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Wed 3/23/11
“ROMAJI DIARY”: ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU BOOK
March 23, 2011 at 9:08 pm | Posted in Art, Asia, Books, Japan, Literary | Leave a comment
Takuboku Ishikawa (1886-1912) was the son of a Zen priest. A middle-school dropout, he was raised in rural Shibumi and emigrated to Tokyo as a young man. In Tokyo, he frequented literary circles and began to write poetry and fiction and to support himself as a journalist. He later worked as a substitute teacher and journalist in northern Honshu and Hokkaido before returning to Tokyo. He died, in poverty, from tuberculosis at the age of twenty-seven.

**Product Details:**
- Paperback: 279 pages
- Publisher: Tuttle Publishing
- November 2000
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0804832536
Christiaan Huygens and Johann de Witt, two seventeenth century Dutchmen, were respectively instrumental in the emergence of modern physics and modern finance.

**Johan de Witt**

Johan de Witt, *heer van Zuid- en Noord-Linschoten*, Snelrewaard, Hekendorp and IJsselveere [1] (Dordrecht, 24 September 1625 – The Hague, 20 August 1672) was a key figure in Dutch politics at a time when the Republic of the United Provinces was the dominant power in Europe, dominating trade routes and thus the wealthiest nation in the world. In the mid 17th century he controlled the Netherlands political system in close cooperation with his uncle Cornelis de Graeff. [2]
Mathematician

Besides being a statesman Johan de Witt, also was an accomplished mathematician. In 1659 he wrote “Elementa Curvarum Linearum” as an appendix to his translation of René Descartes’ “La Géométrie”.

In 1671 his “Waardije van Lyf-renten naer Proportie van Los-renten” was published (‘The Worth of Life Annuities Compared to Redemption Bonds’). This work combined the interests of the statesman and the mathematician. Ever since the Middle Ages, a Life Annuity was a way to “buy” someone a regular income from a reliable source. The state, for instance, could provide a widow with a regular income until her death, in exchange for a ‘lump sum’ up front. There were also Redemption Bonds that were more like a regular state loan. De Witt showed – by using probability mathematics – that for the same amount of money a bond of 4% would result in the same profit as a Life Annuity of 6% (1 in 17). But the ‘Staten’ at the time were paying over 7% (1 in 14).

The publication about Life Annuities is seen as the first mathematical approach of chance and probability.

The drop in income for the widows contributed no doubt to the “bad press” for the brothers De Witt. Significantly, after the violent deaths of the brothers the ‘Staten’ issued new Life Annuities in 1673 for the old rate of 1 in 14.

In 1671 De Witt conceived of a life annuity as a weighted average of annuities certain where the weights were mortality probabilities (that sum to one), thereby producing the expected value of the present value of a life annuity. Edmond Halley’s (of comet fame) representation of the life annuity dates to 1693, when he re-expressed a life annuity as the discounted value of each annual payment multiplied by the probability of surviving long enough to receive the payment and summed until there are no survivors. De Witt’s approach was especially insightful and ahead of its time.

In modern terminology, De Witt treats a life annuity as a random variable and its expected value is what we call the value of a life annuity. Also in modern terminology, De Witt’s approach allows one to readily understand other properties of this random variable such as its standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis, or any other characteristic of interest.

In addition, in his *Elementa curvarum linearum*, De Witt derived the basic properties of quadratic forms, an important step in the field of linear algebra.

**References**

1. [www.herenvanholland.nl](http://www.herenvanholland.nl) Johan de Witt at *Heren van Holland* (nl)
2. Andries Bickers Biographie at the DBNL
3. [www.herenvanholland.nl](http://www.herenvanholland.nl) Anna de Witt at *Heren van Holland* (nl)
5. Troost, 43

**Literature**

JAPANESE POET ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU (1886-1912): “KANASHIKI GANGU” “SAD TOYS”
March 22, 2011 at 10:21 pm | Posted in Art, Asia, Books, Japan, Literary | Leave a comment
ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU (1886-1912)

Tanka Poet

Takuboku Ishikawa (Ishikawa Takuboku, February 20, 1886 – April 13, 1912) was a Japanese poet. He died of tuberculosis. Well known as both a tanka and 'modern-style' (shintaishi or simply shi) or 'free-style' (jiyūshi) poet, he began as a member of the Myōjō group of naturalist poets but later joined the “socialistic” group of Japanese poets and renounced naturalism.

Major works

His major works were two volumes of tanka poems plus his diaries:

- Ichiakuno suna (A Handful of Sand) 1910
- Kanashiki gangu (Sad Toys) published posthumously in 1912

Timeline

Ishikawa Takuboku, ca. 1900

- 1886 – Born at Joko Temple, Hinoto-mura (presently named Hinoto, Tamayama-mura), Minami-Iwate-gun, Iwate Prefecture, to Ittei, the father, who was the priest of the temple, and Katsu, the mother.
- 1887 – Moved to Shibutami-mura (presently named Shibutami, Tamayama-mura)
- 1891 – Attended Shibutami Elementary School (4 years)
- 1895 – Attended Morioka Upper Elementary School (2 years)
- 1898 – Attended Morioka Middle School
- 1899 – Published literary booklet “Choji-kai”, printed by hand with method called hectograph
- 1900 – Formed self-study group “Union Club” in order to learn English. First and second issues of “Choji Magazine” were published. Fell in love with Setsuko Horiai
who was a student at Morioka Girls’ Middle School.

- 1901 – Published the third issue of “Mikazuki” (crescent moon), a magazine for circulating, and the first issue of “Nigita,” the first public appearance of his works.
- 1902 – His tankas appeared on “Myōjō”, a literary magazine, under the pen name of “Hakuhin”. Dropped out of Morioka Middle School because of his aspiration for literature. Went to Tokyo and made the acquaintances of Tekkan and Akiko Yosano.
- 1903 – Went home to Shibutami. Serial articles “Ideas of Wagner” appeared on Iwate Nippo (news paper) under the pen name of “Suiko”, the first public appearance of his works.

1901 – Published the third issue of “Mikazuki” (crescent moon), a magazine for circulating, and the first issue of “Nigita,” the first public appearance of his works.

1902 – His tankas appeared on “Myōjō”, a literary magazine, under the pen name of “Hakuhin”. Dropped out of Morioka Middle School because of his aspiration for literature. Went to Tokyo and made the acquaintances of Tekkan and Akiko Yosano.

1903 – Went home to Shibutami. Serial articles “Ideas of Wagner” appeared on Iwate Nippo (news paper) under the pen name of “Suiko”, the first public appearance of his works.

1904 – Serial articles “Senun Yoroku” (personal memorandum of war time) appeared on Iwate Nippo. This was right after the outbreak of Russo-Japanese War.

1905 – The first collection of poems “Akogare” (admiration) was published by Odajima Shobo. Got married to HORIAI Setsuko. Published literary magazine “Sho-Tenchi” (small world).

1906 – Became a substitute teacher at Shibutami Upper Elementary School. Novel “Kumo wa Tensai dearu” (the clouds are geniuses) was written, which was never published during his lifetime. Novel “Soretsu” (funeral procession) appeared on literary magazine “Myōjō” (December issue of 1906).

1907 – Became a substitute teacher at Hakodate Yayoi Elementary School, and a freelance reporter at Hokodate Nichinichi Shinbun (news paper). There at the Hakodate Yayoi Elementary School, he met Chieko Tachibana, who he was instantly awestruck by her beauty. Although Takuboku only encountered Chieko in person twice, she left a lasting impression on him, and 22 of the tanka written in “Wasuregataki-Hitobito” in “Ichiaku-no-Suna” were written about Chieko Tachibana. Later despite efforts to visit Chieko in her home in Sapporo, to pursue courtship, he had learned from her father that she had recently been married. Because of the great fire in Hakodate, he lost both jobs and left Hakodate. Employed at places like Hokumon Shinpo or Otaru Nippo (publishers of news paper)

1908 – Employed at Kushiro Shinbun (news paper), wrote “Benifude-dayori”. Moved to Hongo, Tokyo in spring.

1909 – Employed at Asahi Shinbun as a proof reader. Issued literary magazine “Subaru” as a publisher.

1910 – First collection of tankas “Ichihaku-no-Suna” (a fistful of sand) was published by Shinonome-do Shoten.

1911 – Moved to Koishikawa because of health reasons.

1912 – In March, his mother Katsu died. He himself died of tuberculosis on April 13, being looked after by his friend Bokusui Wakayama and his wife Setsuko, at age of 27. After his death, his second collection of tankas “Kanashiki Gangu” (grieving toys) was published by Shinonome-do Shoten.

1926 – In August, his grave was erected by both Miyazaki Ikuu, his brother-in-law, who was also a poet, and Okada Kenzo, the chief of Hakodate Library.

1988 – The main-belt asteroid 4672 Takuboku (1988 HB) is named in his honor.

References


Ueda, Makoto, Modern Japanese Poets and the Nature of Literature, Stanford University Press © 1983 ISBN 0-8047-1166-6 [Ishikawa Takuboku is one of the eight poets profiled in the book, with forty two pages devoted to him. There are nine “free-style” poems and thirty one tanka included in the commentary.]

ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU (1886-1912)

Tanka Poet

“Kanashiki Gangu”

悲しき玩具

——撮の砂以後——

石川啄木

呼吸（き）すれば、
胸の中（うち）にて鳴る音あり。
凜（にがらし）よりもさびしきその音（おと）！
眼(め)閉(と)つれど、心にうかぶ何もなし。さびしくも、また、眼をあけるかな。

途中にてふと気が変わり、つとめ先を休みて、今日も、河岸(かし)をさまよへり。

眼(め)閉(と)つれど、まだ起きてる果物屋(くだものや)を探しに行きぬ。秋の夜ふけに。

咽喉(のど)がかわき、まだ起きてゐる果物屋(くだものや)を探しに行きぬ。秋の夜ふけに。

旅行に出(で)て子供へらず、取り出して走らせて見る玩具(おもちや)の機関車。

手の爪(つめ)を切る。うっとりと本の挿絵(さしゑ)に眺め入(い)り、たばこの煙吹きかけてみる。手先を冷(ひ)やしけるかな。

眼をうちつぶり、酔(ゑ)ひを味(あじは)ふ。痛む歯をおさへつつ、日が赤赤(あかあか)と、冬の霧(もや)の中にのぼるを見たり。痛む歯をおさへつつ、

家(いへ)を出て五町ばかりは、用のある人のごとくに歩いてみたれど、強く思ひ湧(わ)き来(き)ぬ。手の爪(つめ)を切る。

家(いへ)を出て五町ばかりは、用のある人のごとくに歩いてみたれど、強く思ひ湧(わ)き来(き)ぬ。手の爪(つめ)を切る。

枕(まくら)の重みを感じて帰る。真夜中の出窓(でまど)に出(い)て、欄干(らんかん)の霜に手先を冷(ひ)やしけるかな。
どうなりと勝手になれといふごとき
わがこのごころを
ひとり恐るる。
手も足もはなればなれにあるごとき
ものがうき寝覚(ねざめ)！
かなしき寝覚！
朝な朝
懐(な)ててかなしむ、
下にして寝た方が(う)の美联(もも)のかろきしびれを。
曠野(あらの)ゆく汽車のごとくに、
このなやみ、
ときどき我の心を通る。
みすぼらしき郷里(くに)の新聞ひろげつつ、
誤植(ごしよく)ひろへり。
今朝のかなしみ。
誰(たれ)か我を思ふ存分(ぞんぶん)叱りつくる人あれと思ふ。
何の心ぞ。
何がなく
初恋人(はつこびと)のおくつきに詣(まう)づるごとし。
郊外に来ぬ。
なつかしき故郷にかへる思ひあり、
久し振りにて汽車に乗りしに。
新しき明日(あす)の来るを信ずといふ
自分の言葉に嘘はなけれど――
考へれば、ほんとに欲しと思ふこと有るやうで無し。
煙管(きせる)をみがく。
今日ひょいと山が恋しくて
山に来(き)ぬ。
去年腰掛けし石をさがすかな。
朝寝して新聞読む間(ま)なかりしを
負債(ふさい)のごとく今日も感ずる。
よごれたる手をみる――
笑う声す。
去年の正月にかへれるごとし。
今年はよい事あるごとし。
元日の朝、暗れて風無し。
腹の底より欠伸(あくび)もよほし
なかなかと欠伸してみぬ、
今年の元日。
いつの年も、
似たような歌を二つ三つ
年賀の文に書いてよこす友。

