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Review Of "The Thistle And The Jade: A Celebration Of 150 Years Of Jardine, Matheson And Co." Edited By M. Keswick

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Review

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Book Reviews

société chinoise est de celles probablement qui sont allées le plus loin dans la définition et l'application de stratégies contre les caprices du milieu naturel et contre les crises de subsistances" (p. 19). For Will, there is a direct link between relief work and demographic growth. The demographic upsurge in China during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was due in good part to the enduring and effective struggle by the state against the ravages of famines. Paradoxically, it seems that the very success of relief work in China, by allowing population to grow unchecked and to overburden the economy, brought about in the nineteenth century the decline not only of the relief institutions, but of the state as well.

Through his multidisciplinary approach, Will has not only opened new avenues of research, but has provided a new methodological tool for demographers, economists, historians, sociologists, and Qing specialists.

Université de Montréal, Canada

CHARLES LE BLANC

THE THISTLE AND THE JADE. A Celebration of 150 Years of Jardine, Matheson & Co. Edited by Maggie Keswick. London, England: Octopus Books. 1982. 272 pp. £18.00/US\$40.00.

IN THIS handsome "coffee-table" volume, Maggie Keswick—a descendent of the Keswick branch of the Jardine family, which has exercised preponderant influence in the company since the mid-nineteenth century—has succeeded admirably in compiling what is indeed a "celebration" of 150 years of the company's existence. This is not a scholarly work that attempts to interpret the role of the company in Chinese or British history. Nor is it a corporate history that attempts to trace the business record of the company. And it certainly is not a polemic of either self-condemnation or self-justification. Instead, the editor has produced a lavishly illustrated and multi-faceted "scrapbook" of the company's past. The book avoids many potential pitfalls and dilemmas by offering several perspectives—none particularly critical, but collectively offering the reader something more challenging than would a book of memorabilia composed entirely by insiders.

Four chapters have been contributed by insiders: a history of the founding fathers, William Jardine and James Matheson, and their descendants, written by Alan Reid, a director of the company and honorary archivist; a history of the shipping operations of the company, also by Reid; an autobiographical account by John Keswick, father of the editor; and a brief account by Jeremy Brown (another director of the company) of the company's recent operations. While displaying an understandable degree of company chauvinism, these chapters are not excessively self-congratulatory in tone.

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To lend other perspectives, and also a certain scholarly legitimacy to the book, the editor invited six well-respected scholars, most of whom have made use of the Jardine archives in the past, to contribute chapters. Peter Ward Fay writes on the opium trade and the opening of China; Yen-p'ing Hao on compradors; Kwang-ching Liu on Tong King-sing; Pat Barr on Jardine's operations in Japan; Edward LeFevour on the company's role in China in the nineteenth century; and John K. Fairbank concludes the book with a critical overview of the company's role in Chinese history. These essays are very brief and serve primarily to hold together the pictorial parts of the book. The specialist will not find anything new in these chapters; the non-specialist, however, for whom this book is actually intended, will probably learn much about the Jardine's complex role in Chinese trade and enterprise.

For the specialist, the main interest of the book lies in its rich visual offerings. As one might expect, there are many oil portraits by George Chinnery of the founders; but, quite unexpectedly, there are line sketches by Chinnery of everyday life and ordinary Chinese as well. In addition, there are numerous etchings, photographs (e.g., George Bernard Shaw and Sir Robert Ho Tung as look-alikes), and maps culled from the company's archives and various private collections. The entire production—text and illustrations—is designed in a very pleasing manner.

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LILLIAN M. LI

THE MAY 30 MOVEMENT. Events and Themes. By Richard W. Rigby. Canberra: Australian National University Press. 1980. ix, 271 pp. A\$22.00.

WHEN FOREIGN-CONTROLLED POLICE in Shanghai's International Settlement fired into a crowd of demonstrators on May 30, 1925, instantly killing four and mortally wounding others, they unleashed a fury of anti-imperialist activity throughout urban China. The May 30 Movement was to become a pivotal event in the history of both the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. Richard Rigby's new monograph is a welcome addition to the rather brief list of English-language works on this topic. Rigby details the conditions of the industrial workers in Shanghai, contrasting those in foreign and Chinese-owned factories, and discusses the labor unrest in Japanese factories which was the cause of the actual demonstration on May 30. Among the strengths of this work are the author's treatment of the incident itself, his discussion of the reaction of Chinese labor, student, and capitalist groups (and contradictions among them), and the reaction of the Kuomintang and Communists. Rigby also examines the movement's impact on such