

Death, Identity & Discourse

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- [Culture] denotes an historically transmitted **pattern of meanings** embodied in **symbols**, a system of inherited conceptions expressed in **symbolic forms** by means of which men communicate, perpetuate, and develop their **knowledge** about and **attitudes** towards **life**.
(Clifford Geertz)

Deathspace: London



Deathspace: Vienna



Hier ruht
FRIE
SOFIE SCHWARZ
geb. KURZ
1848 - 1931
Teil beinahe von dem Herrn!

Deathspace: S. Cataldo, Modena



Deathspace, China
Old Protestant Cemetery, Macao
1821-1858: 161 tombs, 164 dead



Robert Morrison 1782-1834



George Chinnery 1772-1852

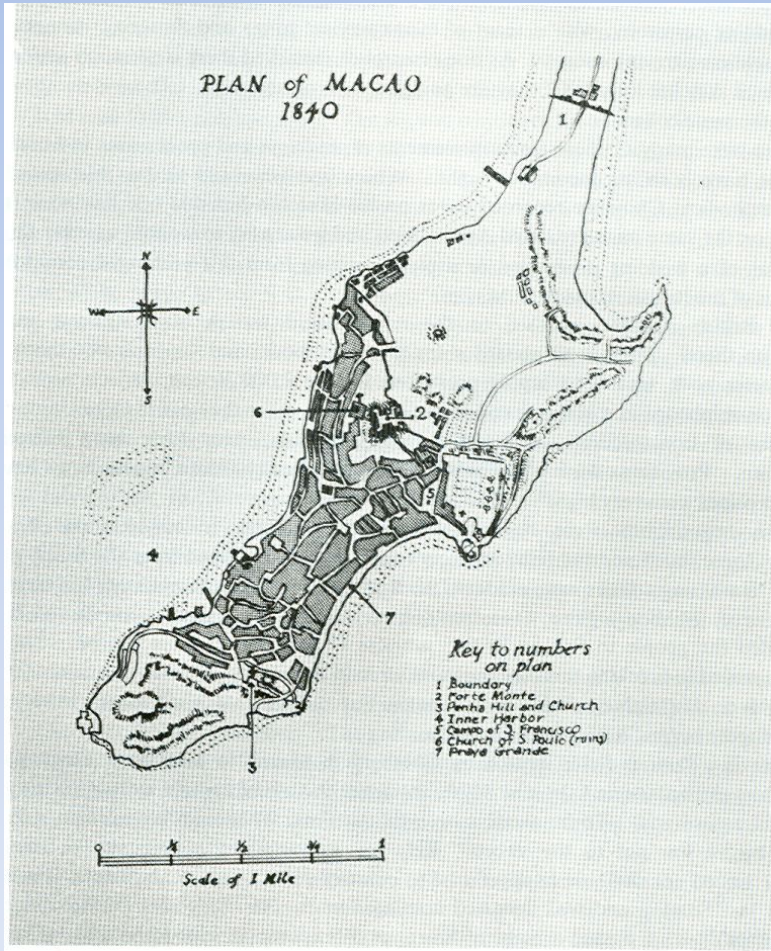


Systems of Meaning Interpellation



- Spatial organisation (syntax)
- Types of memorial structure
- Iconography
- Inscriptions