正月の四日は遅くにして
あの人は
年(ねん)に一度の葉書(はがき)も来にけり。

世におこなひがたき事のみ考へる
われの頭よ!
今年もしかるか。

人がみな
同じ方向(はうがく)に向いて行(ゆ)く。
それを横より見てゐる心。

過ぎゆける一年のつかれ出(で)しものか、
元日といふにうとうと眠し。

やみがたき用を忘れ来ぬ——
途中にて口に入れたる
ズムのためなりし。

それでも蒲団(ふとん)をかぶり、
足をちぢめ、舌を出してみぬ、誰(たれ)にともなしに。

いつしかに正月も過ぎて、
わが生活(くらし)が
またもとの道にはまり来り。

神様と議論して泣きし——
あの夢よ！
四日(か)ばかりも前の朝なりし。

いろいろの人々は
ばかりかねて。
今日もおとなしく暮らしたるかな。

おれが若(もし)この新聞の主筆(しゆひつ)ならば、
やらむ——と思ひし
いろいろの事！
石狩（いしかり）の空知郡（そらちごうり）の
牧場（よめ）さんより送り来（き）に
バタかな。

外妻（くわいたう）の棚（えり）に詩（あこ）を埋（うづ）め、
夜ふけに立とまりて聞く。
よく似た声かな。

Yといふ符牒（ふてふ）。
古日記（ふるにつき）の処処（しよしよ）にあり
――
Yとはあの人の事なりしかな。
百姓の多くは酒をやめしといふ。
もっと困（こま）らば、
何をやめるらむ。
目さまして直（す）ぐの心よ!

年よりの家出の記事にも
涙出（い）でたり。
人とともに事をはかるに
適（てき）せざる、
わが性格を思ふ寝覚（ねざめ）かな。
何（なに）となく、
案外（あんがい）に多き気もせらる、
自分と同じこと思ふ人。
自分よりも年若き人に、
半日も気焔（きえん）を吐（は）きて、
つかれし心!
珍（めづ）らしく、今日は、
議会を罵（ののし）りつつ涙出（い）でたり。
うれしと思ふ。
ひと晩に咲かせてみむと、
梅の鉢（はち）を火に焙（あぶ）りしが、
咲かざりしかな。
あやまちて茶碗をこはし、
物をこはす気持のよさを、
今朝（けさ）も思へる。
猫の耳を引っぱりてみて、
にゃと啼（な）けば、
びっくりして喜ぶ子供の顔かな。
何故（なぜ）かうかとなさけなくなり、
弱い心を何度も叱（しか）り、
金かりに行く。
待てど待てど。
来る筈（はず）の人の来ぬ日なりき、
机の位置を此処（ここ）に変へしは。

古新聞!
おやここにおれの歌の事を賞（ほ）めて書いてあり、
二三行（ぎやう）なれど。
引越しの朝の足もとに落ちてゐぬ、
女の写真!
忘れゐし写真!
その前は何気もつかずりし
仮名（ゆな）ちかひの多きことかな、
昔の恋文（こひぶみ）!
八年前（はちねんぜん）の
今のわが妻の手紙の束（たば）!
何処（どこ）に蔵（しま）ひしくと気にかかるかな。
眠られぬ癖（くせ）のかなしさよ!
すこしでも
眠気（ねむけ）がさせば、うろたへて寝る。

石狩の空知郡の牧場です。夜深く、外妻に寄せられた詩を埋め、夜の空を聴く。よく似た声が聞こえる。Yという符牒があります。古日記にその場所があり、Yはあの人のことを指す。多くの百姓は酒をやめたいとおっしゃっています。困ってどうするのだろうか。目を覚まして直ぐに心を覚悟せよ。自分の性格を考えて寝覚りを取ろうか。どうせなら、自分と同じことを思ふ人がいてよ。半日も気焔を吐き出して、つかれた心に涙が出る。珍しく、今日は議会を罵りつつ、涙が出る。うれしいと思える。ひと晩に咲かせてみよう。梅の鉢を火に焼くのが、咲かせずしかたがある。あやまちて、茶碗をこす気持のよさを。今朝も思い出す。猫の耳を引っぱり、にゃと啼く。びっくりして喜ぶ子供の顔が見られる。何故か変わらぬ心を何度も叱り、金を取りに行く。待てど待てど、来る筈の人の来ぬ日ありき。机の位置をここに変えよう。古新聞があり、おれの歌を賞めて書いてある。二三行なれど。引越しの朝の足もとに落ちている、女の写真。忘れている写真。その前は何気もつかず、仮名ちかひの多きことかな。昔の恋文がある。八年前の今のわが妻の手紙の束。何処に蔵してあるのか、気にかかる。眠らぬ癖のかなしさ。すこしでも眠気が出れば、うろたえて寝る。
笑ふにも笑はれざりき
長いこと撲(さかのしたナイフの
手の中(うち)にありしに。

この四五五年、
空を仰(あふ)ぐといふことが一度もなかったり。
うとうなるものか?

原稿紙にてなくては
字を書きものと、
かたく信じるとが兒(こ)のあどけなさ!

古手紙よ!
あの男とも、五年前は、
かほど親しく交(まじ)はりしかなかった。

『石川はふびんな奴(やつ)だ。』
ときにかう自分で言はて、
かなしみてみる。

真夜中にふと目がさめて、
わけもなく泣きたくなりて、
蒲団(ふとん)をかぶれる。

病室の窓にもたれて、
久しぶりに巡査を見たりと、
よろこべるかな。

晒しし日のかなしみの一つ!
病室の窓にもたれて
煙草(たばこ)を味(あじは)ふ。

病室の窓にもたれて
久しぶりに巡査を見たりと、
よろこべるかな。

息をひそむる。

脉(みやく)をとる看護婦の手、
あたたかき日あり、
つめたく堅(かた)き日あり。
病院に入りて初めての夜(よ)といふに、
すぐ寝入りしが、
物足らぬかな。

何(なに)となく自分をえらい人のやうに
思ひてゐたりき。
子供なりしかな。

ふくれたる腹を撫でつつ、
病院の寝台(ねだい)に、ひとり、
かなしみてあり。

目さませば、からだ痛くて
動かれず。
泣きたくなりて、夜明くるを待つ。

びっしょりと寝汗(ねあせ)出(で)てゐる
あげたの
まだ覚(さ)めやらぬ重きかなしみ。

病院の窓によりつつ、
いろいろの人
元気に歩くを眺める。

もうお前(まへ)の心(しん)をよく見届けたと、
夢に母来て
泣いてゆきしかな。

兄(あいこ)にせつやむ。

病院に来て、
妻や子をいつくしむ
まことの我にかへりけるかな。

軍人になると言ひ出して、
父母(ちちはは)に
苦労させたる昔の我かな。

藤沢といふ代議士を
弟のごとく思ひて、
泣いてやりしかな。

何か一つ
大いなる悪事しておいて、
知らぬ顔してゐたき気持かな。

ぢっとして寝ていらっしゃいと
子供にでもいふがごとくに
医者のいふ日かな。
氷嚢の下より
まなこ光らせて、
寝られぬ夜
春の雪みだれて降るを
熱のある目に
かなしくも眺め入(い)りたる。
人間のその最大のかなしみが
これかと
ふっと目をばつぶれる。

医者の顔色をちっと見し外(そば)に
何も見ざりき——
胸の痛み募(の)る日。

医者の顔色をちっと見し外(そば)に
何も見ざりき——
胸の痛み募(の)る日。

廻診(くわいしん)の医者の遅(おそ)
さよ!
痛みある胸に手をおきて
かたく眼をとづ。
医者の顔色をぢっと見し外(そば)
に
何も見ざりき
——
胸の痛み募(の)る日。

病(やまひ)をえて、
かの閑古鳥を夢にきけるかな。

運命の来て乗れるかと
うたがひぬ——
苦(ついたき)の降る日なら。

妻よ、思ふな。

運命の来て乗れるかと
うたがひぬ——
苦(ついたき)の降る日なら。

妻よ、思ふな。

運命の来て乗れるかと
うたがひぬ——
苦(ついたき)の降る日なら。

妻よ、思ふな。

運命の来て乗れるかと
うたがひぬ——
苦(ついたき)の降る日なら。

妻よ、思ふな。
脈をとる手のふるひこそ
かなしけれ
かなしけれ
――
医者に叱られし若き看護婦!
いつとなく記憶(きおく)に残りぬ——
Fといふ看護婦の手のつめたさなども。
はづれまで一度ゆきたしと
はづれまで一度ゆきたしと
思ひゐし
かの病院の長廊下かな。
起きてみて、
また直(す)ぐ寝たくなる時の
力なき眼に愛(め)でしチュリップ!
堅(かた)く握(にぎ)るだけの力も無くなりし
やせし我が手のいとほしさかな。
わが病(やまひ)のその因(よ)るところ深く且(か)つ遠きを思ふ。
目をとぢて思ふ。
かなしくも、
病(やまひ)いゆるを願はざる心我に在(あ)り。
友も妻もかなしと思ふらし——
病(やまひ)みて四月(しぐわつ)――
そのときどきに変りたる
くすりの味もなつかしきかな。
病みて四月(ぐわつ)――
その間(ま)にも、猶(なほ)、目に見えて、
わが子の背丈(せたけ)のびしかなしみ。
すこやかに、背丈（せたけ）のびゆく子を見つつ、われの日毎（ひごと）にさびしきは何（な）ぞ。

まくら辺（まくらべ）に子を坐らせて、まじまじとその顔を見れば、逃げてゆきしかな。

いつも子をうるさきものに思ひゐし間（あひだ）に、その親にも、親の親にも似るなかれ——かく汝（おまえ）が父は思へるぞ、子よ。

かなしきは、（われもしかりき）叱（しか）れども、打てども泣かぬ児の心なる。

「労働者」「革命」などといふ言葉を聞きおぼえたる五歳の子かな。

時として、あらん限りの声を出し、唱歌をうたふ子をほめてみる。

何思ひけむ——玩具（おもちや）をすてておとなしく、わが側（そば）に来て子の坐りたる。

その親にも、その親にも、おとなしく、不适しき家畜のごとき心となる。

何か、かう、書いてみたくなりて、ペンを取りぬ——花活（はな）の花あたらしき朝。

何もかもいやになりゆくこの気持よ。思ひ出しては煙草（たばこ）を吸ふなり。
或(ある市(まち)に近し頃の事として、
友の語る
恋がたりに嘘(うそ)の交(まじ)るかなしさ。

ひさしぶりに、
ふと声を出して笑ひてみぬ——
蠍(むし)の両手を揉(も)むか可笑(か)しさに。

胸いたむ日のかなしみも、
かとりよき烟草の如(ごと)ぐ、
棄(す)てがたきかな。

何か一つ騒ぎを起してみたかりし、
先刻(さき)の我を
いとしと思へる。

五歳になる子に、何故(なぜ)ともな、
ソニヤといふ露西亜名(ロシアな)をつけて、
呼びてはよろこぶ。

解(と)けがたき
不和(ふわ)のあひだに身を処(しょ)して、
ひとりかなしく今日も怒(いかり)る。

猫を飼(か)はば、
その猫がまた争(あらそ)ひの種となるらむ、
かなしきわが家(いへ)。

今日ひょっと近所の子等(こら)と遊びたくなり、
呼べど来らず。
こころむづかし。

やまひ癒(い)えず、
死なず、
日毎(ひごと)にこころのみ険(けは)しくなれる七八月(ななやつき)かな。

貰ひおきし
薬つきたる朝に來し
友のさけの為替(かはせ)のかなしさ。

児を叱れば、
泣いて、寝入りぬ。
口すこしあけし寝顔にさはりてみるかな。

何がなしに
肺が小さくなれる如(こと)く思いて起きぬ——
秋近き朝。

秋近し！
電燈の球(たま)のぬくもりの
さばれば指の皮膚(ひふ)に親しき。

ひる寝せし児の枕辺(まくらべ)に
人形を貰ひ来てかざり、
ひとり楽しむ。
クリストを人なりといへば、
妹の眼がかなしくも、
われをあはれむ。

縁先(えんさき)にまくら出させて、
ひさしぶりに、
ゆふべの空にしたしめるかな。

庭のそとを白き犬ゆけり。
ふりむきて、
犬を飼はむと妻にはかれる。

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●表記について

ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU (1886-1912)

Tanka Poet
world civilizations
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FROM MOUNT SINAI TO LUBLIN: HOLOCAUST POEM OF JACOB GLATSTEIN

March 18, 2011 at 10:45 pm | Posted in Art, Books, History, Judaica, Literary | Leave a comment
The Yiddish poet, Jacob Glatstein

Jewish theologians since the Holocaust have struggled to understand God’s role in the Holocaust. The American rabbi, Richard Rubinstein, argues that God is dead (or, at least, the personal God of Jewish tradition). Martin Buber speaks of an “eclipse” or of the “hidden face” of God.

