

## PROVERSE HONG KONG

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Hong Kong SAR

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

### JUNE 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interest in Proverse as a publisher of books and/or in entering for the annual international Proverse Prize for unpublished writing.**

Officials and academics at the University of Hong Kong must have been pleased when, in the period 2012-13, the University (founded over a hundred years ago) was placed Number 35 in the World with an overall score of 75.6. Despite this quite favourable ranking, some members of the faculty might have been upset to learn that, whereas Research scored 85.9, Teaching scored 7.50 fewer marks, with a score of 78.4.

Research versus Teaching is a familiar topic for argument among university teachers, second only to frustrations that relate to the award (or not) of tenure. Long gone are the days when ancient universities such as Oxford and Cambridge guaranteed a virtually life-long haven for a few chosen academics such as, for example, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and J.R. Tolkien. But novels are still published that refer directly or indirectly to academic life and its rewards and frustrations. Relatively recent examples are Dorothy L. Sayers' novels, *Gaudy Night*, *Strong Poison* and *Have His Carcase*, Tom Wolfe's *I Am Charlotte Simmons* and C.P. Snow's series of eleven novels, to which he gave the overall title of *Strangers and Brothers*.

The recording of real, but also fictitious and sometimes grisly events, may continue to provide subject matter and opportunities for both writers of fiction and non-fiction. Such opportunities could, for example, be based on the reality of the macabre school shootings that have taken place in the United States throughout most of American history, beginning in 1764, and still continuing. Our writers might, of course, consider that the actual events and their consequences are too horrific to describe and too unbelievable, even for a novel. All is not lost, however. The "self-described" leading independent news organization, *Mother Jones* (surely not a bakery) is good enough to provide us with a timeline of sixty-two mass shootings in the United States from 1982 to 2012 and thoughtfully provides us with an interactive map giving the location of all these cases. Useful melancholy background for the experienced novelist and even the beginner.

But now let us reminisce with a pleasant, old fashioned novel which does not require us to wash our mouths out after reading. Take, for example, one of my favourites – E.P. Oppenheim's, *The Inevitable Millionaires*, published in 1925. Steven and George Henry Underwood are middle-aged bachelors in London. They receive a letter from their deceased father, informing them that they have a net worth of one million pounds. In his will, their father enjoins them to spend, spend, spend, but not in a wasteful manner. Of course, the more they try to spend, the more money they make.... But there is a final solution. It is necessary to read the book to find out what it is.



## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY: COMING SOON!

**Proverse Managing Director, Verner Bickley, well-experienced educator and chairman of the English Speaking Union (Hong Kong) will read** from his five-book graded poetry anthology (which also contains performance and teaching notes), *Poems to Enjoy*, at Dymocks Bookstore and Café, Shop 104B, 1/F Block A, DB Plaza, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island, Hong Kong on Saturday, 20th June.

This is a free event and all are welcome! Registration is not essential. However, if you are bringing children with you, please email [dymocksbay@gmail.com](mailto:dymocksbay@gmail.com) with the number and age(s) of the children, or you may visit the store to provide this information.

Saturday, 20 June, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Dymocks Bookstore and Café,  
Discovery Bay,  
Lantau Island,  
Hong Kong.

Travel information for those who may not have come to Discovery Bay before

You may come by ferry (from Ferry Pier Number 3, Hong Kong side); frequency about every 30 minutes. OR you may come by MTR to Sunny Bay station, where you should change to a bus that will take you to DB Plaza (the terminus).

It is an interesting place to visit and here you have an incentive to do so! It is also the Dragon Boat Festival and the Discovery Bay events are scheduled to take place from 10.30am to 6.00pm. This may mean that you should leave earlier than you otherwise would have done, as transport may be crowded.

## FOR THE RECORD

**The discussion and reading of Andrew S. Guthrie's poetry collection, "Alphabet",** at Kubrick Bookstore and Café, Yaumatei, on Sunday, May 24, was very well attended and enjoyed. Like all Proverse books, *Alphabet* is distributed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong Press ([chineseupress.com](http://chineseupress.com)): on their home page, use their search facility to find the Proverse title you are looking for. *Alphabet* can also be ordered online from many online retailers and indeed also from the Proverse website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com).

### **Proverse Prize for unpublished writing**

The deadline to submit entries for the international Proverse Prize for unpublished writing 2015 has passed (31 May 2015). All entrants are urged to ensure that their entered work reaches Europe by the deadline for receiving entered work (30 June 2015). (Careful instructions for doing this are given in the online Entry Documents.)

For a period, the Entry Documents and How to Enter guidance for 2015 will remain on the website. If you think you might enter in 2016 or later, we suggest you download these documents now for future reference. Some details may change; but you will have an idea of what the parameters and procedure are.



**Favourable review in *Sunday Morning Post***

Jan Pearson's recently-launched second book set in Hong Kong, *Tiger Autumn*, was very well reviewed recently in the *Sunday Morning Post* (24 May) by William Wadsworth: "Tiger Autumn is ... one of the best Hong Kong novels in years, because its author writes simply; gets on with a well-crafted plot; and builds credible dialogue and characters. Pearson has remembered that fiction is entertainment as much as art, and she is certainly a name to watch." Copies can be ordered directly from the Proverse website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com).

**SCHEDULED FUTURE EVENTS**

We look forward to our next Hong Kong event, scheduled for Tuesday, 24 November 2015, when we will launch the works that won the Proverse Prize 2014: "The Layers Between: Everything We Are", a collection of essays and poems by Celia Claase and "Endings" a collection of short stories by Phillip Chatting.

**DO JOIN US AT OUR COMING AND SCHEDULED FUTURE EVENTS IF YOU CAN!**

**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](mailto: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).

**SUMMER BOOK-BAG**

We have decided to offer subscribers to our free e-Newsletter a chance to select your summer reading from our catalogue at a discount of 20% provided we receive your order and payment by 20 June 2015 and while stocks last. This offer is for orders to be sent at one time to a single Hong Kong address. The discount applies to the price of books only and not to the costs of postage. Should no stock remain of any particular title, we will supply another title in the same or similar genre at our own discretion. Should there be an error in the amount you have paid, we will deduct books or add books to the parcel of books we send you, as appropriate. We regret that we cannot replace any order lost in the post or enter into correspondence about this offer.

Please use the Book Order form on our website (home page, right-hand column). Please include in your completed form the words, "Proverse e-Newsletter subscriber: Summer Book-bag offer".

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