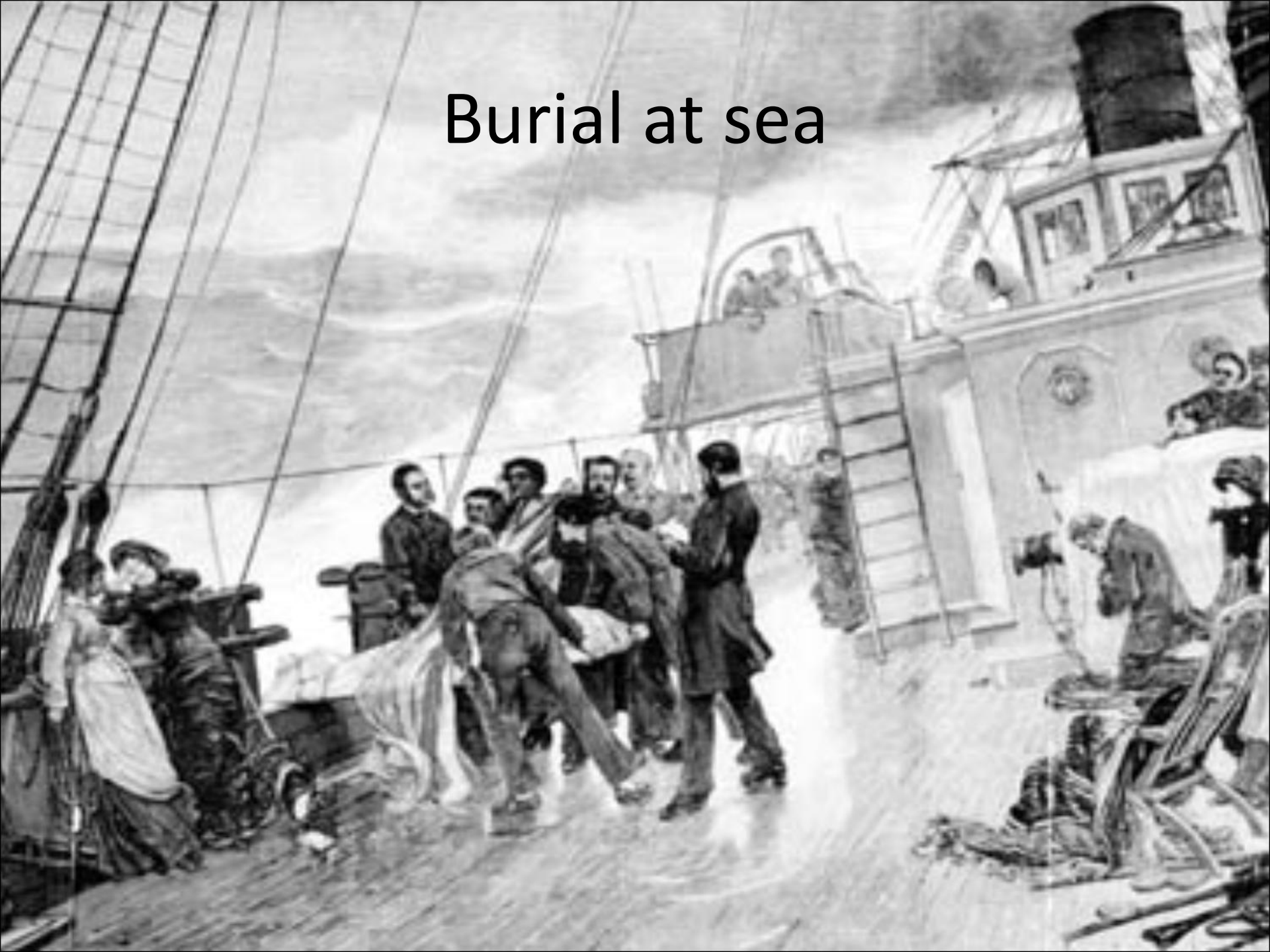
Macao



Foreign factories at Canton



Burial at sea



in memory of

STEPHEN B. RICH

Seaman

Son of Thomas L. R.

of the City of New

U. S. of America

who was drowned at W

from on board of the

The Campo, Macao



SACRED
TO
THE MEMORY
OF
MARY,

WIFE OF ROBERT MORRISON DD

Who, erewhile anticipating a living Mother's joy
suddenly, but with a pious resignation,
departed this life after a short illness of 14 hours,
bearing with her to the

GRAVE,

her hoped-for child.