The Yiddish poet, Jacob Glatstein, pushes the theological envelope even further.

In a 1946 poem entitled, “Not The Dead Praise God” he hints that the Shoah ended God’s role in our lives.

Playing on the ancient Jewish tradition that the covenant with God was accepted when all the people of Israel stood together at Sinai, Glatstein hints that the vast, communal destruction of the Jews nullifies that bond:

We received the Torah at Mount Sinai and in Lublin we gave it back.

Not the dead praise God-

the Torah was given for the living.

And as we all together

stood in a body

at the Granting of the Torah,

so truly did we all die in Lublin.

“Not The Dead Praise God”

Jacob Glatstein 1946
Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Jardine, Matheson & Co. was founded in Canton on 1 July 1832

Overview

Jardine, Matheson & Co. was founded in Canton on 1 July 1832, following a meeting between William Jardine and another Scots trader, James Matheson from Sutherland. In 1834, the pair sent the first private shipments of Chinese tea to England; another big export to the UK was silk. In return, they traded opium to the Chinese.\(^8\) Jardine Matheson's early profits were based on this trading of Indian opium into China. When the Chinese emperor tried to ban the trade, the company called on Britain to compel China to provide compensation for the confiscated opium, leading in 1839 to the first of two Opium Wars.

Early history

In 1802, Dr. William Jardine worked as a medicinal practitioner onboard British East India Company vessels sailing between Calcutta and Canton. Under a charter granted to the company in the seventeenth century by Charles I of England, its directors in London's Leadenhall Street held a monopoly on British trade between India and China. It was customary, however, for the Company's servants to conduct a certain amount of private business on their own account. In order to regularise this, the East India Company allowed each officer and member of the crew a space about equal to two chests; what the men did with this space was their own business. Using this space, the doctor soon discovered that trading illegal narcotics was more profitable than practising medicine. It was during these early days that William Jardine found himself onboard a ship captured by the French with all its cargo seized. Despite this setback a trading partnership formed at the time by Jardine with a fellow passenger, a Parsee Indian called Jamsetjee Jeejebhoy, would endure for many years.

In Canton, Dr. Jardine met a naturalised Briton of Huguenot extraction named
Hollingworth Magniac. He learned that there were ways by which, to a small extent, the monopoly of the East India Company could be circumvented so in 1817 Jardine left his first employers and began the process of establishing his own private firm.

At this time James Matheson was employed in his uncle's business in Calcutta. One day his uncle entrusted him with a letter to be delivered to the captain of a soon-to-depart British vessel. Matheson forgot to deliver the missive and the vessel sailed without it. Incensed at his nephew's negligence, the uncle suggested that young James might be better off back in England. He took his uncle at his word and went to engage a passage back home. Instead, on the advice of an old sea captain, Matheson went to Canton.

It was in Canton in 1818 that Matheson first met Jardine. The two men formed a partnership which included also Magniac and a man named Beale, an English inventor of clocks and automata. At first the new firm dealt only with Bombay and Calcutta, at that time called the “country trade” but later extended their business to London.

The activities of these four men made an important contribution to the 1834 termination of the East India Company’s monopoly in China.[9][10][11]

Establishment of the private firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co.

For a long time the British East India Company had been growing increasingly unpopular in Britain. Men such as Sheridan, Elliot, Charles James Fox, William Windham, and Edmund Burke were its bitter enemies. Many British people believed that freedom of the seas and freedom of trade were synonymous. They had fought for years to establish this freedom, only to see it threatened by a King’s charter to a group of London merchants. Further, certain high-handed methods used by the East India Company in dealing with competitors aroused the moral indignation of the British at home.

Nevertheless, open competition with the East India Company was a risky business. The Company was empowered to punish transgressors vigorously — even to the extent of having them hanged. Occasionally, free traders did manage to secure a license from the Company to engage in the “country trade,” usually with India, but never with Britain. In rare instances, other free traders, called “interlopers,” competed with the Company. The interlopers usually were friends of the Government in England from which they had been able to obtain some form of charter of their own. Sooner or later, however, the East India Company always managed to have these other charters revoked.

There was one method available by which a Briton could establish a business on the East India Company’s preserves. He could accept the consulship of a foreign country and register under its laws. This method was employed by Jardine to establish himself in Canton. Magniac had obtained an appointment from the King of Prussia, and later James Matheson represented Denmark and Hawaii. On this basis the partners had nothing to fear from the Company; in fact, relations between these two and the East India Company seemed in time to have become amicable. It is recorded that when ships of the East India Company were detained outside the harbour by the authorities, Jardine offered his services “without fee or reward.” These services saved the East India Company a considerable sum of money and earned for Jardine the Company’s gratitude.

By 1830, the enemies of the East India Company had begun to triumph, and its hold on trade with the East had weakened noticeably. Furthermore, at this time, both Magniac and Beale were getting ready to retire. In 1832, two years before the East India Company lost its monopoly over British trade with China, William Jardine and James Matheson entered into formal partnership as a private firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Establishment of the firm in Hong Kong

In 1834 the first ship free of the East India Company's monopoly, Jardine’s Sarah, left Whampoa with a cargo of tea for London. This was a signal that showed the East India Company was no longer a power in the East, and was immediately followed by a rush to participate in the fast developing China trade, which was centred on tea. From the middle of the seventeenth century this drink had been growing in popularity in Britain and the British colonies, but the trade in teas was far from simple. Due to the high taxes on tea in Britain, the tax on tea was often as much as two hundred percent of the value.[citation needed] This punitive level of taxation gave rise to widespread smuggling which became an additional hazard to legitimate businesses. To profit in the China trade participants had to be ahead of all competition, both legitimate and otherwise. Each year, fast ships from Britain, Europe, and America lay ready at the Chinese ports to load the first of the new season’s teas. The ships raced home with their precious cargoes, each attempting to be the first to reach the consumer markets, thereby obtaining the premium prices offered for the early deliveries.
Jardines became well established and thereafter commanded a sizeable portion of the China trade.

Raw and manufactured goods were imported from India and the United Kingdom whilst teas and silks were exported.

In 1842, the firm built the first substantial house and established their head office on the recently acquired island of Hong Kong. This began an era of increased prosperity and expansion. New offices soon were opened in the trading centres of Shanghai, Fuzhou, and Tianjin. Jardines has continued to expand since these early beginnings.

William Keswick, the young nephew of Dr. Jardine, was sent to Japan in 1858 to open up trading for the firm where he established an office in Yokohama. In Japan, Jardines also expanded rapidly and additional offices were opened—in Kobe, Nagasaki, and other ports. From the beginning, a large and profitable business was conducted in imports, exports, shipping, and insurance.

The firm became so important that for much of the history of the Executive Council of Hong Kong, to represent the business community the Council's ‘unofficial members’ included the head of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the taipan of Jardines. By the end of the nineteenth century, business in the Far East was no longer confined to simple trading. Industrial expansion had begun and in its wake the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company was formed. To aid further in this development Jardines created insurance companies as well as building cotton mills, wharves and warehouses. Cold storage and press packing plants for China's widening export trade were erected. In 1935 the company built the Ewo Brewery in Shanghai. The directors of Jardines have since built a modern business structure on the foundations laid by the pioneers of the firm.

War and reconstruction

In 1932, after the first Japanese attack on China, the firm closed its offices in Manchuria with Jardines leaving when the Japanese occupation began. In 1941 at the beginning of World War II in the Asia-Pacific region, the Japanese took over all Jardine’s interests in Hong Kong and occupied China. In the meantime offices of the firm were established in Chongqing and Kunming. (Offices in Bombay were also established around this time.) Contact with the war-time world of Chinese official and commercial life was thus maintained. Immediately on cessation of hostilities, the staff from these offices and from internment camps in China immediately began recovery of the firm's properties from the Japanese forces.

In the summer of 1947, as soon as the authorities permitted, Jardines re-entered Japan. From that date, the task of re-establishing their former wide interests in that country has been under way.

In Taiwan Jardines have maintained offices since early in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Today the Taipei office is a leading exporter of tea to Europe, Asia, and America and is engaged in shipping and general export and import business.

Scottish leadership

Jardines is controlled by the Keswick (pronounced “Kezzick”) family who are direct descendants of William Jardine’s sister.

While the leadership of Jardines is Scottish, the firm is international in its dealings. The staff of Jardines (239,000 employees as of January 2007) is predominantly Asian, with senior management levels composed of a mixture of British, Chinese, Indonesians, Europeans, Australians and Americans.

The Keswicks have maintained a relationship with another prominent Scottish family, the Flemings, of which the author Ian Fleming was also a member. From 1970 until 1998, Jardine Matheson operated a pan-Asian investment banking joint venture, Jardine Fleming, with Robert Fleming & Co., a London merchant bank controlled by the Fleming family. In 2000, Jardine Fleming and Robert Fleming & Co. were sold to JP Morgan Chase.

Shipping interests

From the earliest days of the firm, shipping became the most prominent among the many and varied enterprises of Jardines.

Historically, it was the practice of Jardines to possess the fastest and best-handling ships available. The firm did this in order to maintain its leading position in the market. In the early days, it was often possible to make a fortune with the exclusive possession of market
or budget news for a period as brief as a few hours. Conversely, a fortune could be lost if the despatches from home were late. The keen competition for faster and more efficient shipping had a significant impact on the rapid development of trade with the Far East. It was due largely to the quality of its fleet that Jardines outlived all rivals. In the days of sail, many of the most well known clippers were part of the Company’s fleet. Among these clippers were the “Red Rover”, “Falcon”, and “Sylph”, the last of which holds a sailing record that has never been beaten.[14] The ship sailed from Calcutta to Lintin in the Pearl River estuary in seventeen days, seventeen hours.

The first merchant steamer in China, the “Jardine”, was built to order for the firm in 1835. She was a small vessel intended for use as a mail and passenger carrier between Lintin Island, Macau, and Whampoa Dock. However, after several trips for unknown reasons the Chinese authorities prohibited her entrance into the river such that the ship had to be sent to Singapore.

The first steamships owned by Jardines ran chiefly between Calcutta and the Chinese ports. They were fast enough to make the 400-mile (640 km) trip in two days less than rival P & O vessels.

As time passed, more and more ships were procured for Jardines’ fleet and ports of call extended as conditions allowed. The firm was among the first to send ships to Japan, and at an early date established a regular service between Yokohama, Kobe, and China’s ports.

Until 1881, the India and China coastal and river services were operated by several companies. In that year, however, these were merged into the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., a public company under the management of Jardines. The activities of this company extended from India to Japan, including the Straits Settlements, Borneo, and the China coast. In the latter sphere, the “Indo-China” sector developed rapidly. The company pushed inland up the Yangtze River on which a specially designed fleet was built to meet the requirements of the river trade.

