



Locke Foundation Newsletter 樂居鎮基金會

Preserving Locke's history and legacy

www.lockeca.com

Spring 2014

lockefoundation@frontiernet.net

Locke Foundation Presents

樂居基金會

Asian Pacific Spring Festival

Come Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month
Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
on Main Street, Locke, California



Lion Dance - Shaolin
Kung Fu Demonstration -
Chinese Acrobat - Folk Dance -
Origami - Chinese Calligraphy -
Poker Tournament at the Dai Loy
Gambling Hall - Food - Music -
Cultural Displays - Arts & Crafts -
Community Exhibits -
Raffle and more

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING

Information Contact:

Visit us at: www.lockeca.com

Please call: 916.776.1661 or 916.776.1828

Email: Lockefoundation@frontiernet.net

Come to
Locke on
May 10
and let
the good
times
roll



The Art of Chinese Calligraphy

By Anita Lo

Calligraphy is appreciated as much for its aesthetic qualities as it is for its written content. In the days prior to the 15th century BC, when characters or words had not existed, objects and living things were depicted in the form of drawings in order to communicate. The earliest form of writing is known as "Elephant Style". In western countries, this form of drawing-like writings is termed "Oracle script". Over the years the drawings were simplified, but words still maintained the drawing style. This style was known as "Large seal script".



Horse
Oracle Script



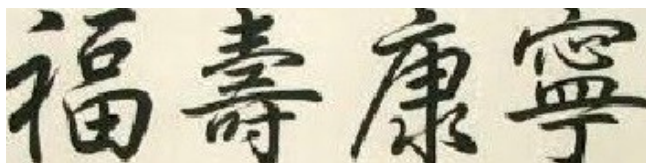
Horse
Large Seal Script

Evolution of words and characters took place throughout ancient China. Gradually, a specific writing style was created over each archaic kingdom, thus making it distinguishable during that specific era.

Around 200 BC, writing with brush-pen and ink became the norm of daily communication. A set of 3300 standardized writing characters was created. This style was named "Clerical Script"—a bold and straightforward style.



During the 4th century AD, "Kaishu Style", a traditional regular script style, was developed; it is still in use today.



As people began to write faster, strokes or lexicons were being simplified. In the course of writing, strokes were connected, creating a radically different form of words. They morphed into a style known as "Cursive style". However, this style is for personal notes only.

The following four items are known as the **Four Treasures of the Writing Chamber**.

- Paper
- Ink brush (brush-pen)
- Ink
- Inkstone

Paper - Special types of paper are used in Chinese Calligraphy. They are traditionally made from rice, mulberry, bamboo, and hemp.

Ink brush - The body of the brush is most commonly made from bamboo or red sandalwood. The brush head is made from the hair or feathers of a variety of animals including rabbit, deer, duck and wolf.

Ink / ink-stick - Ink was made of graphite, lampblack (soot), charcoal, and binders. Later, soot, plant dyes, animal glues, incense or medicinal scents were added to give a better solid hold

Ink Stone - Ink stone are made of stone, ceramic, or clay. They are highly prized as art objects.

The correct method of holding a Chinese brush-pen is vital in promoting smooth movement with the hand, in creating flexibility with the strokes, and in the accurate apportionment of each lexicon that assemble a "word".

- Brush-pen must be held vertically in a straight upward position.
- The pen is gripped between the thumb and middle finger. The index finger touches the brush to help



balance and stabilize.

- The ring finger and the pinky tuck under the bottom of the pen, leaving a space inside the palm.
- The wrist must rest on the paper or desk.
- When using the right hand to write, put the left hand on the desk. The fingers can help to flatten and stabilize the paper while you write.

It is good practice for calligraphers to start their study by imitating exemplary models of regular script. The exemplary works are usually from reputed calligraphers of ancient China.



By copy-writing the student gradually masters:

- * The thickness and intensity of each stroke.
- * The correct stroke order.
- * The dimension of each stroke that build up the character structure.
- * Balance the word within the square, a confined space.



Basic calligraphy instruction is part of the regular elementary school curriculum. Today, while innovation is the rule, the quest for changing lifestyles, tools, and colors are influencing new waves of masters. The foundation to developing skill and dexterity in traditional Chinese art writing could never be mastered without the solid training handed down through the centuries.



Fook means Fortune

May you enjoy peace and fortune in the Year of the Horse 2014!

