

In Loving Memory of
Dr Werner Klaus Burger
布威納博士
1936 – 2021



A Celebration of
a Lifetime's Achievements

Dr. Werner Burger 1936-2021

by Tim Huxley

The Foreign Correspondents' Club

An early interest in Chinese art led Werner Burger to Cultural Revolution Shanghai and a lifelong passion for Qing dynasty monetary history.

Dr. Werner Burger was a world respected numismatist who was globally recognized as the pre-eminent expert on Qing dynasty currency. Born in 1936 in Bavaria, Werner's passion for China was sparked by a school visit to an exhibition of Chinese paintings. Frustrated by the fact that nobody was able to read the text, he studied Chinese at university in Munich before setting off through cold-war era Czechoslovakia and Russia for China. Securing work teaching German at Fudan University Shanghai, he was in the midst of the cultural revolution, with his school being shut down in 1965, at which point he was sent to become a sheep farmer in Suzhou.

With sheep farming not being to the liking of a man whose intellectual curiosity seemed to know no bounds, he headed to Hong Kong which became his home for the rest of his life. Werner's passion for Qing Dynasty economic history evolved into a specialization on the subject of numismatics. Having obtained the first and only PhD in Chinese numismatics, he set out on further study of Qing currency, trying to gain access to the numerous mint records. He had also begun to acquire Qing dynasty coins, rummaging around antique shops on his frequent trips to China and acquiring seventy 100kg bags of coins from a generous Hong Kong scrap metal dealer who had imported them from Indonesia, where Qing cash had been in circulation up until the 1940's.

Accompanied by his wife Lucy, who he had met in Hong Kong in 1975, Werner began to assemble the only complete collection of Qing currency representing every year of the dynasty. It took sixteen years to finally gain access to the First Historical Archives in Beijing,

which were found when a wall was knocked down when the archives were undergoing restoration. This remarkable find enabled Werner to complete the search which he had devoted years to and ultimately led to the publication in 2016 of 'Ch'ing Cash' by the University Museum and Art Gallery of the Hong Kong University, a volume widely acclaimed as the most definitive and comprehensive on the subject. Through his research and assembling this remarkable collection, he saw the economic disaster that befell the Qing dynasty through the mismanagement of currency and it was this, he concluded, which ultimately led to the collapse of the dynasty and events such as the cession of Hong Kong.

In addition to his numismatic research, Werner was a strong supporter of his wife's projects to enable children from poor rural areas in China attain higher education and to install much needed infrastructure and sanitation in Huaji and Meizhou.

Despite being crippled by arthritis and unable to walk, Werner spent his later years in his extensive library continuing his studies and cataloguing his collection. His inquisitive mind was as sharp as ever and he always wanted to know what was going on and give his opinions, which were often fairly forthright. A regular visitor to the Foreign Correspondents Club, where he shared his findings in an illuminating talk to the Club, Werner always seemed most content sharing a glass of wine with friends and his beloved Lucy.

Werner had remained frustrated that the subject of Asian numismatics was not taught anywhere in the world, especially in Hong Kong, given the role it played in the development of the city. It is unlikely that there will be anyone who ever has such an encyclopedic knowledge of the subject or who could so enthusiastically share their passion.

布威納博士 1936-2021

早期對中國藝術的興趣促使布威納來到上海，並對清朝貨幣史產生了畢生熱情。

布威納博士是享譽世界的錢幣學家，是全球公認的清代貨幣傑出專家。布威納於 1936 年出生於德國巴伐利亞州，他對中國的熱情是在學校參觀中國畫展時激發的。他對沒有人能夠閱讀相關文本而感到沮喪，於是他在慕尼黑大學攻讀中文，然後經冷戰時期的捷克斯洛伐克和俄羅斯前往中國。在上海復旦大學任教德語的布威納，正處於文化大革命之中，1965 年學校停辦，當時他被派往蘇州當牧羊人。