Jardines were considered efficient handlers of shipping. As a result, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company invited the firm to attend to the Agency of their Shire Line which operated in the Far East. This occurred shortly before the first World War and necessitated a further expansion of the firm’s shipping organisation. Today, fifteen internationally known British, Canadian, and United States shipping companies entrust their agencies to this organisation.

In China, the bulk of freight emanates from domestic sources. On account of this a Chinese staff is maintained at all Jardines’ branches. These branches continuously monitor the features and trends of the Chinese markets.

With the disappearance of Japanese competition as a result of the war, and with the resurrection of China’s merchant navy, shipping conditions in the Far East changed vastly requiring an extreme degree of flexibility in the operation of foreign shipping. Jardines experience gained in the pioneering years of the last century and extending through two world wars to the uncertainties of the present day has stood them in good stead, not only in the ports of Hong Kong and Shanghai, but at major ports in China and Japan. Since World War II the firm has operated the Australia-China Line, an enterprise owned jointly with Commons Bros., Ltd., of Newcastle. This line runs from Australia to Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Jardines are also involved in Sino-foreign shipping co-operation.

Interests in wharves and warehouses

Hong Kong

On the initiative of Jardines and the late Sir Paul Chater, the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company was formed in 1886. Since that date, the chairmanship of the board has been held by the managing director of Jardines.

At the property known as Kowloon Point, ten ocean-going vessels of up to thirty-two feet draught can be berthed regardless of the state of the tide. At the West Point property on Hongkong Island itself, one coastal vessel can be accommodated.

Kowloon Point provides storage space for about 750,000 tons of cargo. The transit sheds have been designed specially to provide maximum light and sorting space. The godowns are six-storeyed, of reinforced concrete, and are fully equipped with cargo lifts and cranes. A treasury, or strong room, capable of storing up to 500 measurement tons of bullion or other valuable cargo, is a part of the facilities offered.

The company also operates a launch and lighter fleet for the discharge of vessels at buoys and for general transshipment work.
Following an amalgamation of several local wharves in 1875, Jardine, Matheson & Co. were appointed general managers of the Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd. In 1883, the Old Ningpo Wharf was added, and in 1890 the Pootung Wharf was purchased to complete the Company's already extensive properties. For three quarters of a century, therefore, Jardines have served the great port of Shanghai.

The Company owns some 3,000 feet (910 m) of the most valuable wharf frontage on the Shanghai side of the river. On the opposite, or Pudong (Pootung), side their frontage extends to 2,550. The wharves are capable of accommodating ten large ocean-going vessels at a time.

Before the Pacific War, the Company possessed godown, or warehouse, space of 2,505,000 square feet (232,700 m²), however there was considerable destruction by the Japanese. Rehabilitation progressed rapidly, however.

Railway building in China

1898 also saw the formation by Jardines and HSBC of the British and China Corporation ('BCC') which was responsible for much of the development of China's railway system.

Airways department

Jardines also operates an Airways Department, providing services as general agents, traffic handling, or booking agents.

The firm has formed in Hong Kong an Air Maintenance Company which will bring the most up-to-date technical and maintenance facilities to the many air lines operating from and through Hong Kong.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) appointed Jardines as their general agents for Hong Kong and China.

Insurance interests

Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group “JLT” is 30% owned by Jardine Matheson and is the vehicle for Jardines participation in this business field. Insurance was one of the first lines of business undertaken by Jardines in 19th century China.

Companies

The Jardine Engineering Corporation, Ltd.

The Jardine Engineering Corporation, Ltd., was founded in 1923 as a private limited company. Its purpose was to take over the business of importing machinery into China. Previously, this had been done by the firm's Engineering Department. The new company was formed in order to be in a position to cater more efficiently to the evergrowing needs of the Chinese. This policy has resulted in the development of a large and vigorous corporation. Offices have been established in Shanghai, Hongkong, Tianjin, Chongqing, and Nanjing, and further branches are being created as the need for this company’s services becomes apparent. The Corporation represents many of the greatest engineering and manufacturing names in the world. A complete field of engineering and equipment requirements is covered.

Ewo Cold Storage Company

The Jardines-owned Ewo Cold Storage Company was established in 1920 on the Shanghai river front for the manufacture and export of dried eggs. Two or three years later, extensions were made to permit the processing of liquid and shell eggs, as well. Since then, each year, large quantities of these products have been prepared under the most hygienic conditions for shipment abroad, mainly to the United Kingdom.

During the past quarter century, export trade in eggs and egg products has become an increasingly important factor in China's economy. Immediately prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War, egg trading was high in the list of leading exports. During the war, the Japanese occupation forces gravely diminished the stock of poultry. However, this handicap was quickly overcome, for poultry production in China was never confined to large centres, difficult to reconstruct; instead it is chiefly in innumerable small units scattered over vast areas.

Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd.

Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd., is a limited liability company (registered in Hongkong), managed by Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. The firm was first in the field in the cotton industry in China, having established the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. in Shanghai in 1895.
Subsequently two other mills were started up in Shanghai—the Yangtszepoo Cotton Mill and the Kung Yik Mill. In 1921 these three companies were amalgamated as Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd., which concern operated 175,000 cotton spindles and 3,200 looms before the war. In addition the Company extended its activities to include the manufacture of waste cotton products, jute materials, and worsted yarns and cloths. The Company suffered considerable loss of machinery during the war, but its products, which have always enjoyed a high reputation, are back on the market again.

Ewo Press Packing Company

Under the name of Ewo Yuen Press Packing Company, the Ewo Press Packing Company was established in Shanghai in the year 1907. It was then owned jointly by Jardines and a Chinese partner. This partner decided to retire, and in 1919 Jardines became sole proprietors under the present name. The company operates a total floor space of 125,000 square feet (11,600 m²), providing a normal annual output of 40,000 to 50,000 bales. Double this quantity has been achieved in peak years. The activities of the concern cover raw cotton, cotton yarn, waste silk, wool, hides, goatskins, and other commodities for which press packing for shipment or storage is suitable. In addition to the packing facilities offered by the company, well-lighted and airy rooms are available to the public for sorting, grading, and storage of all types of cargo.

The plant is advantageously situated near the mouth of the well-known Soochow Creek. Whether the merchandise is destined for inland, the coast, or abroad, this location provides economical and ready access to the transporting vessels lying in the harbour of Shanghai.

Ewo Breweries, Limited

Although it is the youngest of Jardines' enterprises, Ewo Breweries, Limited, is already as flourishing a concern as any controlled by the firm. It was founded in 1935, its production commenced in 1936, and Ewo Breweries became a public company under Jardines' management in 1940. The brewery, built on the outskirts of Shanghai, passed unscathed through two Japanese wars, in 1937 and 1941–45, and during the first of them it was in the centre of hostilities; however, the staff kept to their posts, and the products from time to time found their way through the Japanese lines on to their own markets.

The brewery produces Pilsner and Munich types of beers, both being suitable to Far Eastern climatic conditions: The brewery is recognised as the finest and most up-to-date in the Far East, where the popularity of its brews is unrivalled.

Export and import departments

Tea

Tea is the most romantic of all China's trades and always must remain inseparably linked in memory to the hey-day of the racing clippers. Now, as in the first half of the nineteenth century, Jardines are the leading shippers. Their connection with this trade dates from 1801 when the forerunners of the firm secured the first free license to exports teas to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. When the monopoly held by the East India Company finally was broken, Jardines were again to the fore, this time trading under their own name. The firm despatched the first teas to London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. Trading offices are located now in Shanghai, Hongkong, Fuzhou, Taipei, and Hankou.

From picturesque old Fuzhou and the beautiful island of Taiwan, as well as from the godowns on the Shanghai Bund, ocean steamers once again are carrying valuable cargoes of Jardines' teas. The chests of teas are labelled with Old World names such as Keemuns, Soochongs, Oolongs, Gunpowders, and Chun Meas, and are borne to the Mincing Lane and the tea-cups of Europe, Africa, and America.

Silk

The Silk Room, operating in Shanghai, is one of the oldest of the offices within Jardines' organisation. For over a century, the firm has been shipping raw silk from Shanghai. Before the war, silk was shipped from Japan to America, France, Switzerland, England, and elsewhere. Also, for many years before the war, the firm operated its own Ewo Silk Filature.

Silk inspectors are highly specialised skilled technicians. Usually, they are of Swiss or Italian descent. The Swiss who heads this Department of Jardines today is acknowledged to be the doyen of the silk men in China.

CHINA PRODUCE: The China Produce Department for many years has exported the raw materials of China everywhere abroad. To ensure the maintenance of Jardines' standards, large warehouses were constructed in Shanghai, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Hankow, and Hongkong, all of these cities being the trading centres for vast producing areas. The interests of the Department, accordingly, cover the products of the cold north, such as
wool, furs, soya beans, oils, and oilseeds and bristles; the produce of the vast agricultural centre, which includes tung and other vegetable oils and oilseeds, egg products, bristles, and beans; and also the marketable yield of the sunny south, its tung oil, aniseed, cassia, and ginger. And these are only a few of the commodities which pass through Jardines from China to the markets of the world. Knowledge of individual processing and marketing requirements of these articles takes many years to acquire. Jardines’ vast experience in these lines extends throughout the entire period of China’s trading relations with the outside world.

IMPORTS: The main centres of Jardines’ extensive and well-known import business are Hongkong and Shanghai, but the Department is fully represented in all of the firm’s branches. In the early days, the principal interest was piece goods, but expansion in many and varied directions has developed as China more and more showed desire to share in the goods manufactured and produced by countries far from her shores.

The range of commodities handled by this Department is amazingly wide. It runs the gamut from timber to foodstuffs, from textiles to medicines, from metals to fertilizers, and from wines and spirits to the cosmetic requirements of a lady’s boudoir.

The Import Departments in recent years formed a section for the export of Chinese articles manufactured from silks and linens. This has developed into an increasing business, with an ever-broadening scope of articles of all descriptions.

The development of the colony of Hongkong by Jardine, Matheson & Co.

At the mouth of the Pearl River, about ninety miles from Canton, there stands a small island. It is separated from the mainland by a strip of water which, at the narrowest point, is only a quarter of a mile wide. As late as 1840, the island seemed to have no potential development value except perhaps to a few visionaries. The island lies just below the Tropic of Cancer, and its climate was always thought to be hot, humid, and unhealthy. In area the island is less than thirty square miles, and it rises steeply from the water. No one lived there except a few stoncutters and fishermen whose huts were scattered along the southern shore, and it was suspected that the island was a hiding place for pirates. Its only recommendation was a natural deep-water harbour. It was this island, together with a small strip of China’s mainland that was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842.

Despite all obstacles of terrain and climate, in spite of opposition from many of the Canton merchants, this outpost was developed with almost incredible rapidity. Today, on the northern slopes of the island, close-packed roofs of the city blot out the natural landscape. The harbour, world-famous for its beauty, presents a scene of bustling activity, vessels from the Earth’s four corners come and go, small steamers sail to and from Canton, and ferryboats hurry back and forth from the mainland. The island has become a great port and trading centre in the Far East—Hongkong.

James Matheson had long believed in the future of Hongkong. His enthusiasm was not shared by many of his fellow merchants. Understandably, they preferred not to abandon their comfortable residences on Canton’s Praya Grande for the bleak slopes of Hongkong Island. Bad luck made matters worse for the early builders of Victoria. In quick succession, two typhoons and two fires flattened the new settlement. An epidemic of virulent malaria almost succeeded in returning the island to the oblivion from which it had risen. For years, the Canton Press in Macau never lost an opportunity to ridicule and slander the venture. Even Queen Victoria was unimpressed with her new acquisition. Once she wrote in gentle sarcasm to the King of the Belgians: “Albert is so much amused at my having got the island of Hongkong, and we think Victoria ought to be called Princess of Hongkong as well as Princess Royal.” Nevertheless, the founders refused to be discouraged.