LOCKE THROUGH THE LENS

By Stuart Walthall

All things Locke was the theme and subject matter from which eleven Northern California photographers drew inspiration. Their images were then submitted, displayed, and judged in an all-Locke photography show and reception. The event, *LOCKE THROUGH THE LENS*, was held Saturday March 22, 2014 and was sponsored by the Moon Café Gallery located on Main Street, Locke.

Photographers were encouraged to submit unique and unusual interpretations of Locke, and indeed the 46 works accepted for the show were varied and eclectic. The images not only captured traditional iconic views of Locke's Main Street with its historic structures, but also presented intimate interiors, still life, found objects, landscapes, and portraiture. There were black and white photos, color images, night time shots, and abstracts.

Judging the show and making the selections for Best of Show Award and Runner-Up was D.R. Wagner. In addition to teaching design at UC Davis, Wagner is a professional artist and author. Best of Show Award went to photographer Duo Peng whose black and white photo of cats on Main Street presented a haunting and somber image of Locke at night. Runner-Up Award went to Joe Chan, who submitted an atmospheric night time B&W image of the Medicine Store on Main Street.

People's Choice Award, voted upon by attendees of the event, went to Skyler Stanley for his vivid floral photo-on-canvas image.

Other participating photographers included Beth Chape, Joseph Coulombe, Cathy Huffman, Grant Kreinberg, Gene McKinnon, Chris Nelson, Betty Prange, and Brock Alexander.

The Locke Through the Lens Show was well attended by a lively and engaged crowd who were treated to Chinese food, tea, live music, and a very special visual presentation of Locke.



Best of Show by Duo Peng

Photo Fun: The Pellet

By Brock Alexander

With great stealth and surprise it preys in the darkness. Silently gliding overhead on the wind, this great hunter finds its next meal. With amazing eyesight it tracks and plans a flawless flight pattern of death. Its beak and talons give the unlucky and unaware a quick end.

Owls are an amazing bird of prey! A visit to Locke at night will give you a very good chance at view this graceful gliding animal. I have been extra lucky because I have had the chance to study them up closer then you could imagine. A Barn Owl happens to call a hole in my neighbor's building home. Our buildings are only about 6 feet apart. This Barn Owl, known as Snowflake, lands just outside my bathroom window, giving me a great vantage point.

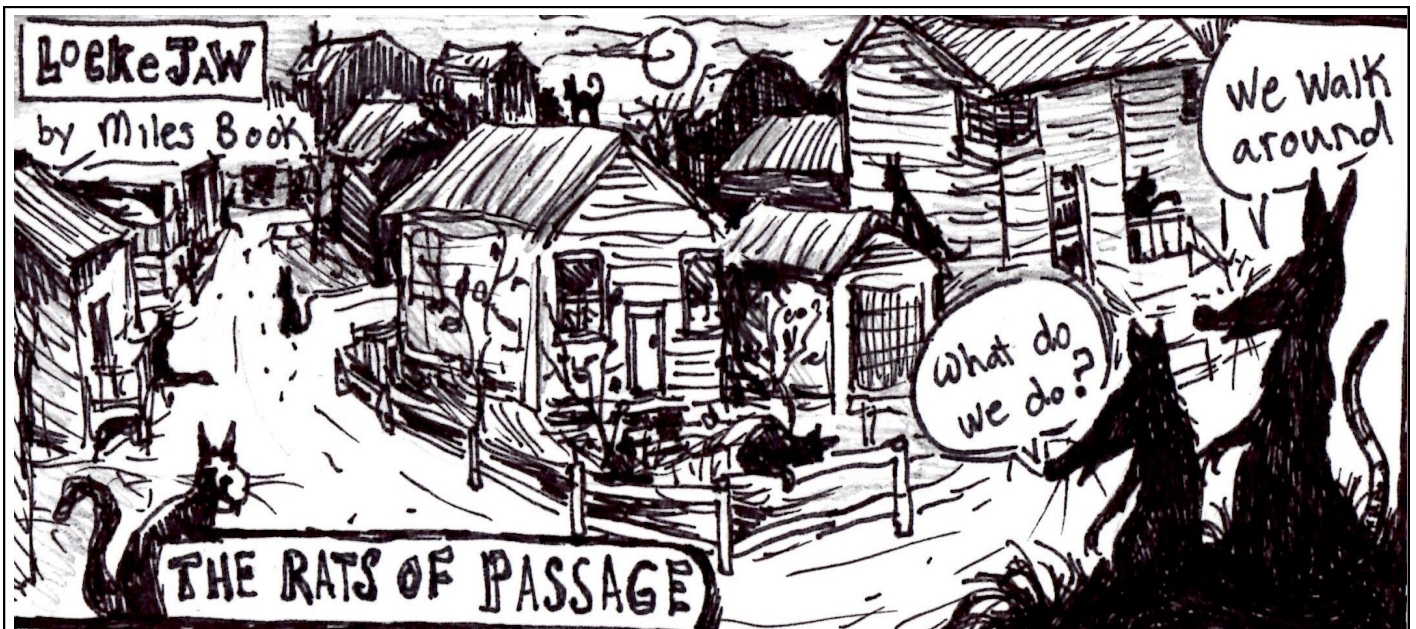
The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) is one of the most widespread of all birds. Owls have a long and colorful history in a great number of cultures. They are often referred to as bad omens or the harbingers of death. At the same time they are also highly respected. Owls eat mice, rats, fish, small birds, and more. They will cough up the remains of these animals in what is called an owl pellet. These owl pellets are mostly fur and bones. You can learn a great number of things from studying these owl pellets, like the one on attached photo

