



文訊 WORD POWER

法定語文事務署通訊 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AGENCY NEWSLETTER

中華文化與現代社會

《文訊》創刊號出版後，一些讀者讀後來信提問、賜教，其中知識產權署署長謝肅方先生 (Mr Stephen Selby) 更特地撰文，投稿本刊。

不認識謝肅方先生的人，看其中文名字，可沒想到他是老外。謝肅方先生是英國人，在蘇格蘭愛丁堡大學主修中文，酷愛中國文史，也能說一口流利的廣府話和普通話，可說是個“中國通”。

在今天功利掛帥的商業社會，不少人認為傳統文化迂腐陳舊，不合時宜。如何為中國文化定位？傳統思想是否完全與現代社會脫節？這些都是不易回答的問題。細讀謝肅方先生這篇饒有趣味的文章，分享他的寶貴經驗，我們或許有所領悟。

Bringing Chinese Culture to Life



Mr Stephen Selby
Director of Intellectual Property

How do we bring Hong Kong civil servants back in touch with the heritage of classical China?

I have just finished a Chinese history project. My book contains extensive quotations from the Chinese Classics as well as historical and technical texts with parallel text translations into English.

Like any author, I have been on the receiving end of both bouquets and brickbats. But no comment has been more depressing than: "I looked through your book; but I don't know enough Chinese to understand the Chinese parts, nor enough English to understand the English."

Last year, I saw some interesting work done by the Official Languages Agency to make some useful classical Chinese phrases accessible to Government colleagues. I wonder if there's more that needs to be done in this respect?

Earlier this year, I took part in an interesting event that was part of a management training course run for senior management staff of Hong Kong Telecom. Senior company managers were attending lectures, exhibitions and cultural events in which they were brought back into contact with the roots of Chinese culture.

There is much in Chinese classical literature that is outmoded, clumsy and irrelevant. There is also much, though, which is beautiful, relevant and inspiring. How does the following comment from Su Xun (蘇洵), the Sung Dynasty strategist and military psychologist, make you feel about the skills of leadership?

“為將之道，當先治心。譽之不喜，激之不怒；勝而不驕，敗而不懼。若泰山之崩於前而不驚，若虎兕之出於後而不震。”

Wouldn't you like your boss to be like that?

What are the implications of not keeping in touch with the roots of Chinese culture? The risk is that gradually, in Chinese public speaking and writing, colleagues will not express Chinese ideas. Everything will end up as English expression translated into a form of Chinese that only evokes a ready response among Chinese people who understand English well.