MARY was born in Dublin, Oct. 24, 1791,
and died at Macao,
June 10, 1821,

Old Protestant Cemetery, Macao



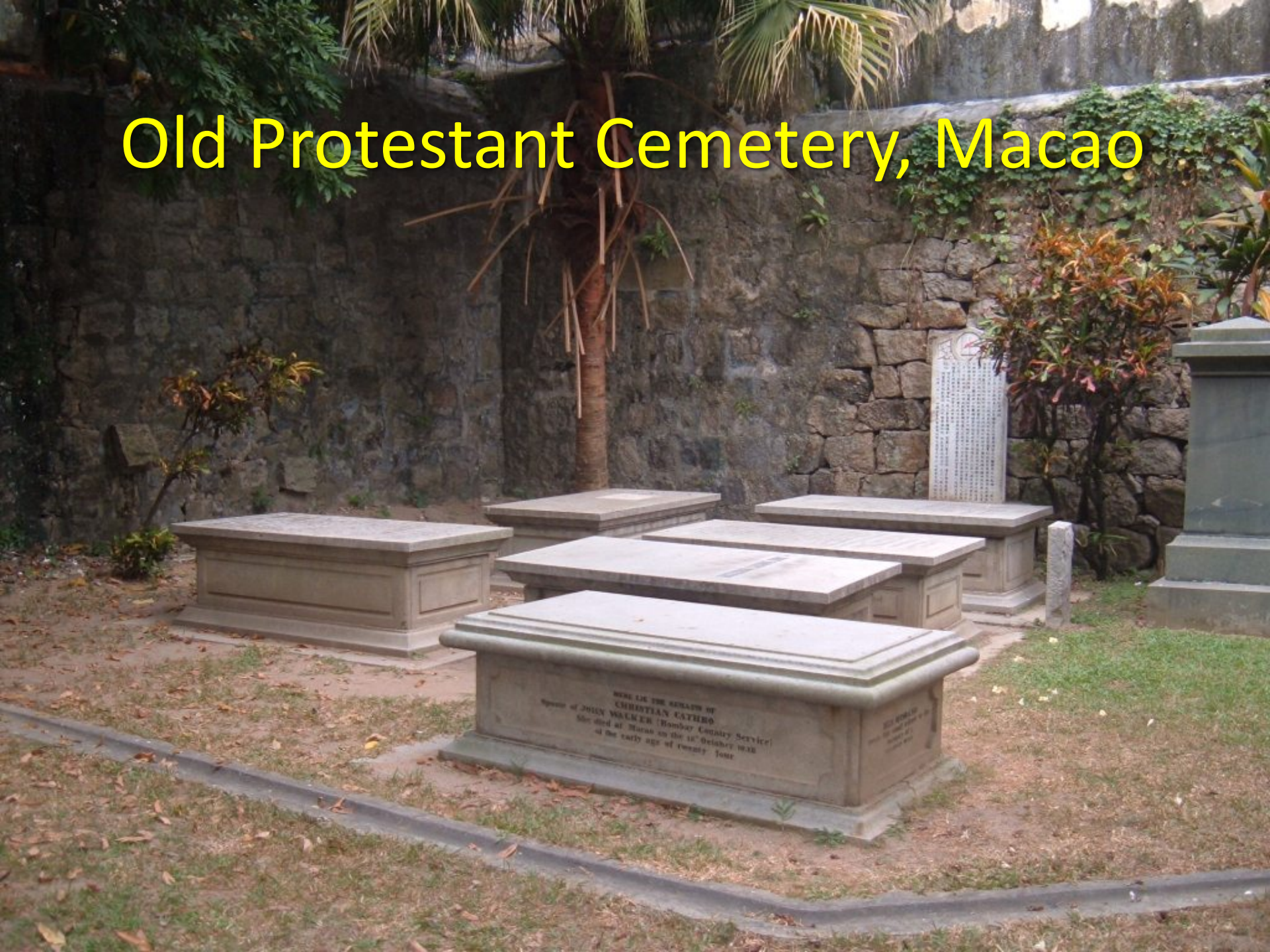
Brompton Cemetery, London



Cimetière de Montmartre, Paris



Old Protestant Cemetery, Macao



HERE LIE THE REMAINS OF
CHRISTIAN CATHED
Wife of JOHN WALKER (Bombay Company Service)
She died at Macao on the 16th October 1848
at the early age of twenty four

Chest tomb



IN MEMORY OF
CAPTAIN DANIEL DUFF
37th Regiment Madras Native Infantry
who departed this life
at Macao
7th July 1841
AGED 39 YEARS.