On 14 June 1841, the first lots were sold on Hongkong. At the instigation of James Matheson, three of these lots, comprising 57,150 square feet (5,309 m²), were purchased for the sum of Pounds 565, and Jardines set up one of the first offices to be established in the new colony. Lot No 1 is presently the site of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel (owned by Jardines) and is still referred to in the company as No.1. In the beginning, the settlement consisted of hastily constructed mat sheds and wooden buildings. Jardines built the first house of consequence. It was erected at East Point, and the firm still retains most of the original property. Among the buildings that can be seen there today is one of the old warehouses with the date 1843 engraved in the stone above the door.

Throughout the history of Hongkong, Jardines have played a large part in all the affairs of the colony. In June 1850, David Jardine was one of the first two unofficial members of the Legislative Council. Hongkong is the head office of the Company, and, on many occasions, the managing directors have been members of both the legislative and executive councils of the government. The firm has been closely connected with every phase of Hongkong’s
development. Many of the essential services that are operating at present owe their inception to the firm. The Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., has its head office in Hongkong. The chairmanship of the boards of directors of the Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd., the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., the Star Ferry Co., Ltd., and the Hong Kong Tramways, Ltd., has always been held by the managing director of Jardines in Hongkong. It is worth noting that Jardines, although they control these companies, hold majority stock in none of them. The company's power is derived from many special voting shares issued upon the formation of these companies.

There are numerous landmarks which denote the part that has been played by the seniors of the firm in the history of this thriving community. In the early days, fevers and plagues were a constant menace to the dwellers in Hongkong, and, the heat during the summer months was difficult to bear. The directors of the firm were pioneers in building residences on The Peak where living is more pleasant and healthful.

"Jardines' Corner" is well known to the inhabitants of Hong Kong, but chief among the place names associated with the firm is a hill top known as "Jardine's Lookout". It was from here, in the days of the sailing ships, that a watch was kept for the first glimpse of the sails of the firm's clippers coming from India and London. As soon as a vessel was signalled, a fast whaleboat was sent out to collect Jardines' mails. The correspondence was rushed back to the office so that the directors could have the first possible information on the world's markets.

The same speed, efficiency, and enterprise of those early days still persists, and are responsible for the solid foundation on which Jardines now stand. Thus, the firm's position as the leading foreign commercial enterprise in China remains unchallenged.

Branch offices in China

The firm has correspondents in Kunming, Xiamen, Beijing, and in the Yangtze River ports of Jinjiang, Nanjing, Wuhu, Huijiang, Yichang and Changsha. Of these branches, Hankou and Tianjin are the greatest. Today, Hankou is mostly a ruin and a reminder of hideous warfare. Rehabilitation is sure, but it will take time. Tianjin, through which vast volumes of trade flowed outwards and inwards in days gone by, survived undamaged and is returning gradually to the position of the leading port of North China. Qingdao, one of China's few good harbours, came through the war with little or no damage, and is fast resuming its important role in the trade of China.

Jardine representations abroad

Matheson & Co., Ltd., are Jardines' correspondents in London. "Mathesons" was founded in 1848 as a private house of merchant bankers, and in 1906 it became a limited liability company. It is controlled by Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., and Keswick family. It is the leading Far Eastern house in London, enjoying an enviable reputation for enterprise and long-established reliability.

In the United States of America the correspondents are Balfour, Guthrie & Co., Ltd., New York. This is a firm of the highest standing, the centre of a network of worldwide trading and manufacturing interests.

Throughout the world, in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe, there are correspondents. In Calcutta, the sister firm Jardine, Henderson, Ltd. (which for many years was styled Jardine, Skinner & Co.), still maintains the closest links.

These links reach back to the early days when Jardine and Matheson and the other pioneers were trading between Canton, Hong Kong, and India.

Today

The Jardine Matheson Group is still very much active in Hong Kong, being one of the largest conglomerates in Hong Kong and its largest private employer, second only to the government. Several landmarks in present day Hong Kong are named after the firm and the founders Jardine and Matheson like Jardine's Bazaar, Jardine's Crescent, Jardine's Bridge, Jardine's Lookout, Yee Wo Street, Matheson Street, Jardine House and the Noon-day Gun. Jardines is primarily active in Asia. [15]

It went through several major internal changes throughout the 19th and 20th century, in 1947 a Trust was formed by members of the family to permit the management of the company to participate in the financial growth of the company. Jardine, Matheson and Co. offered its shares to the public in 1961 under the tenure of taipan Sir Hugh Barton and was oversubscribed 56 times. The Keswick family, in consortium with several London-based banks and financial institutions, bought out the controlling shares of the Buchanan-Jardine family in 1959 but subsequently sold most of the shares during the 1961 public
offering, retaining only about 10% of the company.

The company redomiciled to Bermuda in 1984 under the tenure of taipan Simon Keswick so as to maintain its governance under a familiar British-based legal system. In the late 1980s, the corporate structure of the Jardine, Matheson Group, including all its allied companies, were restructured.

In late 1987, there was an attempted takeover of Hongkong Land, a real-estate company considered the jewel in the Jardines crown as its properties included some of the most prestigious office and commercial space in Hong Kong. The hostile bid which was ultimately unsuccessful had been led by a group of Hong Kong tycoons, including Li Ka-shing, working together with the mainland's state-owned China International Trust & Investment Corp. As a result, Jardine Matheson asked Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) for an exemption from the takeover and mergers code in 1994, in order to give the company greater security if Chinese parties attempted a hostile takeover of its listed companies after Hong Kong's 1997 handover from British to Chinese sovereignty. However, the SFC refused and so Jardine firm delisted from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (Hang Seng Index) in 1994 under the tenure of Alasdair Morrison and placed its primary listing in London.\[16\] Officials in the People's Republic of China (PRC) regarded the delisting as a rebuke to the future of Hong Kong and the government of PRC. This caused trouble when Jardine Matheson attempted to participate in the Container Terminal 9.

The present Chairman of Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. is Henry Keswick, the company's tai-pan from 1970 (aged 31) to 1975 and was the 6th Keswick to be tai-pan of the company. His brother, Simon, was the company's tai-pan from 1983 to 1988 and is the 7th Keswick to be tai-pan. Both brothers are the 4th generation of Keswicks in the company. The 5th generation of Keswicks are also active within the organisation, Ben Keswick, son of Simon, is in charge of Jardine, Cycle & Carriage in Singapore and Adam Keswick, son of Chips, is in charge of Jardine Pacific and Jardine Motors Group in Hong Kong. The organizational structure of Jardines has changed almost totally, but the members of the family of Dr. William Jardine still have significant influence in the firm.

Miscellaneous

- Jardines' history was the inspiration for a series of novels written by James Clavell, including Tai-Pan, Gai-Jin, and Noble House. The Noble House TV miniseries actually used Jardine as the headquarters of Struan's & Co, the fictional company depicted in Clavell's novels.
- Jardines installed the first elevator in China in Tianjin.
- Mail sent to Jardines requires no address—just the name is enough to ensure its delivery.
- Jardines' official website gives no mention of their opium trading exploits (on which the wealth of the company was built).
- Jardines' have a strict policy of not buying/investing in new companies as it is said to be against William Jardine's wishes.
- The Hongs

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William Jardine (1784–1843)

William Jardine (24 February 1784 – 27 February 1843) was a Scottish physician and merchant. He co-founded the Hong Kong conglomerate Jardine, Matheson and Company. From 1841 to 1843, he was Member of Parliament for Ashburton as a Whig.

Educated in medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Jardine obtained a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1802. In the same year, he became a surgeon's mate aboard the Brunswick of the East India Company, bound for India. Captured by the French and shipwrecked in 1805, he was repatriated and returned to the East India Company's service as ship's surgeon. In May 1817, he left medicine for commerce. [1]

Jardine was a resident in China from 1820 to 1839. His early success in Canton as a commercial agent for opium merchants in India led to his admission in 1825 as a partner of Magniac & Co., and by 1826 he was controlling that firm's Canton operations. James Matheson joined him shortly after, and Magniac & Co. was reconstituted as Jardine, Matheson & Co in 1832. After Imperial Commissioner Lin Zexu confiscated 20,000 cases of British-owned opium in 1839, Jardine arrived in London in September, and pressed Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston for a forceful response. [1]

Early life

Jardine was born in 1784, on a small farm near Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, one of five children. His father, Andrew Jardine, died when he was nine, leading the family to some economic difficulties. Though struggling to make ends meet, Jardine's older brother David provided him with money to attend school, also as a way help set up one of the family. Jardine started to acquire credentials at the very young age of sixteen, in 1800, when he entered the University of Edinburgh Medical School. He took classes in anatomy, medical practice, and obstetrics among others. While his schooling was in progress, Jardine was apprenticed to a surgeon who would provide housing, food, and the essential acquaintance with a hospital practice, with the money his older brother, David, provided for. He graduated from the Edinburgh Medical School on 2 March 1802, and was presented a full diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and chose to join the service of the British East India Company in 1802, at the age of 18, in the East India Merchantman "Brunswick". On 15 March, after satisfying the requirements, William Jardine, was paid two months advanced wages as a surgeon's mate in the East India Company's Maritime Marine Service, and was headed to sea. A good advantage with being in service with the East India Company was that employees were allowed to trade in goods for their own profit. Each employee was allowed cargo space equivalent to two chests or about a hundred pounds of cargo. Jardine engaged in this trade with exceptional dexterity, even cleverly leasing the apportioned cargo space of other crew members who did not have interest in using the space, and was able to save quite an amount of money.

The young William's first voyage was rather uneventful other than his first encounter with the economics of an Indiaman's journey to Asia. Jardine also met two men on his first voyage that would come to play a role in his future as a merchant. The first was Thomas Weeding, a fellow doctor, and surgeon of the Glatton, one of the other ships in the convoy. The second was a 26-year-old Charles Magniac who had just arrived in Guangzhou at the beginning of 1801.

On leaving the company in 1817, Jardine became an independent trader and entered into partnership with Thomas Weeding and Framjee Cowasjee. The firm did very well in the
In 1824, a very important opportunity arose for Jardine. The house of Magniac, the largest and most prominent of all China trading houses fell into disarray. Hollingworth Magniac, who succeeded Charles Magniac after the latter's death in Paris, was in search for competent partners to join his firm as he was intent on leaving Asia. He was also forced to have his brother, Daniel, resign from the firm after marrying his Chinese mistress. In later years, Jardine had helped Daniel by sending his young son Daniel Francis, his child by his Chinese wife, to Scotland for school. Hollingworth, after an extensive search for a senior partner, settled with Jardine, whose business reputation was already well known throughout Asia. Both Jardine and Magniac also invited James Matheson to join the firm. Magniac returned to England in late 1820s with the firm in the hands of two of the most talented traders in Asia. Contrary to the practice at the time of retiring partners removing their capital from the firm, Hollingworth left his capital with the firm in trust to Jardine and Matheson. The firm carried the name Magniac and Co. until 1832 as the name Magniac was still formidable throughout China and India. Hollingworth wrote about William Jardine:

“You will find Jardine a most conscientious, honourable, and kind-hearted fellow, extremely liberal and an excellent man of business in this market, where his knowledge and experience in the opium trade and in most articles of export is highly valuable. He requires to be known and to be properly appreciated.”

Jardine, Matheson and Co.

James Matheson joined Magniac & Co. from the firm Yrissari & Co where he was partner. After Francis Xavier de Yrissari's death, Matheson wound up the firm’s affairs and closed shop. Yrissari, leaving no heir, had willed all his shares in the firm to Matheson. This created the perfect opportunity for Matheson to join in commerce with Jardine. Matheson proved a perfect partner for Jardine. James Matheson and his nephew, Alexander Matheson, joined the firm Magniac and Co. in 1827, but their association was officially advertised on 1 January 1828. Jardine was known as the planner, the tough negotiator and strategist of the firm and Matheson was known as the organization man, who handled the firm's correspondence, and other complex articles including legal affairs. Matheson was known to be behind many of the company's innovative practices. And both men were a study in contrasts, Jardine being tall, lean and trim while Matheson was short and slightly portly. Matheson had the advantage of coming from a family with social and economic means, while Jardine came from a much more humble background. Jardine was tough, serious, detail-oriented and reserved while Matheson was creative, outspoken and jovial. Jardine was known to work long hours and was extremely business-minded, while Matheson enjoyed the arts and was very eloquent. William C. Hunter wrote about Jardine, “He was a gentleman of great strength of character and of unbounded generosity.” Hunter's description of Matheson was, “He was a gentleman of great suavity of manner and the impersonation of benevolence.” But there were similarities in both men. Jardine and Matheson were second sons, possibly explaining their drive and character. Both men were a study in contrasts, Jardine being tall, lean and trim while Matheson was short and slightly portly. Matheson had the advantage of coming from a family with social and economic means, while Jardine came from a much more humble background. Jardine was tough, serious, detail-oriented and reserved while Matheson was creative, outspoken and jovial. Jardine was known to work long hours and was extremely business-minded, while Matheson enjoyed the arts and was very eloquent. William C. Hunter wrote about Jardine, “He was a gentleman of great strength of character and of unbounded generosity.” Hunter's description of Matheson was, “He was a gentleman of great suavity of manner and the impersonation of benevolence.” But there were similarities in both men. Jardine and Matheson were second sons, possibly explaining their drive and character. Both men were hardworking, driven and single-minded in their pursuit of wealth.

