

PROVERSE HONG KONG

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Website: <http://www.proversepublishing.com>

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

You are receiving this Newsletter because you are a subscriber to our E-Newsletter; or because you have expressed interest in Proverse as a book publisher and/or in entering for the annual international Proverse Prize.

"Celebrate a century's grace. Go forward in faith." So says the coffee-mug issued in 2006 by St Stephen's Girls' College in Hong Kong to mark its founding a hundred years earlier.

St Stephen's is a famous school, one of a number, equally famous, that include Queen's College, Ying Wah, Diocesan Boys' and Girls' Schools, St Paul's Co-Educational School, Marymount and others. Splendid schools indeed, but perhaps none as famous as Raffles Institution in Singapore, founded by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1823, 'for the cultivation of Asian languages and the education of the sons of Malay rulers.' Raffles Institution is still the top school in Singapore. How could it not be? It was attended by the late Chief Minister, Harry Lee (better known as Lee Kuan Yew) and, as a history of the school notes, past pupils of the school also include the first two Presidents of Singapore, two Prime Ministers and twenty members of Singapore's Parliament.

The school has moved twice from its original location opposite Raffles Hotel but there are still a few people who remember the library on the first floor and the gaps in its floorboards that enabled visitors to gaze at the students eating lunch down below in the "tiffin shed."

Singapore has changed over the years. Does anyone else remember the days, only fifty years ago, when Orchard Road boasted a cabaret (the building later became a small hotel, named "Prince's"); when the bar-room staff knew what a "stengah" was and where the late publisher, Donald Moore, entertained numerous visiting writers? Moore, a major publisher of British and American book titles (including early work by Han Su Yin); a book club and record club manager, a writer and an impresario, is still remembered by a few people in Singapore. In 2014, an exhibition of his publications and publishing efforts was mounted in the city and attracted many visitors.

Proverse did not have the opportunity to publish any work by Moore but maintains his focus on quality with titles that reach us by one of two routes: those we choose from among those submitted to us during the year and those recommended for award and publication by the judges of the international Proverse Prize for unpublished fiction, non-fiction and poetry, submitted during the period 1 May to 30 June annually (the deadline for entry forms and fees is earlier, 31 May). Acute readers will note that the first deadline for 2015 is very close! If you have not yet submitted an entry form but have a work that you would like to enter, please look at our website, proversepublishing.com, for the Entry Documents. (The link is on the home page, right-hand column.)



NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a reading and launch of Andrew S. Guthrie's new book of poetry, "Alphabet", at Kubrick Bookstore and Café, Yaumatei (upper level atrium) on Sunday, May 24 at 4pm.

The poems in "Alphabet" focus on the attributes of various literary failures along with a general consideration of writing in our post-avant-garde, over-abundant post-internet era. "Alphabet" was a finalist for the Proverse Prize 2013.

Hosted by Atom Cheung, Andrew Guthrie will read and comment on this work.

As a special added attraction, local actor Nickel Mordis will give a dramatic recitation / performance of one of the more bleakly humorous selections.

If you have attended Kubrick poetry events before, you will know that these are friendly and worthwhile occasions. It is an interesting part of Hong Kong, too, near an important temple and an evening shopping street.

All are welcome! Registration is not essential.

Sunday, May 24, 4pm

Kubrick Bookstore and Café
3 Public Square Street
Yau Ma Tei
Hong Kong

The Entry Documents for the International Proverse Prize 2015 are on the Proverse website, proversepublishing.com. The deadline for entry forms/fees to be received is 31 May and the deadline for entered work to reach Europe where the judging will take place is 30 June. This annual competition for unpublished non-fiction, fiction or poetry is open to everyone who is at least eighteen on the date they sign the entry forms and there are no residence, citizenship or nationality requirements.

FOR THE RECORD

Several of those who attended the Proverse Spring Reception, which was held on Thursday, 9 April 2015, wrote to say how much they enjoyed the event. The following books were launched and can be seen in Hong Kong bookshops.

**Verner Bickley (Ed.), *Poems to Enjoy, Book 5*; Andrew Carter, *Bright Lights and White Nights*; Lawrence Gray, *Cop Show Heaven*; Peter Gregoire, *The Devil You Know*;
Andrew S. Guthrie, *Alphabet*; Jan Pearson, *Tiger Autumn*.**

Proverse books are distributed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Press (chineseupress.com). They can also be ordered online from many online retailers.

All the launching authors spoke well and we thank them for their participation. We particularly thank Andrew Carter, who had flown in from the UK and Jan Pearson, who had flown in from Australia to be present.



Andrew Carter was particularly busy. He was a guest of Phil Whelan on the weekday morning RTHK show, "Morning Brew"; with Proverse hosted a solo event, attended by his numerous friends and former students, at Orange Peel, D'Aguilar Street, LKF, Central Hong Kong; and crossed the harbour to do a signing at Dymocks Discovery Bay. Now back in the UK, he had another successful launch recently in the city of Leeds.

Proverse Managing Editor, Gillian Bickley, was also Phil Whelan's guest recently on "Morning Brew", invited to talk about the Proverse Prize.

FUTURE EVENTS

We look forward to our next Hong Kong event, planned for November this year, when we will launch the works that won the Proverse Prize 2014: "The Layers Between", a collection of essays and poems on a philosophical theme by Celia Claase and "Endings" a collection of short stories by Phillip Chatting.

EMAIL ADDRESS

For the time being at least, we are sending our e-Newsletter from our gmail address. Please do open and read it, just as you have been doing, when it is sent from proverse@netvigator.com.

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Proverse books are available from our Hong Kong-based distributor, The Chinese University Press, Shatin, NT, from their website, [www.chineseupress.com](http://www.chineseupress.com).

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DO JOIN US AT OUR COMING EVENTS IF YOU CAN!

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