these plays, *The Peony Pavilion* is especially highly valued for its remarkable psychological depth and earthy realism. It has been acknowledged as his masterpiece and one of the best Chinese dramas. He was also a famous essay writer of his time, a poet who advocated poems expressing spirits. He has left behind more than 2200 poems, essays and rhymed essays, along with his chief achievement, the dramatic works.

Tang Xianzu set up a monument to the cultural history of China. He showed his sympathy for the common people, antipathy for the corrupted officials, and advocated freedom and independent personalities in his whole life. His classical works are part of human's cultural heritage, and his moral integrity were admired by all of us, who will never forget him.

Tang Xianzu, the master of drama of the East who came from Linchuan like a shining and splendid star in China, even the world.

汤显祖 (1550—1616)，字义仍，号若士，别署清远道人。江西抚州临川人。中国明代伟大的戏剧家、文学家、思想家。是与英国莎士比亚“同出共时”的“东方莎士比亚”。世界文化巨匠。

汤显祖身历嘉靖、隆庆、万历三朝。正值中晚明过渡期，皇崇奢逸，吏治腐败，兼并积重；也是商品经济和城市文化走向繁荣，思想走向自由，社会走向多元的时期。亦正当欧洲文艺复兴，是“蒙昧人而且产生巨人”的时代。

汤显祖生于书香门第，少年颖异有文名。21岁就以第八名中举；因谢绝首辅张居正延揽，直至崇去庚次年（1583）始中进士，又因不赞成两广总督张拱辰，调任南京太常寺博士、南京詹事府主簿、南京礼部主事。万历十九年（1591）上《论辅臣科臣疏》，抨击朝政，揭发辅臣开罪科臣贪腐，被贬归乡。东归时具奏史实弹劾，后转任浙江遂昌知县。万历二十六年（1598），因弹劾朝政被贬，蒙志难申，遂还乡自筑官厅，在永嘉堂创作《牡丹亭》，传为子家多。

汤显祖少时得名于文坛，中年失意于官场，晚岁却功归于典奥。所著传奇四部《紫钗记》《牡丹亭》《南柯记》《邯郸记》，合称“临川四梦”或“玉茗堂四梦”。皆“四情合一”，演绎人情世故，抨击专制礼教，进件理学道统，呼唤自由至情，重理于人性光辉，加以情节曲折，形象丰满，文词华美。四百年来感动不衰，特别是《牡丹亭》，意境神妙均达到天人合一及的高度，揭示了时代进步方向，至今熠熠生辉。他还是名闻当时的剧作家，主张抒写灵性的诗人，留下了2200多首诗，500多篇文章。

汤显祖在中国戏剧文化史上树立了一座丰碑。他一生坚守儒家、坚守独立人格，其艺术经典是人类共同的文化遗产，其人格魅力令人钦佩。其作品流传于世。

戏曲演出

Opera performances

紫钗记
The tale of the violet Hairpin

芭蕾舞《牡丹亭》
The Ballet The peony pavilion

抚州茶楼戏《牡丹亭》
Fuzhou Tea-picking opera The peony pavilion

上海昆剧团《邯郸记》
The tale of a Dream in Handan by Shanghai Kunqu Opera

江西赣剧《南柯记》
Jiang Xi opera A Dream Under the Southern Bough

Scholars' Updates



I'm Vincent Weifeng Ni. I attended Green Templeton College and was a 2009 China Oxford Scholar receiving the Hoare Family Award. I earned my MSc in Social Sciences of the Internet. I started working at the BBC in April 2014. It's a very fulfilling job that gives me space and intellectual freedom to observe China's emerging role in international affairs, governance and finance. These are topics that are covered less by domestic outlets in China. My role is at the juncture of traditional journalism and new media so my position requires me to have command of technological innovations while upholding the journalistic values of a public broadcaster. The challenges are diverse. I travel widely both to Asia and North America to understand the regional and international dynamics. I'm currently in Washington D.C. attending a data governance related workshop at the Brookings Institute as a part of a fellowship called Global Governance Futures.



I'm Yingqi Liu and I'm a DPhil student at the School of Geography & the Environment. I'm also at St John's College. I was a 2011 China Oxford Scholar and a Tang Oxford Scholar in 2012. I am also a China Scholarship Council Scholar. I have done research in low carbon sustainability and policy projects. I am excited to report that this summer I will join the Beijing Office of McKinsey & Company for a summer associate programme. I am thrilled about joining the firm that has played a leading role in promoting important agendas in private and public sectors. I look forward to working with exceptional colleagues on stimulating projects to serve organisations in various sectors in China. This rich experience will provide me with first-hand exposure to engagements that deliver practical solutions and lasting client impacts.

学者新闻

Hi everyone. I'm Zhongwen Zhang and I was a China Oxford Scholar in 2013. I earned my MSc in Modern Chinese Studies and was at St Cross College. After an internship at the United Nations Development Programme in Brazil, I returned to China in December 2014 and started a traineeship at the Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese national news agency. Soon after, I joined the Zhejiang Daily Press Group as a News Editor on politics.

Working in the media in China is a challenge yet it is enjoyable as I can travel and meet with people with various backgrounds. Freedom is limited with regard to deciding whom you can interview or what you want to write. The top priority is always to finish government's propaganda tasks. Most reports have to demonstrate top leaders' strong determination on political reform which is on-going fairly positively. Reports generally are vetted at least three times from the news editor, departmental director and then the chief editor before stories are published. Since being educated in western universities, I appreciate the rights of free speech and publication. Therefore, sometimes it is a bit challenging to be limited by the system. For instance, blunt criticism of incumbent bureaucrats is not allowed because you are no longer representing yourself but the whole newspaper. However, I have gradually realised that any kind of political reform has to be taken step by step steadily while avoiding big social turbulence. Otherwise, the interests of the general public would be easily damaged. It is never an easy task to conduct comprehensive reform in Chinese society considering its huge population and complicated societal structure. It takes time, patience and great wisdom. I think that is what I am learning from my job and what I want to share with other young scholars.



I'm Jingmin Huang and I was a China Oxford Scholar in 2001 and in 2002. I attended St Edmund Hall and was a doctorate student in Water Science in the Department of Engineering Science. I was a Fellow at St Hugh's College. I have been working for the Asian Development Bank and have been based in Manila since graduating from Oxford.

I am a senior Urban Development Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and I oversee water management and urban development projects in China and East Asia. This means covering areas such as urban planning, water and sanitation, environment management, and infrastructure development. I have been responsible for the Bank's major initiatives such as its sanitation and wastewater management revolution, the Green City Initiative under the Urban CoP, and the solid waste management sector. I've been involved with developing knowledge products and best practices in the sector both within and outside the ADB as well. Recently, South Asia has been added to my portfolio so I am looking forward to managing projects in India and Sri Lanka. I plan to visit Oxford University this summer with my family. I am very much looking forward to this since it's been eight years since I left Oxford for the Philippines.

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