And according to Richard Hughes, “...both men scrupulous in their personal and financial dealings.” Both men were well respected within the Foreign and local community both in India and in South China, having quietly helped so many people in financial distress. Though their charity was never belabored, it was well accepted that they were done with sincerity. Jardine's tough exterior and candid letters to agents masked his compassionate nature, never exacting punishment when due. An elderly and longtime Portuguese employee who worked as a bookkeeper and clerk for the firm, in his latter years with the firm, had frequently been committing serious errors in the firm's books and his mental capacity was deteriorating. Rather than dismiss the elderly employee, Jardine had allowed the man to retire in honor and in his usual generous character, set up a considerable retirement fund for the man and his family. Both men were also known to have continuously sent money home to less fortunate family members in Scotland and to have helped nephews by providing them work within the firm. Upon the death of his older brother, David, Jardine set up a fund for his brother's widow and arranged schooling for his four sons. In a letter to Hollingworth Magniac, Jardine wrote,

“My only Brother has a very large family, three or four of them Boys, and as he has not the means of providing for them all, in the way I wish to see them provided for, I am desirous of having one of them here, to commence in the office, and work his way, by industry and application to business.”
Lord Napier working with the Chief Superintendent of Trade representing the British Empire, nevertheless, Dr. William Jardine wanted the opium trade to expand in China. In 1834, Western traders were importing more opium into China than they were exporting teas and silk. The trade imbalance stemmed from the fact that the Chinese were consuming more opium than they were producing. This trade imbalance was due to the Qing government's increasing restrictions on the narcotic trade, which made it difficult for the traders to control the worsening outflow of silver. This trade imbalance stemmed from the fact that Western traders were importing more opium into China than they were exporting teas and silk.

Departure from China and breakdown of relations

In 1841, Jardines had 19 intercontinental clipper ships, compared to close rival Dent and Company with 13. Jardines also had hundreds of small ships, lorchas and small smuggling crafts for coastal and upriver smuggling. The trading concerns of Jardine's included smuggling opium into China from India, trading spices and sugar from the Philipines, importing Chinese tea and silk into England, handling cargo papers and cargo insurance, renting of dockyard facilities and warehouse space, trade financing and other numerous lines of business and trade. During the mid-1830s, trade with China was becoming more difficult due to the Qing government's increasing restrictions on the narcotic trade in part to control the worsening outflow of silver. This trade imbalance stemmed from the fact that Western traders were importing more opium into China than they were exporting teas and silk.

Nevertheless, Dr. William Jardine wanted the opium trade to expand in China. In 1834, working with the Chief Superintendent of Trade representing the British Empire, William, Lord Napier, tried unsuccessfully to negotiate with the Chinese officials in Canton. The
Jardine, who had good relations with Lord Napier, a Scottish peer, and his family, then took the initiative to use the debacle as an opportunity to convince the British government to use force to further open trade. In early 1835 he ordered James Matheson to leave for China to persuade the Government to take up strong action to further open up trade in China. Matheson accompanied Napier's widow to England using an eye-infection as an excuse to return home. Matheson in England then extensively travelled to meet with several parties, both for government and for trade, to gather support for a war with China. Though in some ways unsuccessful in his forays in England, he was brushed aside by the "Iron Duke" (Duke of Wellington), the then British Foreign Secretary, and reported bitterly to Jardine of being insulted by an arrogant and stupid man. But his activities and widespread lobbying in several forums including Parliament bore the seeds that would eventually lead to war in a few years. Matheson returned to China in 1836 to prepare to take over the firm as Jardine was preparing to fulfill his temporarily delayed retirement. Jardine left Canton on January 26, 1839 for Britain as retirement but in actuality to try to continue Matheson's work. The respect shown by other foreign opium traders to Jardine before his departure can be best illustrated in the following passage from a book by William C. Hunter.

“A few days before Mr. Jardine's departure from Canton, the entire foreign community entertained him at a dinner in the dining room of the East India Company's Factory. About eighty persons of all nationalities, including India, were present, and they did not separate until several hours after midnight. It was an event frequently referred to afterwards amongst the residents, and to this day there are a few of us who still speak of it.”

The farewell dinner to Jardine was held on January 22, 1839 with several members of the Foreign settlement in Canton mostly traders. Among the guests were the Forbes brothers of the prominent Forbes family and Warren Delano, a senior partner in the trading firm Russel & Co. and maternal grandfather of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The Qing government was pleased to hear of Jardine's departure, then proceeded to stop the opium trade. Lin Zexu, appointed specifically to suppress the drug trade in Guangzhou, stated, “The Iron-headed Old Rat, the sly and cunning ring-leader of the opium smugglers has left for The Land of Mist, of fear from the Middle Kingdom's wrath.” He then ordered the surrender of all opium and the destruction of more than 20,000 cases of opium in Guangzhou. He also ordered the arrest of opium trader Lancelot Dent, the head of Dent and Company (a rival company to Jardine Matheson) since the Chinese were more familiar with Jardine as the trading head and were quite unfamiliar with Matheson. Lin also wrote to Queen Victoria, to submit in obeisance in the presence of the Chinese Emperor.

War and the Chinese surrender

Once in London, Jardine's first order of business was to meet with Lord Palmerston. He carried with him a letter of introduction written by Superintendent Elliot that relayed a few of his credentials to Palmerston,

“This gentleman has for several years stood at the head of our commercial community and he carries with him the esteem and kind wishes of the whole foreign society, honourably acquired by a long career of private charity and public spirit.”

In 1839, Jardine successfully persuaded the British Foreign Minister, Lord Palmerston, to wage war on China, giving a full detailed plan for war, detailed strategic maps, battle strategies, the indemnifications and political demands from China and even the number of troops and warships needed. Aided by Matheson's nephew, Alexander Matheson (1805–1881) and MP John Abel Smith, Jardine met several times with Palmerston to argue the necessity for a war plan. This plan was known as the Jardine Paper. In the ‘Jardine Paper’, Jardine emphasized several points to Palmerston in several meetings and they are as follows: There was to be complete compensation for the 20,000 chests of opium that Lin had confiscated, the conclusion of a viable commercial treaty that would prevent any further hostilities, and the opening of further ports of trade such as Fuzhou, Ningbo, Shanghai, and Keesoon-chow. It was also suggested by Jardine that should the need arise to occupy an island or harbor in the vicinity of Guangzhou. Hong Kong would be perfect because it provided an extensive and protected anchorage. As early as the mid-1830s, the island of Hong Kong had already been used for transhipment points by Jardine Matheson and other firms’ ships. Jardine clearly stated what he thought would be a sufficient naval and military force to complete the objectives he had outlined. He also provided maps and charts of the area. In a well calculated recommendation letter to Parliament, creating a precedent now infamously known as ‘Gunboat Diplomacy’, Jardine states:
The taipan, Dr. William Jardine died on 27 February 1843, just three days after his 59th birthday, one of the richest and most powerful men in Britain and a respected Member of Parliament. Jardine's funeral was attended by a very large gathering of family, friends, government and business personalities, many of whom Jardine had helped in his lifetime.

The taipan, Dr. William Jardine died on 27 February 1843, just three days after his 59th birthday, one of the richest and most powerful men in Britain and a respected Member of Parliament. Jardine's funeral was attended by a very large gathering of family, friends, government and business personalities, many of whom Jardine had helped in his lifetime.
Jardine, a bachelor, willed his estate to his siblings and his nephews. An older nephew, Andrew Johnstone, administered Jardine’s issue. His other nephews David, Joseph, Robert and Andrew Jardine, all sons of Jardine’s older brother David, continued to assist James Matheson in running Jardines. Matheson retired as taipan in 1842 and handed over control of the firm to his nephew Sir Alexander Matheson, who was also known as of the same capacity and competence as the elder Jardine and Matheson. David Jardine, another nephew of Jardine, became taipan after Sir Alexander Matheson. David in turn would hand over to his brother Sir Robert control of the firm. Joseph succeeded Robert as taipan. Succeeding Joseph was Alexander Percival, a relative of Sir James Matheson’s wife. Succeeding Alexander Percival is James Whittall who is related neither to the Jardine or Matheson families. No other member of the Matheson family became active in the firm after Percival, though another nephew, Donald Matheson, served as director. Sir Robert Jardine (1825–1905) is the ancestor of the Buchanan-Jardine branch of the family. A descendant of Sir Robert, Sir John Buchanan-Jardine, sold his family’s 51% holding in Jardine, Matheson and Co. for $84 million at the then prevailing exchange rate in 1959. A great-nephew of Jardine who would be taipan from 1874 to 1886, William Keswick (1834–1912), is the ancestor of the Keswick branch (pronounced Ke-zick) of the family. Keswick is a grandson of Jardine’s older sister, Jean Johnstone. Keswick was responsible for opening the Japan office of the firm in 1859 and also expanding the Shanghai office. James Matheson returned to England to fill up the Parliament seat left vacant by Jardine and to head up the firm Matheson & Co., previously known as Magniac, Jardine & Co., in London, a merchant bank and Jardines’ agent in England. In 1912, Jardine, Matheson & Co. and the Keswicks would eventually buy out the shares of the Matheson family in the firm although the name is still retained. The company was managed by several family members of William Jardine and their descendants throughout the decades, including the Keswicks, Buchanan-Jardines, Landales, Bell-Irvings, Patersons, Newbiggings and Weatheralls.

An arrangement was made that the management setup of the firm was that a senior partner or proprietor was based in London who had power to appoint senior managers in the firm but had little operational control while a managing director or ‘Tai-pan’ was stationed in the Far East, either in Shanghai or Hong Kong, who dealt with everyday affairs of the firm. This arrangement had been in practice since the early years of the firm up to the present.

Notable Jardines Managing Directors or Tai-pans included Sir Alexander Matheson, David Jardine, Robert Jardine, William Keswick, James Johnstone Keswick, Ben Beith, David Landale, Sir John Buchanan-Jardine, Sir William Johnstone “Tony” Keswick, Sir Hugh Barton, Sir Michael Herries, Sir John Keswick, Sir Henry Keswick, Simon Keswick and Alasdair Morrison. There was a point in time in the early 20th century that the firm had two ‘Tai-pans’ at the same time, one in Hong Kong and one in Shanghai, to effectively manage the firm’s extensive affairs in both locations. Both tai-pans were responsible only to the senior partner or proprietor in London who was normally a retired former tai-pan and an elder member of the Jardine family.

