

IN MEMORY OF A GREAT SINOLOGIST:
NOEL BARNARD (FEBRUARY 23,
1922–FEBRUARY 14, 2016)

Cheung Kwong-Yue (Alex)*

Abstract

The primary expertise of Noel Barnard, who died on February 14, 2016, was in bronze casting, Chu silk manuscripts, and their associated research, and he was internationally renowned for his knowledge of Chinese history and archaeology. Barnard's most important academic works included his ground-breaking *Metallurgical Remains of Ancient China*, with Satō Tamotsu, published in 1975, and *Rubbings and Hand Copies of Bronze Inscriptions in Chinese, Japanese, European, American, and Australasian Collections* 中日歐美澳紐所見所拓所摹金文彙編, with Cheung Kwong-yue. His three-volume book manuscript, *Inscriptions of Chin and the San-Chin*, on which he had spent almost twenty years before its completion, will be published soon. In this obituary, the author recalls his experiences, friendship, and collaboration with him.

I knew Dr. Noel Barnard for over forty-five years. Throughout his life, he showed great kindness to me, as well as others with whom he came into contact. In Noel's filial devotion to his mother, he was also a role model for all. This devotion could only be matched by his commitment to academic pursuit. Needless to say, Noel's academic achievements made him a renowned scholar and he gained international acclaim. He had a straightforward character and held fast to his beliefs, which gave him astonishing energy to pursue his research.

From 1971 onwards, for more than thirteen years, I was privileged to work closely with Noel. I recall the first project on which we collaborated was his pioneering research, *Metallurgical Remains of Ancient China* (Noel Barnard and Satō Tamotsu, Tokyo: Nichiōsha, 1975). I was entrusted with the task of editing and copy-writing the Chinese texts. In the process, I became deeply impressed by Noel's detailed argument and revolutionary presentation of archaeological findings.

* Cheung Kwong-Yue (Alex), 張光裕, Hang Seng Management College; email: alexcheung@hsmc.edu.hk.

His painstaking methodology broadened my vision and certainly that of my peers.

I was also fortunate to travel with Noel around the world. Together, we visited both public museums and private collections. Eventually, we produced a unique book, *Rubbings and Hand Copies of Bronze Inscriptions in Chinese, Japanese, European, American, and Australasian Collections* (*Zhong Ri Ou Mei Au Mu suojian suota suomo jinwen huibian* 中日歐美澳紐所見所拓所摹金文彙編, Noel Barnard and Cheung Kwong-Yue, Taipei: Yi-wen Publishing, 1978). One unique feature of this book is that each item is provided with an index that refers to its year of occurrence in other publications.

Noel and I were also the first Australian humanities scholars to be formally invited by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) to mainland China after the Cultural Revolution, where we were received with utmost respect and treated as dignitaries. This allowed Noel to produce *Studies in Chinese Archaeology 1980–1982: Reports on Visits to Mainland China, Taiwan, and the USA: Participation in Conference in These Countries, and Some Notes and Impressions* (Noel Barnard and Cheung Kwong-yue, Hong Kong: Wen-hsueh-she, 1983). His personal notes and records were extensive and meticulous, covering interviews, conferences, agendas, photos, and attendees, as well as the idiosyncrasies attendant on the opening of China at the time. Written from a Western point of view, these records provide an interesting historical reflection on China and Noel went into painstaking detail to bring his new insights to the sinological world.

Noel's primary expertise was in bronze casting, Chu silk manuscripts, and their associated research. He was also internationally renowned for his knowledge of Chinese history and archaeology. I will not attempt to revisit all of his voluminous works, but would like to touch upon his unseen effort and toil. Noel was always hands-on. In early years when computers were not well developed, it was common for every single page of his publications to be a result of his handiwork. He did all the cuttings and measurements, and dedicated himself to every single detail in order to produce a fine publication. The sheer willpower and effort behind each work was phenomenal, and I still cannot but hold him in the highest regard for his work ethic.

Along with his lifelong interest in Chinese history and culture, Noel also expressed much curiosity about the country of China, especially from the citizens' point of view. And so in our travels to the newly opened country, whenever possible, there was a preference to stay in local or student hostels and to take buses over taxis or limousine service. This pursuit of the real China resulted in a trip to Sichuan where he was unfortunately targeted by a thief and lost some money.