Snowflake and I have had many memorable experiences together. You might think all owls *hoot*, but Snowflake likes to cause me to spill my coffee with a loud ear shattering scream. There is also the time I decided to climb up a ladder with my camera to get a great photo while she was sleeping. Thinking owls are nocturnal, I was sure a daytime assault would be a great plan. This plan did not work out be-

cause Snowflake flew out of the hole, hissing and nearly knocked me off the ladder. Adding insult to injury, she dropped what would be best described as "a hot bowl of clam chowder" down the back of my neck.

This edition of Photo Fun is an image of an owl pellet from my friend Snowflake. I found this pellet in the alleyway next to my house. The rain had washed away some of the fur exposing the bones within, thus revealing an amazing sculpture. Most of the time I have found nature to be the best artist, and the inspiration for this story.

So next time you're in Locke at night, look up. You just might just get to see Snowflake. And avoid being the unlucky and unaware!



From the Chinese Demonstration Garden

By Stuart Walthall

A main dietary staple of Locke's once thriving Chinese population was the versatile winter melon, also known as dong gwa.



In a photo from the 1970s photographer James Motlow captured this image of Locke resident Wong Yau and the winter melons he grew.

The winter melon is a vine grown for its very large fruit, eaten as a vegetable when mature. The melon is fuzzy when young and has a thick white flesh that is sweet. By maturity the melon loses its hairs and develops a white waxy coating, giving rise to one of its other names: wax gourd. This protective waxy coating gives the winter melon an extremely long shelf life. A dong gwa can be stored for over one year, thus ensuring its use throughout the long winter months. A fully grown dong gwa can weigh 30 to 35 pounds.

The vine thrives in direct sunlight, producing long ground-hugging runners and sporting beautiful fist size yellow blossoms. Winter melon seeds are planted about an inch deep atop 8 inch high, one yard in circumference mounds. Soil is kept moist through germination then watering is tapered off to once a week as the vines spread. I learned this planting method from Locke residents Mrs. Chan and her son Wayne who have been growing winter melon in Locke for years. The Chan's graciously gave me the dong gwa seeds that I used in last season's Chinese demonstration garden. By the way, last season's dong gwa crop for both the Chan's and the Chinese demo garden were pretty lousy. We did not harvest a lot of winter melon, most likely due to unseasonable weather patterns.

Winter melon is most commonly used in soups. Utilized as "presentation", the melon can be scooped out and made into soup bowls. Its green waxy exterior can be decorated with artistic carvings then used as a vessel when serving winter melon soup.

Winter melon can also be stir fried, candied, juiced, or used as filling in moon cakes. Its shoots, tendril, and leaves can be eaten as "greens". Its blossoms are also edible.



Because dong gwa thrives in warm climates it can be found in numerous countries throughout the world and it goes by many different names. It is made into curries in Pakistan and India, widely marketed as a tea in Southeast Asia, and even immortalized in Filipino folk songs.

So next time you come to Locke don't let your visit be limited to just Main Street. Take a leisurely walk to the back of town and check out the community gardens and the Chinese demonstration garden. We hope to see you this spring.



*Winter Melon from the Chinese Demonstration Garden
Photo by Deborah Mendel*

Locke Foundation Supports Walnut Grove Library

By Stuart Walthall

The Locke Foundation recently participated in a celebration of Chinese New Year staged at the Walnut Grove library. Spearheaded by Foundation Chairman Clarence Chu, the LF supplied historic artifacts, Locke self-guided walking tour brochures, books, and related materials used in the library's informative Locke History display.