Today, the Jardine Matheson Group is still very much active in Hong Kong, being one of the largest conglomerates in Hong Kong and its largest employer, second only to the government. Several landmarks in present day Hong Kong are named after the firm and the founders Jardine and Matheson like Jardine’s Bazaar, Jardine’s Crescent, Jardine’s Bridge, Jardine’s Lookout, Yee Wo Street, Matheson Street, Jardine House and the Noon Day Gun. Jardines is also active in China, North America, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and parts of Africa. It went through several major internal changes throughout the 19th and 20th century. In 1947, a secret Trust was formed by members of the family to retain effective control over the company. Jardine, Matheson and Co. offered its shares to the public in 1961 under the tenure of Sir Hugh Barton and was oversubscribed 56 times. The Keswick family, in consortium with several London-based banks and financial institutions, bought out the controlling shares of the Buchanan-Jardine family in 1959, but subsequently sold most of the shares during the 1961 public offering, retaining only about 10% of the company. The company had its head office redomiciled to Bermuda in 1984 under the tenure of Simon Keswick to maintain control after nearly being taken over by Chinese tycoon Li Ka-shing of Cheung Kong after a hostile raid in 1980. Li, who bought nearly 20% of the company at that time the largest shareholding in the company, agreed to sell his shares to Hongkong Land, a sister company of Jardines, at a premium. Another reason for the move was fear of the Chinese take-over of Hong Kong and the threat of Chinese retaliation for Jardines drug smuggling past. Subsequent events led to the cross-shareholding structure between Jardine, Matheson & Co. and Hongkong Land which was first instigated in 1980 by then taipan David Newbigging. In 1988, instigated by Brian Powers, the first American taipan of Jardines, the entire corporate structure of Jardine, Matheson & Co., including all its allied companies, were restructured so that a holding company based in London and controlled by the Keswick family would have overall policy and strategic control of all Jardine Matheson Group companies. The firm delisted from the
Hong Kong Stock exchange (Hang Seng Index) in 1994 under the tenure of Alasdair Morrison and placed its primary listing in London and its secondary listing in Singapore. The present Chairman of Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. is Sir Henry Keswick, who is based in the UK, was the company's tai-pan from 1970 (aged 31) to 1975 and was the 6th Keswick to be tai-pan of the company. His brother, Simon, was the company's taipan from 1983 to 1988 and is the 7th Keswick to be tai-pan. Both brothers are the 4th generation of Keswicks in the company. The firm’s present managing director or tai-pan is Anthony Nightingale who is based in Hong Kong. The organizational structure of Jardines has changed almost totally, but the members of the family of Dr. William Jardine still control the firm through a complex cross-shareholding structure, several allied shareholders and a secretive 1947 Trust.

Notes


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“Then there is electricity!–the demon, the angel, the mighty physical power, the all-pervading intelligence!” exclaimed Clifford. “Is that a humbug, too? Is it a fact–or have I dreamt it–that, by means of electricity, the world of matter has become a great nerve, vibrating thousands of miles in a breathless point of time? Rather, the round globe is a vast head, a brain, instinct with intelligence! Or, shall we say, it is itself a thought, nothing but thought, and no longer the substance which we deemed it!”

“If you mean the telegraph,” said the old gentleman, glancing his eye toward its wire, alongside the rail-track, “it is an excellent thing;–that is, of course, if the speculators in cotton and politics don't get possession of it. A great thing, indeed, sir; particularly as regards the detection of bank-robbers and murderers.”

SUMMER AS IT WAS, the east wind set poor Hepzibah's few remaining teeth chattering in her head, as she and Clifford faced it, on their way up Pyncheon-street, and towards the centre of the town. Not merely was it the shiver which this pitiless blast brought to her frame (although her feet and hands, especially, had never seemed so death-a-cold as now), but there was a moral sensation, mingling itself with the physical chill, and causing her to shake more in spirit than in body. The world's broad, bleak atmosphere was all so comfortless! Such, indeed, is the impression which it makes on every new adventurer, even if he plunge into it while the warmest tide of life is bubbling through his veins. What, then, must it have been to Hepzibah and Clifford,–so time-stricken as they were, yet so like children in their inexperience,–as they left the door-step, and passed from beneath the wide shelter of the Pyncheon-elm! They were wandering all abroad, on precisely such a pilgrimage as a child often meditates, to the world's end, with perhaps a sixpence and a biscuit in his pocket. In Hepzibah's mind, there was the wretched consciousness of being adrift. She had lost the faculty of self-guidance; but, in view of the difficulties around her, felt it hardly worth an effort to regain it, and was, moreover, incapable of making one.

As they proceeded on their strange expedition, she now and then cast a look sidelong at Clifford, and could not but observe that he was possessed and swayed by a powerful excitement. It was this, indeed, that gave him the control which he had at once, and so irresistibly, established over his movements. It not a little resembled the exhilaration of wine. Or, it might more fancifully be compared to a joyous piece of music, played with wild vivacity, but upon a disordered instrument. As the cracked jarring note might always be heard, and as it jarred loudest amid the loftiest exultation of the melody, so was there a continual quake through Clifford, causing him most to quiver while he wore a triumphant smile, and seemed almost under a necessity to skip in his gait.

They met few people abroad, even on passing from the retired neighborhood of the House of the Seven Gables into what was ordinarily the more thronged and busier portion of the town. Glistening sidewalks, with little pools of rain, here and there, along their unequal surface; umbrellas displayed ostentatiously in the shop-windows, as if the life of trade had concentrated itself in that one article; wet leaves of the horse-chestnut or elm trees, torn off untimely by the blast, and scattered along the public way; an unsightly accumulation of mud in the middle of the street, which perversely grew the more unclean for its long and laborious washing;–these were the more definable points of a very sombre picture. In the way of movement, and human life, there was the hasty rattle of a cab or coach, its driver protected by a water-proof cap over his head and shoulders; the forlorn figure of an old
man, who seemed to have crept out of some subterranean sewer, and was stooping along
the kennel, and poking the wet rubbish with a stick, in quest of rusty nails; a merchant or
two, at the door of the post-office, together with an editor, and a miscellaneous politician,
awaiting a dilatory mail; a few visages of retired sea-captains at the window of an insurance
office, looking out vacantly at the vacant street, blaspheming at the weather, and fretting
at the dearth as well of public news as local gossip. What a treasure-trove to these venerable
quidnuncs, could they have guessed the secret which Hepzibah and Clifford were carrying
along with them! But their two figures attracted hardly so much notice as that of a young
girl, who passed at the same instant, and happened to raise her skirt a trifle too high above
her ankles. Had it been a sunny and cheerful day, they could hardly have gone through the
streets without making themselves obnoxious to remark. Now, probably, they were felt to
be in keeping with the dismal and bitter weather, and therefore did not stand out in strong
relief, as if the sun were shining on them, but melted into the gray gloom, and were
forgotten as soon as gone.

Poor Hepzibah! Could she have understood this fact, it would have brought her some little
comfort; for, to all her other troubles--strange to say!--there was added the womanish and
old-maiden-like misery arising from a sense of unseemliness in her attire. Thus, she was
fain to shrink deeper into herself, as it were, as if in the hope of making people suppose that
here was only a cloak and hood, threadbare and wofully faded, taking an airing in the midst
of the storm, without any wearer!

As they went on, the feeling of indistinctness and unreality kept dimly hovering round
about her, and so diffusing itself into her system that one of her hands was hardly palpable
to the touch of the other. Any certainty would have been preferable to this. She whispered to
herself, again and again,--"Am I awake?--Am I awake?"--and sometimes exposed her face to
the chill spatter of the wind, for the sake of its rude assurance that she was. Whether it was
Clifford's purpose, or only chance, had led them thither, they now found themselves
passing beneath the arched entrance of a large structure of gray stone. Within, there was a
spacious breadth, and an airy height from floor to roof, now partially filled with smoke and
steam, which eddied voluminously upward, and formed a mimic cloud-region over their
heads. A train of cars was a steed impatient for a headlong rush; and the bell rang out its
hasty peal, so well expressing the brief summons which life vouchsafes to us, in its hurried
career. Without question or delay,--with the irresistible decision, if not rather to be called
recklessness, which had so strangely taken possession of him, and through him of
Hepzibah,--Clifford impelled her towards the cars, and assisted her to enter. The signal was
given; the engine puffed forth its short, quick breaths; the train began its movement; and,
along with a hundred other passengers, these two unwonted travellers sped onward like the
wind.

At last, therefore, and after so long estrangement from everything that the world acted or
enjoyed, they had been drawn into the great current of human life and were swept away
with it, as by the suction of fate itself.

Still haunted with the idea that not one of the past incidents, inclusive of Judge Pyncheon's
visit, could be real, the recluse of the seven gables murmured in her brother's ear,--

"Clifford! Clifford! Is not this a dream?"

"A dream, Hepzibah!" repeated he, almost laughing in her face. "On the contrary, I have
never been awake before!"

Meanwhile, looking from the window, they could see the world racing past them. At one
moment, they were rattling through a solitude; the next, a village had grown up around
them; a few breaths more, and it had vanished, as if swallowed by an earthquake. The
spires of meeting-houses seemed set adrift from their foundations; the broad-based hills
glided away. Everything was unfixed from its age-long rest, and moving at whirlwind speed
in a direction opposite to their own.

Within the car, there was the usual interior life of the railroad, offering little to the
observation of other passengers, but full of novelty for this pair of strangely enfranchised
prisoners. It was novelty enough, indeed, that there were fifty human beings in close
relation with them, under one long and narrow roof, and drawn onward by the same
mighty influence that had taken their two selves into its grasp. It seemed marvellous how
all these people could remain so quietly in their seats, while so much noisy strength was at
work in their behalf. Some, with tickets in their hats (long travellers these, before whom lay
a hundred miles of railroad), had plunged into the English scenery and adventures of
pamphlet novels, and were keeping company with dukes and earls. Others, whose briefer
span forbade their devoting themselves to studies so abstruse, beguiled the little tedium of
the way with penny papers. A party of girls, and one young man, on opposite sides of the
car, found huge amusement in a game of ball. They tossed it to and fro, with peals of
laughter that might be measured by mile-lengths; for, faster than the nimble ball could fly,
the merry players fled unconsciously along, leaving the trail of their mirth afar behind, and ending their game under another sky than had witnessed its commencement. Boys, with apples, cakes, candy, and rolls of variously tinctured lozenges,—merchandise that reminded Hepzibah of her deserted shop,—appeared at each momentary stopping-place, doing up their business in a hurry, or breaking it short off, lest the market should ravish them away with it. New people continually entered. Old acquaintances—for such they soon grew to be, in this rapid current of affairs—continually departed. Here and there, amid the rumble and the tumult, sat one asleep. Sleep; sport; business; graver or lighter study; and the common and inevitable movement onward! It was life itself!

Clifford's naturally poignant sympathies were all aroused. He caught the color of what was passing about him, and threw it back more vividly than he received it, but mixed, nevertheless, with a lurid and portentous hue. Hepzibah, on the other hand, felt herself more apart from humankind than even in the seclusion which she had just quitted.

"You are not happy, Hepzibah!" said Clifford, apart, in a tone of reproach. "You are thinking of that dismal old house, and of Cousin Jaffrey,—here came the quake through him,—"and of Cousin Jaffrey sitting there, all by himself! Take my advice,—follow my example,—and let such things slip aside. Here we are, in the world, Hepzibah!—in the midst of life!—in the throng of our fellow-beings! Let you and I be happy! As happy as that youth, and those pretty girls, at their game of ball!"

"Happy!" thought Hepzibah, bitterly conscious, at the word, of her dull and heavy heart, with the frozen pain in it. "Happy! He is mad already; and, if I could once feel myself broad awake, I should go mad too!"

If a fixed idea be madness, she was perhaps not remote from it. Fast and far as they had rattled and clattered along the iron track, they might just as well, as regarded Hepzibah's mental images, have been passing up and down Pyncheon-street. With miles and miles of varied scenery between, there was no scene for her, save the seven old gable-peaks, with their moss, and the tuft of weeds in one of the angles, and the shop-window, and a customer shaking the door, and compelling the little bell to jingle fiercely, but without disturbing Judge Pyncheon! This one old house was everywhere! It transported its great, lumbering bulk, with more than railroad speed, and set itself phlegmatically down on whatever spot she glanced at. The quality of Hepzibah's mind was too unmalleable to take new impressions so readily as Clifford's. He had a winged nature; she was rather of the vegetable kind, and could hardly be kept long alive, if drawn up by the roots. Thus it happened that the relation heretofore existing between her brother and herself was changed. At home, she was his guardian; here, Clifford had become hers, and seemed to comprehend whatever belonged to their new position with a singular rapidity of intelligence. He had been startled into manhood and intellectual vigor; or, at least, into a condition that resembled them, though it might be both diseased and transitory.