Figure 1. (color online) Noel Barnard (right) and his childhood friend Eddy Wong (left) with Cheung Kwong-Yue.

Interestingly, his anger was instead directed to the damage done to his trousers, which he much treasured. His love of China made him overcome many a hardship, and it left with me many fond memories of him.

Noel's love of books was also well known. Although he had a well-stocked personal library, on many a trip overseas his first stop would be a bookstore. Hand-bought, hand-wrapped and in many cases hand-delivered to the post office would be Noel's preference in handling his treasured worldly goods. Other interesting aspects of his life came to bear when I stayed over at his house, or when he stayed with my family in Hong Kong. He never had breakfast, eschewing it for a mere cup of Japanese green tea or Chinese Longjing (*longjing* 龍井) tea, most commonly with a book in hand. Classical music was also his passion and seemed to allow him to focus on academic work even better.

Our mutual respect had grown over the years and this fostered many intellectual exchanges between us and the sharing of research materials. We may not always have agreed on academic issues, but I came to know Noel even better. He truly deserves accolades as one of the most principled and dedicated academics. He was inspiring in his unyielding quest for truth, and never wavered from having an opinion.

The publisher, SMT Publishing, Taipei (*Taipei Nantian shuju* 台北南天書局) is preparing to print and distribute his three-volume book manuscript, *Inscriptions of Chin and the San-Chin*, on which he had spent almost twenty years before its completion. In fact, Noel brought this set of manuscripts with him on every single trip that he took, so that he could enrich it and make changes whenever new ideas or research

materials appeared. This pursuit of an ultimate publication with the most up-to-date accuracy again demonstrates his character.

After his retirement from the Australian National University, his wish was always to ensure that his personal library was put to the best use. On his ninetieth birthday, when I flew to Australia to celebrate with him, I was able to arrange in advance to have his private collections sent to Jilin University, China, where a Noel Barnard Library will be established. A special thanks go to Professor Wu Zhenwu of Jilin University, China, who has made tremendous effort to help him realize this dream.

I believe these arrangements lifted a great burden from Noel's mind, as he was more relaxed in the last few years. I am of the hope that his passing was in comfort and his mind was at peace in the knowledge that such a legacy, including his lifework and collections, would be put to the best and continued use in the academic world, through which his spirit of kindness, determination, and dedication will carry on.

悼念澳洲國立大學諾·巴納教授 (23.2.1922–14.2.2016)

張光裕

提要

丙申正月初七日(2016年2月14日)凌晨,巴納先生於澳洲寓所睡夢中溘然長逝,享壽九十有四。噩耗傳來,黯然神傷,繼而嗚咽飲泣,一時不能自己。

先生事母至孝,晨昏定省,數十年間未嘗一日稍懈。洵為年青人之典範。先生畢生醉心中國歷史文化,並以學術研究為職志,尤擅商周青銅器鑄造方法研究。早歲電子科技未見普及,其所論著,舉凡版面設定,照相貼圖,事必親躬。晚年費時二十載,專事三晉青銅器撰述,洋洋巨著三大冊行將問世。去歲先生曾抱恙愈月,康復後旋即投入工作,立意將其早年力作《楚帛書》重新董理增訂,其矢志學術之精神,於焉可見。

七十年代初,余自台適澳,有幸追隨先生一十三載,親炙所見,其忠厚善良及樂於助人固每為人稱道,其堅毅奮進之治學精神,更是影響余日後之學術研究至巨。今年元月嘗去電稟告近況,並約定明年春日再親赴南國為先生慶祝九五眉壽,先生笑語呵呵,聲猶在耳,不意如今竟已人天永隔,痛何如之!憶昔余得與先生籌謀,將渠畢生心血積聚之金石書稿,經磋商後交由吉林大學設立巴納圖書館作永久收藏,嘉惠後學,功德無量焉。先生之離去亦可了無牽掛矣!嗚呼!臨文哀思,謹綴四言,毋論工拙,藉誌永念。

南國星沉一何悲
空餘楚帛淚盈几
執心不忘金石志
長伴晉侯夢雲飛

Keywords: Dr. Noel Barnard, Chinese history, *Inscriptions of Chin and the San-Chin*, Noel Barnard Library

巴納先生, 中國歷史, 三晉青銅器, 巴納圖書館