牧羊不符合一個求知慾似乎無止境的人的喜愛，布威納前往香港，而那成為了他餘生的家。布威納對清代經濟史的熱情演變為對錢幣學的專業研究。在獲得了中國錢幣學的第一個也是唯一一個博士學位後，他開始進一步研究清朝的貨幣，試圖獲得大量的鑄幣記錄。他還開始收購清代錢幣，經常到中國的古董店裏翻找，並從一個慷慨的香港廢鐵商那裏獲得了七十袋 100 公斤的錢幣，這個廢鐵商是從印尼進口舊銅幣。清錢在印尼一直流通到 1940 年代。

1975 年，在香港認識的妻子露西的陪同下，布威納開始收集唯一完整的代表朝代年份的清代貨幣。歷時十六年，他終於在北京第一歷史檔案館找到了線索，這是在檔案館修復過程中一堵牆被推倒時發現的。這一非凡的發現使布威納完成了他傾注多年心血的探索，並最終促成香港大學博物館和藝術館於 2016 年

出版了《清錢編年譜》，這本書被普遍譽為關於這一主題的最權威和最全面的書。通過他的研究和完成收集完整的傑出清錢收藏，他看到了清朝由於貨幣管理不善而遭受的經濟災難，他得出結論，正是這一點最終導致了王朝的崩潰和香港割讓等事實的歷史見證。

除了錢幣研究外，布威納還背後大力支持他妻子的慈善事業，協助中國貧困農村山區的孩子能夠接受高等教育，並在懷集和梅州急需的衛生設施為多所小學校籌款蓋廁所。

儘管因關節炎而致殘，無法行走，布威納的晚年仍在他那龐大的書房中繼續研究，並對他的收藏品進行編目。他好奇的頭腦一如既往的敏銳，他總是想知道發生了什麼，並提出自己的意見，這些意見往往相當直率。他是外國記者會的常客，在那裏，他在一次富有啟發性的講座中分享了他的發現，布威納總是最滿足於與朋友和他心愛的露西分享手中的一杯酒。

布威納一直對在世界上任何地方沒有教授亞洲錢幣學這一學科感到沮喪，特別是在香港因為清朝演變了這個城市發展的歷史。不可能再有人對這一學科有如此百科全書式的深入瞭解，更不可能有誰能如此熱情地分享他們的智慧及激情。

文教的孩子給布太的安慰

敬愛的 Lucy:

我們懷著沉痛的心情給您帶來此郵件。布生的離開對您來說就如晴天霹靂，這對文教的孩子們來說也無疑是在心頭重重的一擊。但生命的消逝不是終結，遺忘才是。文教的每一位孩子都會永遠懷念可愛可敬的布生，願布生在天堂不再有疾病災難，願布生在天國健康快樂。

我們最親愛的 Lucy，您一定要保重自己的身體，您的孩子們會一直陪著您的，布生也一定希望看到一個健康快樂的您。請 Lucy 告訴布生今後我們會替布生守護好您的，請遠在天國的布生放心。

—您的文教孩子們—

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致布太太：

茲驚悉尊敬的布先生駕鶴西去，萬分悲痛，謹此沉痛弔唁。布先生的一生是傳奇的一生、非凡的一生，作為一位德國人，從遙遠的西方來到東方，完全融入到東方的人文環境，畢生熱心於中國古錢幣的收藏，潛心於清代錢幣歷史的研究，取得舉世矚目的成果，給後學留下了寶貴的學術文化遺產，不僅有助推進相關領域的學術研究，而且有利於相關學科的基礎建設，功德無量，永載史冊。布先生為人低調、樸實、謙虛，做事執著、敬業、勤奮，是學人敬佩學習的典範。願布先生安息！望布太太節哀順變！

—吳元豐 郭美蘭—

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布太，節哀，聽到布先生離世的消息非常難受，布先生是對我們國家文化研究做了不小的貢獻。在此背後您也做了很多很多的支持，非常不容易，而且您還創辦了文教，幫助影響了那麼多孩子，大愛無疆，您是很多人的精神力量。

您要照顧好自己，身體棒棒的，金威也等著布太再回來梅州走走，我也想著帶媽媽去香港看您呢。

—金威—

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非常難過和不捨聽到這樣的消息！！

逝者已矣，請節哀順變

布威納教授的畢業生的研究精神和毅力將繼續留在中國錢幣界發光發熱……

—李浩—

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我和古哥，Edward 非常擔心您身體。但疫情難以前往。一下子，也不知道能為您做什麼。除了祈禱和安慰。Lucy，我們全家永遠在您身後相伴。隨禮金一份，請您節哀！我們永遠懷念為我們中國錢幣領域做出巨大貢獻的布先生！我們能認識布先生，是我們一生的榮幸！