Along with the historical display the library also presented free to the public a Chinese New Year puppet show on January 29, 201r.. The show, entitled *Mae Lin and the Magic Brush*, was staged by The Puppet Company and funded by Friends of the Library.

Attendees of the puppet show not only enjoyed an entertaining and informative afternoon but each person also received, courtesy of Chairman Chu, a *lei see* or *red envelope*. Giving *lei see* a Chinese custom where a red envelope containing a small amount of money, or in this case an ancient Chinese coin, is given as a good luck gesture to a fortunate recipient.

The Locke Foundation is honored to have been a part of the Walnut Grove library's celebration of Chinese New Year.



Locke artifacts in Walnut Grove Library display case.
Photo by Clarence Chu



Puppet Show in progress at the Walnut Grove Library.
Photo by Clarence Chu

Docent Tours of Locke

Docent led walking tours of Locke are available to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Tours begin at 11:00AM.

The tours are conducted for groups only and a minimum of ten people is required. Reservations are a must.

Other days are available for group tours upon request. Chinese language tours are available and student tours are welcome.

To schedule a tour, or for more information, please contact the Locke Foundation at 916-776-1661, 916-776-1828, or lockefoundation@frontiernet.net.

Cost: \$5 per visitor or \$3 per student or senior (62 or older).



A group of students from Shenzhen enjoying a docent led tour of Locke. Photo courtesy of Clarence Chu.

Locke Boarding House Museum/Visitors Center

The Locke Foundation has added several new items for sale at the Locke Museum/Visitors Center, located at the north end of Main Street Locke.



The Visitors Center now offers cool black ceramic coffee mugs embossed with the Locke red dragon logo and Chinese script. Cost is \$7. Another new item is the Locke red dragon tote bag, also for \$7.

The Locke Self-Guided Walking Tour Brochure has been updated and is being offered for a \$5 donation to the Locke Foundation.

Along with these new items one can also purchase Locke logo T-shirts, a variety of historical books, Locke art posters, and Delta maps.

You can also purchase a Memorial Tile which can be personalized and then placed on the Memorial Walls which stand within our beautiful Locke Memorial Park.

While at the Museum one can also join the Locke Foundation and become a member of a team whose mission is the preservation and celebration of Locke's unique heritage.

The Visitors Center/Museum is not only an interesting venue to enjoy while visiting Locke, it is also a valuable resource for information regarding the Delta and surrounding area.

So come by and visit us at the Locke Boarding House Museum where you can pick up a gift for someone you care about... such as yourself.

Visitors Center Hours of Operation:
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
11:00AM to 3:00PM
916-776-1828/916-776-1661

Locke Foundation Membership News

The Locke Foundation relies on membership dues and donations to maintain its current operations.

We are pleased to announce the following new members:

Rafael Schwartz
Celeste Fong, lifetime
Robert Hong
Jay Corriea
Sharon Fong
Raymond Tom, lifetime
Selina Sun, lifetime
Morrison Chun
Delta Protection Commission, lifetime

We are pleased to announce the following membership renewals:

James Gualco, Collin Lai (lifetime), Robyn Flaherty, Robert and Priscilla Jung, Darwin Kan (lifetime), Anita Lo (lifetime), Deborah Mendel and Russ Ooms, Xi Li, Raymond and Katherine Chan, Johnny Lee, Tom Neary, Pat Brazziel (lifetime), Penny Pederson, Jeff Kan Lee, Stuart Walthall, Holly Walthall, Michael and Karen King, Susan Wilson, Rick and Susan von Geldern, Ron Chong, Holly Pauls, Richard Shinn, Tom Wiles, Roberta Quan, William Leigon (lifetime), Milton and Janet Briggs (lifetime), Bert Jones (lifetime), Janet Bell, Candy Alexander (lifetime), David and Carol Abelson, Norm Marks, and Linda Kipling-Korth.

We are extremely grateful to Selina Sun who donated \$1000 to the Foundation.

Locke Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____ Tel () _____ Fax () _____

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

Event planning _____ Publicity _____ Membership recruitment _____

Write articles _____ Grant writing _____ Historical restoration _____

Membership Dues: circle one

_____ \$25 Individual Annual/\$200 Lifetime _____ \$50 Family or Non-Profit Organization Annual/\$300 Lifetime

_____ \$100 Business Annual/\$500 Lifetime

Make check payable to Locke Foundation. Please return this form with check to Locke Foundation
P. O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. Tax ID: 20-0364281.

Office use only:

Date application received _____ Membership Year _____ Renewal _____

Locke Foundation
P. O. Box 1085
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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