Headstone – Ideal Real



Monument –
real/IDEAL

Regeneration

Resurrection

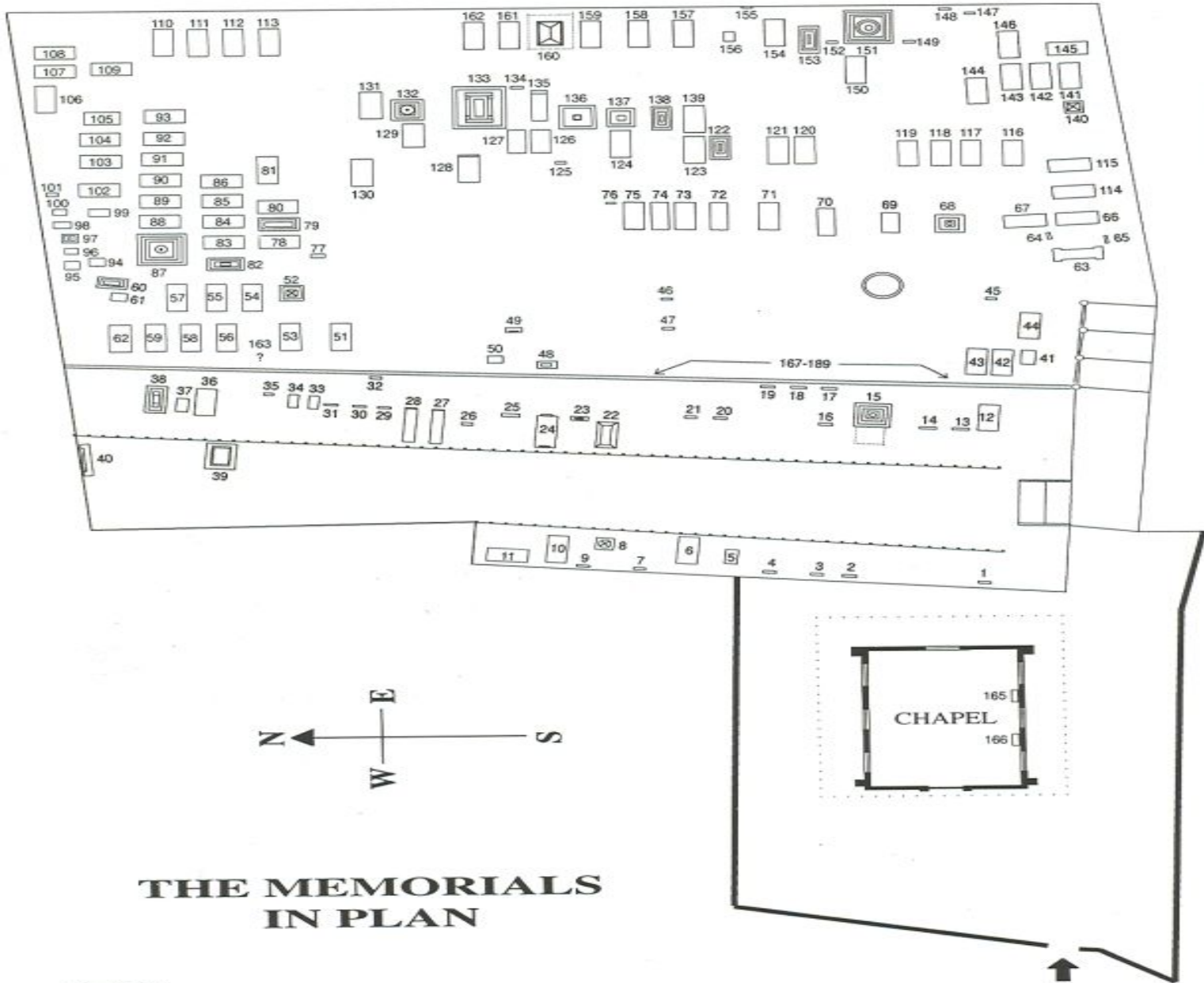
Eternal life



Slab – REAL/ideal

- corruption, decay, disintegration

SACRIFICED
TO THE MEMORY
Capt James M. Smith
of the Ship William
Parric who departed
this life at Macao
on the 27th July 1842
Aged 27 Years



**THE MEMORIALS
IN PLAN**

After Teixeira

Layout – ‘Occidental geomancy’



Sepulchral
linearity:
order,
discipline,
regularity,
coherence

'Fung Shui'

- [I]f anyone wishes to see to what a howling wilderness of erratic dogmatism the human mind can arrive, when speculation usurps the place of science, and theories are revered equally with facts, let him endeavour to fathom even the elementary principles of that abyss of insane vagaries, the science of Fung-Shui. (Edwin Joshua Dukes. *Everyday Life in China*. London, 1885)

Western views of the Chinese

- With all their civilisation, still envy and malice, deceit and falsehood, to a boundless extent, pride and boasting, a selfish, ungenerous, scarcely honest prudence, and a cold metaphysical inhumanity, are the prevalent characteristics of the people of China.
(Robert Morrison, Missionary Sermons, 1835)



Symbolism in the West



Symbolism in the West





SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORGAN
late Commanding the British Ship General Wood
who died in Macao on the 21 July 1813



1863

WILLIAM BARNETT
DIED 1841

HANS SUTT

[Tall rectangular gravestone]

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