—旭勤 / 古哥—

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布阿姨，晚上好！驚聞布威納叔叔仙逝，願您節哀！

中國古錢幣研究痛失忠誠的開拓者，您痛失此生摯愛，都令中華文教促進會各位長輩和孩子們倍感痛心。願您不長陷於哀傷，您的健康開心和快樂應是布威納叔叔的心願，文教的孩子們愛您！

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布太晚上好，我剛下班就驚聞我們親愛的布老先生離開了我們，我心裡和您一樣很難過，很難受。布太，花開花落，世間萬物都有始有終，我們只能學會堅強，您千萬要保重，不要太過悲傷和痛苦，要振作起來。布先生他在天堂會默默的看著您，希望您快樂平安。

—黎文傑—

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布太節哀，我和其他文教孩子會一直陪伴，為布生祈禱默哀，相信天堂沒有痛苦，感恩文教，佩服布生學術研究上的專注與突破，你們始終是我們前進的力量。

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敬愛的布先生，還是走了。錢幣界一個重大的損失！布先生安息，我們永遠懷念布先生！

—佟昱博士—

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我們可親可愛的 Lucy：

恭請安康！

驚喜布生已駕鶴西去的噩耗，深感悲痛與不捨。布生幾十年如一日致力於中國清代錢幣的研究，填補了歷史研究的空白，孜孜不倦近五十載匯著的《清錢編年譜》也定將流傳千古！感謝布生為中華文化所做出的巨大貢獻，布生極富傳奇色彩的一生亦是德意志民族的驕傲，更是我們中國人民的寶貴財富，敬請您節哀保重，永宏在此鞠躬致哀！

—廖永宏—

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Lucy，下午在辦公室得知老布去世，心裡難過得忍不住哭了起來。我也不知道用什麼話來安慰您，您此時此刻肯定比我們都更加難過。

人的一生活，說長不長，說短不短。在浩瀚無限的宇宙和時光面前，我們都渺小如滄海一粟，短暫如白駒過隙，生離死別不必

過於執著。可是造物主創造了有思想有感情的人類，不就是讓我們經歷各俱精彩的人生嗎？在這一點上，您和老布就是我們過好人生的典範和榜樣：努力找到扶持一生的伴侶，為各自喜歡的事業獻上純粹的、矢志不渝的熱情，為貧苦的人送上關愛，為庸庸碌碌的人獻上精彩的人生故事，為蠅營狗苟的人灑下光輝燦爛的光芒。

老布終其一生與歷史打交道，想必他已把人生看得通透，除了您，一切都終歸塵埃，成為後人敘說的歷史。而您，只有照顧好自己，才能讓他放心而去。希望您好好照顧自己，節哀順變。純粹熱情，幽默風趣，執著博學的老布活在我們每一個人的心中，他將一直陪伴我們，照亮我們生活的路。

—彩霞—

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多年前到香港看布太，第一次見到布先生。晚上在布太家裡晚餐，倍感布生和布太溫馨和諧，他倆的笑容能治癒我們燥動的心；他倆的笑容，足以溫暖整個世界。多年了，這麼美好的畫面，仍定格在我心裡。布先生堅持不懈的精神，值得我們學習！

布先生一路走好！您留下的巨著，將永遠被歷史銘記！

—阿清—

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Lucy，你還好嗎？驚聞布先生噩耗，很是難過。回想多年前的幾次會面，他的風趣幽默還瀝瀝在目。在我心裡，布先生是一位真正的學者，他為中國歷史做出的卓越貢獻令人欽佩！而你們兩人數十年如一日的相親相愛、不離不棄，更是讓我感動。不敢去想布太你此刻是怎樣的心情，但還是希望你保重，我們大家與你同在一起。

—華仔—

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Memorial Gathering

6:00 pm Wednesday, December 8, 2021
The University of Hong Kong
Fung Pung Shan Building
University Museum and Art Gallery

Drinks and Canapes

7:30 pm
The Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong
North Block, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

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