T. W. RIDDLES,
MASTER MARINER,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE,
AUGUST 21st, 1874,
AGED 41 YEARS.



SACRED
to the
MEMORY
of
REYNANT
FITZGERALD
born
July 10, 1852
died
July 10, 1912
aged
60 years
buried
July 12, 1912
at
12 o'clock
P.M.
in
the
CANTON

To the Memory of
The Rev. Mr. H. H. H.
and
Mrs. H. H. H.
died
at
CANTON

THE
REMNANT
of
the
CANTON

REYNANT
FITZGERALD
born
July 10, 1852
died
July 10, 1912
aged
60 years
buried
July 12, 1912
at
12 o'clock
P.M.
in
the
CANTON



Spatial syntax: colonised space



WHO IN THE ANCHOR
TO MEMORY
OF
LEWIS HAMILTON
NATIVE U.S.AMERICA
BORN APRIL 29 1779
WAS DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT BUCKEN
MAY 24 1842
AGE 67 YEARS

Urn



'Urnness' of epitaphs

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF

THE REV.^D SAMUEL DYER

Protestant Missionary to the Chinese
Who for 16 years devoted all his energies
to the advancement of the Gospel.
among the emigrants from China
settled in Pinang Malacca & Singapore.

As a Man, he was amiable & affectionate,
As a Christian, upright, sincere, & humble-minded;
As a Missionary devoted, zealous & indefatigable.
He spared neither time, nor labour, nor property,
in his efforts to do good for his fellowmen.
He died in the confident belief of that truth
which for so many years he affectionately & faithfully
preached to the Heathen.

He was born 20th February 1804.
was sent to the East by the London Missionary Society in 1827
And died at Macao 24th October, 1843.

-
*For if we believe that Jesus died & rose again,
even so them also which sleep in Jesus
will God bring with him.*



Cemetery corpus – 1410 word types

2909. DEEPLY **LAMENTED** AND MOST AFFECTIONATELY BELOVED.
2910. DEEPLY AND DESERVEDLY **LAMENTED** BY HER FOND AND
2911. R ON THE 21ST Nov. 1844 AGED 21 YEARS DEEPLY **LAMENTED**
2912. beloved and respected and died **LAMENTED** by all who knew
2913. ESTEEMED BY HIS FRIENDS AND **LAMENTED** BY ALL WHO
2914. teem and respect for their distinguished and **LAMENTED** Chief by the
2915. A Who died at Macao sincerely and deservedly **LAMENTED** On the 22nd
2916. As a token of regard For their amiable and **LAMENTED** Shipmate
2917. BELOVED AND **LAMENTED** TO THE MEMORY OF FREDCK
2918. MARY CLARK The beloved and **LAMENTED** Wife OF

Representative and Social Interpretation

- The representative interpretation considers the key lexical and grammatical features which appear in the corpus; and the social interpretation the interpersonal and ideational meanings associated with them.

Interpersonal and Ideational Meaning

- Interpersonal meaning: How the writer creates a relationship with the reader
- Ideational meaning: Shared assumptions about the world and the entities in it

Lexical and grammatical choices

- (i) The distribution and foregrounding of adjectives and nouns as content words
- (ii) The distribution and foregrounding of verb forms denoting actions and changes of state
- (iii) The grammatical environments in which items appear

Adjectives and nouns

- *values and beliefs;*
- *time;*
- *place;*
- *relations;*
- *status;*
- *memorial structures;*
- *states of being and transition;*
- *work.*

States of being and transition

- 'Death' (3)
- 'Life' (39)
- 'Remains' (13)
- 'Dead' (3)
- 'Illness' (3)
- 'Mortal' (3).

Passage: 'Remains' (13)

4164. THIS MARBLE IS PLACED OVER HER **REMAINS** BY HER DISCONSOLATE HUSBAND AS A
4165. Macao Roads *on the 21.st of September 1825 Aged 21 And whose **REMAINS** lay interred on this*
4166. Here lie the **REMAINS** of Andrew Ljungstedt Knight of Wasa Scholar and Philanthropist. He was
4167. HERE LIE THE **REMAINS** OF HENRY JAMES OSBORNE 4TH Son of Geo Osborne Esqur.
4168. THE **REMAINS** OF EDMUND ROBERTS ESQ SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC AGENT OF THE UNITED
4169. THE **REMAINS** OF ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL ESQ WHO DIED AT MACAO IN THE COMMAN
4170. IN THE VAULT BENEATH LIE THE **REMAINS** OF G. W. HARRISON Midshipman U. S. Navy
4171. Obiit 25.th May 1836 ÆTAT. 31 YEARS THE **REMAINS** OF HER SISTER MRS DURANT ARE
4172. HERE LIE THE **REMAINS** OF CHRISTIAN CATHRO Spouse of JOHN WALKER (Bombay Country
4173. To the grief of the disconsolate Husband and Sons here lieth the Mortal **REMAINS**, of M^{RS}
4174. BENEATH THIS SARCOPHAGUS ARE DEPOSITED THE **REMAINS** OF DANIEL BEALE ES^{QR}.
4175. HERE LIE THE MORTAL **REMAINS** OF SANDWICH B. DRINKER A NATIVE OF Philadelphia
4176. WHO DIED AUGUST 24.th 1842 *This Stone Was Placed over his **REMAINS** BY HIS SHIPMATES*

Values and Beliefs

- Ideational dispositions
 - Faith
 - Sentiment
 - Duty

Duty

- Service 5
- Testimony 4
- Labour 2 (1)
- Zealous 2
- Acting [resident] 1
- Advancement 1
- Arduous [duties] 1
- Care 1 (1)
- Conduct 1
- Consent 1
- Devoted 1
- Disposition 1
- Energies 1
- Exemplary 1
- Fervent 1
- Instruction 1
- Upright 1
- [In the] Command of 2

Elizabeth Fearon (d. 1838)

‘[Her] conduct ... during an union of 20 years was most exemplary’

IN MEMORY
OF ELIZABETH FEARON, WHOSE **TRULY AMIABLE
DISPOSITION** HAD ENDEARED HER TO ALL WHO KNEW
HER,
AND WHOSE **CONDUCT AS A WIFE AND MOTHER**
DURING AN
UNION OF
20 YEARS WAS **MOST EXEMPLARY**. THIS MONUMENT
IS ERECTED BY HER SORROWING HUSBAND
Llewelyn & Co

—
“THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY:
BLESSED BE HIS HOLY NAME.”

—
BORN IN LONDON
22 OCTOBER 1794

DIED AT LINTIN
31 MARCH 1838



Verb forms

- active agency;
- passive agency;
- imperatives;
- truth claims;
- modifiers;
- present participles.

Active agency

2257. **HE** affectionately & faithfully **preached** to the HEATHEN.

2258. **HE ASSISTED** IN **SETTING UP** THE FIRST MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

2259. **HE completed** and **published** A DICTIONARY OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE,

2260. **HE devised** and **executed** for their law under instruction from his government

2273. **HE spared** neither time, nor labour, nor property

1476. **CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORGAN** late **COMMANDING** the British Ship General Wood

1987. twenty-seven years cheerfully **spent** in **EXTENDING** the Kingdom of the blessed
REDEEMER,

4663. **who died** from the effects of a wound **received** while gallantly **STORMING** the
enemy's battery at CANTON

Truth claims

- Aspect
 - ‘Happy is he who dies in the Lord’ (Universal)
 - ‘He is dying happily in the Lord’. (Transient)

Types of aspect

- Proclamatory (present perfect tense)
The Lord gave and the Lord **hath taken away**'
- Prophetic (auxiliary 'Shall')
'They **shall** walk with me in white'
- Universalising (copula 'Be')
'Blessed **are** the dead which die in the Lord'
'As for God his way **is** perfect'

Exophoric reference ('the'): A known world

- 'The Blessed Redeemer'
- 'The Lord',
- 'The Father'
- 'The Dead'
- 'The Deceased'
- 'The East',
- 'The Chinese',
- 'The Heathen'
- 'The Enemy'

Adverbial modifiers

- **Deeply** [Lament/Lamented] 4
- **Deservedly** [Lamented] 2
- **Truly** [Amiable] 2
- **Cheerfully** [Spent] 1
- **Faithfully** [Preached] 1
- **Gallantly** [Storming] 1
- **Plainly** [See] 1 (1)
- **Safely** [Ride] 1 (1)
- **Severely** [Wounded] 1
- **Sincerely** [... Lamented] 1
- **Suddenly** [... Departed] 1
- **Sweetly** [Slept] 1
- **Unhappily** [Perished] 1
- **Universally** [Loved] 1

The longing for 'presence'

- Elizabeth Fearon's 'truly amiable disposition'.
- Intensifying effect: a higher order of amiableness, (e.g. 'truly awful', 'truly delicious', etc.)
- The adverbial longs for the presence of pure meaning, the soul longs for the presence of God.

Identity construction

- (i) Culturally didactic semiology of cemetery layout and memorial structures
- (ii) Ideological interpellation of the reader through memorial inscriptions

Being in dialogue

- From the time man places himself in the presence of something enduring, only then can he expose himself to the changeable, the coming and the going ... We have been in dialogue since the time that 'time is'. (Heidegger, 1971: 39-40)







WAS IN THE COMPANY OF
CHRISTIAN CATHCO
WIFE OF JOSEY WALKER, Bedford County, Tenn.
She died at "Lodge" on the 12 October 1871
at the early age of 70 years. 1871



Altehrwürdiger Mann
geb. am 1. März 1810
gest. am 1. März 1880

Altehrwürdiger Mann
geb. am 1. März 1810
gest. am 1. März 1880