The conductor now applied for their tickets; and Clifford, who had made himself the purse-bearer, put a bank-note into his hand, as he had observed others do.

"For the lady and yourself?" asked the conductor. "And how far?"

"As far as that will carry us," said Clifford. "It is no great matter. We are riding for pleasure, merely!"

"You choose a strange day for it, sir!" remarked a gimlet-eyed old gentleman, on the other side of the car, looking at Clifford and his companion, as if curious to make them out. "The best chance of pleasure, in an easterly rain, I take it, is in a man's own parlor and chimney-corner."

"In the name of common sense," asked the old gentleman, rather testily, "what can be better for a man than his own parlor and chimney-corner?"

"These things have not the merit which many good people attribute to them," replied Clifford. "They may be said, in few and pithy words, to have ill-served a poor purpose. My impression is, that our wonderfully increased and still increasing facilities of locomotion are destined to bring us round again to the nomadic state. You are aware, my dear sir,—you must have observed it, in your own experience,—that all human progress is in a circle; or, to use a more accurate and beautiful figure, in an ascending spiral curve. While we fancy ourselves going straight forward, and attaining, at every step, an entirely new position of
affairs, we do actually return to something long ago tried and abandoned, but which we now find etherealized, refined, and perfected to its ideal. The past is but a coarse and sensual prophecy of the present and the future. To apply this truth to the topic now under discussion.–In the early epochs of our race, men dwelt in temporary huts, of bowers of branches, as easily constructed as a bird’s nest, and which they built,—if it should be called building, when such sweet homes of a summer solstice rather grew than were made with hands,—which Nature, we will say, assisted them to rear, where fruit abounded, where fish and game were plentiful, or, most especially, where the sense of beauty was to be gratified by a lovelier shade than elsewhere, and a more exquisite arrangement of lake, wood, and hill. This life possessed a charm, which, ever since man quitted it, has vanished from existence. And it typified something better than itself. It had its drawbacks; such as hunger and thirst, inclement weather, hot sunshine, and weary and foot-blistering marches over barren and ugly tracts, that lay between the sites desirable for their fertility and beauty. But, in our ascending spiral, we escape all this. These railroads—could but the whistle be made musical, and the rumble and the jar got rid of—are positively the greatest blessing that the ages have wrought out for us. They give us wings; they annihilate the toil and dust of pilgrimage; they spiritualize travel! Transition being so facile, what can be any man’s inducement to tarry in one spot? Why, therefore, should he build a more cumbrous habitation than can readily be carried off with him? Why should he make himself a prisoner for life in brick, and stone, and old worm-eaten timber, when he may just as easily dwell, in one sense, nowhere,—in a better sense, wherever the fit and beautiful shall offer him a home?

Clifford’s countenance glowed as he divulged this theory; a youthful character shone out from within, converting the wrinkles and pallid duskiness of age into an almost transparent mask. The merry girls let their ball drop upon the floor, and gazed at him. They said to themselves, perhaps, that, before his hair was gray and the crow’s feet tracked his temples, this now decaying man must have stamped the impress of his features on many a woman’s heart. But, alas! no woman’s eye had seen his face while it was beautiful!

“I should scarcely call it an improved state of things,” observed Clifford’s new acquaintance, “to live everywhere and nowhere!”

“Would you not?” exclaimed Clifford, with singular energy. “It is as clear to me as sunshine,—were there any in the sky,—that the greatest possible stumbling-blocks in the path of human happiness and improvement are these heaps of bricks and stones, consolidated with mortar, or hewn timber, fastened together with spike-nails, which men painfully contrive for their own torment, and call them house and home! The soul needs air; a wide sweep and frequent change of it. Morbid influences, in a thousand-fold variety, gather about hearths, and pollute the life of households. There is no such unwholesome atmosphere as that of an old home, rendered poisonous by one’s defunct forefathers and relatives. I speak of what I know. There is a certain house within my familiar recollection,—one of those peaked-gable (there are seven of them) projecting-storied edifices, such as you occasionally see, in our elder towns,—a rusty, crazy, creaky, dry-rotted, damp-rotted, dingy, dark, and miserable old dungeon, with an arched window over the porch, and a little shop-door on one side, and a great, melancholy elm before it! Now, sir, whenever my thoughts recur to this seven-gabled mansion—(the fact is so very curious that I must needs mention it)—immediately I have a vision or image of an elderly man, of remarkably stern countenance, sitting in an oaken elbow-chair, dead, stone-dead, with an ugly flow of blood upon his shirt-bosom! Dead, but with open eyes! He taints the whole house, as I remember it. I could never flourish there, nor be happy, nor do nor enjoy what God meant me to do and enjoy!”

His face darkened, and seemed to contract, and shrivel itself up, and wither into age.

“Never, sir!” repeated. “I could never draw cheerful breath there!”

“I should think not,” said the old gentleman, eyeing Clifford earnestly, and rather apprehensively. “I should conceive not, sir, with that notion in your head!”

“Surely not,” continued Clifford; and it were a relief to me if that house could be torn down, or burnt up, and so the earth be rid of it, and grass be sown abundantly over its foundation. Not that I should ever visit its site again! For, sir, the further I get away from it, the more does the joy, the lightsome freshness, the heart-leap, the intellectual dance, the youth, in short,—yes, my youth, my youth!—the more does it come back to me. No longer ago than this morning, I was old. I remember looking in the glass, and wondering at my own gray hair, and the wrinkles, many and deep, right across my brow, and the furrows down my cheeks, and the prodigious trampling of crow’s feet about my temples! It was too soon! I could not bear it! Age had no right to come! I had not lived! But now do I look old? If so, my aspect belies me strangely; for—a great weight being off my mind—I feel in the very hey-day of my youth, with the world and my best days before me!”
“I trust you may find it so,” said the old gentleman, who seemed rather embarrassed, and desirous of avoiding the observation which Clifford’s wild talk drew on them both. “You have my best wishes for it.”

“For Heaven’s sake, dear Clifford, be quiet!” whispered his sister. “They think you mad.”

“Be quiet yourself, Hepzibah!” returned her brother. “No matter what they think! I am not mad. For the first time in thirty years, my thoughts gush up and find words ready for them. I must talk, and I will!”

He turned again towards the old gentleman, and renewed the conversation.

“Yes, my dear sir,” said he, “it is my firm belief and hope, that these terms of roof and hearth-stone, which have so long been held to embody something sacred, are soon to pass out of men’s daily use, and be forgotten. Just imagine, for a moment, how much of human evil will crumble away, with this one change! What we call real estate—the solid ground to build a house on—is the broad foundation on which nearly all the guilt of this world rests. A man will commit almost any wrong,—he will heap up an immense pile of wickedness, as hard as granite, and which will weigh as heavily upon his soul, to eternal ages,—only to build a great, gloomy, dark-chambered mansion, for himself to die in, and for his posterity to be miserable in. He lays his own dead corpse beneath the underpinning, as one may say, and hangs his frowning picture on the wall, and, after thus converting himself into an evil destiny, expects his remotest great-grandchildren to be happy there! I do not speak wildly. I have just such a house in my mind’s eye!”

“Then, sir,” said the old gentleman, getting anxious to drop the subject, “you are not to blame for leaving it.”

“Within the lifetime of the child already born,” Clifford went on, “all this will be done away. The world is growing too ethereal and spiritual to bear these enormities a great while longer. To me,—though, for a considerable period of time, I have lived chiefly in retirement, and know less of such things than most men,—even to me, the harbingers of a better era are unmistakable. Mesmerism, now! Will that effect nothing, think you, towards purging away the grossness out of human life?”

“All a humbug!” growled the old gentleman.

“These rapping spirits, that little Phoebe told us of, the other day,” said Clifford,—“what are these but the messengers of the spiritual world, knocking at the door of substance? And it shall be flung wide open!”

“A humbug, again!” cried the old gentleman, growing more and more testy at these glimpses of Clifford’s metaphysics. “I should like to rap with a good stick on the empty pates of the dolts who circulate such nonsense!”

“Then there is electricity!—the demon, the angel, the mighty physical power, the all-pervading intelligence!” exclaimed Clifford. “Is that a humbug, too? Is it a fact—or have I dreamt it—that, by means of electricity, the world of matter has become a great nerve, vibrating thousands of miles in a breathless point of time? Rather, the round globe is a vast head, a brain, instinct with intelligence! Or, shall we say, it is itself a thought, nothing but thought, and no longer the substance which we deemed it!”

“If you mean the telegraph,” said the old gentleman, glancing his eye toward its wire, alongside the rail-track, “it is an excellent thing;—that is, of course, if the speculators in cotton and politics don’t get possession of it. A great thing, indeed, sir; particularly as regards the detection of bank-robbers and murderers.”

“I don’t quite like it, in that point of view,” replied Clifford. “A bank-robber, and what you call a murderer, likewise, has his rights, which men of enlightened humanity and conscience should regard in so much the more liberal spirit, because the bulk of society is prone to controvert their existence. An almost spiritual medium, like the electric telegraph, should be consecrated to high, deep, joyful, and holy missions. Lovers, day by day,—hour by hour if so often moved to do it,—might send their heart-throbs from Maine to Florida, with some such words as these,—‘I love you for ever!—My heart runs over with love!’—‘I love you more than I can!’—and, again, at the next message,—‘I have lived an hour longer, and love you twice as much!’ Or, when a good man has departed, his distant friend should be conscious of an electric thrill, as from the world of happy spirits, telling him,—‘Your dear friend is in bliss!’ Or, to an absent husband, should come tidings thus,—‘An immortal being, of whom you are the father, has this moment come from God!’—and immediately its little voice would seem to have reached so far, and to be echoing in his heart. But for these poor rogues, the bank-robbers,—who, after all, are about as honest as nine people in ten, except that they disregard certain formalities, and prefer to transact business at midnight, rather than ‘Change-hours,—and for these murderers, as you phrase it, who are often excusable in
the motives of their deed, and deserve to be ranked among public benefactors, if we
consider only its result,—for unfortunate individuals like these, I really cannot applaud the
enlistment of an immaterial and miraculous power in the universal world-hunt at their
heels!"

“You can't, hey?” cried the old gentleman, with a hard look.

“Positively, no!” answered Clifford. “It puts them too miserably at disadvantage. For
example, sir, in a dark, low, cross-beamed, panelled room of an old house, let us suppose a
dead man, sitting in an armchair, with a blood-stain on his shirt-bosom,—and let us add to
our hypothesis another man, issuing from the house, which he feels to be over-filled with
the dead man's presence,—and let us lastly imagine him fleeing, Heaven knows whither, at
the speed of a hurricane, by railroad! Now, sir, if the fugitive alight in some distant town,
and find all the people babbling about that self-same dead man, whom he has fled so far to
avoid the sight and thought of, will you not allow that his natural rights have been
infringed? He has been deprived of his city of refuge, and, in my humble opinion, has
suffered infinite wrong!"

“You are a strange man, sir!” said the old gentleman, bringing his gimlet-eye to a point on
Clifford, as if determined to bore right into him. “I can't see through you!”

“No, I'll be bound you can’t!” cried Clifford, laughing. “And yet, my dear sir, I am as
transparent as the water of Maule's well! But come, Hepzibah! We have flown far enough
for once. Let us alight, as the birds do, and perch ourselves on the nearest twig, and consult
whither we shall fly next!”

Just then, as it happened, the train reached a solitary way-station. Taking advantage of the
brief pause, Clifford left the car, and drew Hepzibah along with him. A moment afterwards,
the train—with all the life of its interior, amid which Clifford had made himself so
conspicuous an object—was gliding away in the distance, and rapidly lessening to a point,
which, in another moment, vanished. The world had fled away from these two wanderers.
They gazed drearily about them. At a little distance stood a wooden church, black with age,
and in a dismal state of ruin and decay, with broken windows, a great rift through the main
body of the edifice, and a rafter dangling from the top of the square tower. Further off was a
farmhouse, in the old style, as venerably black as the church, with a roof sloping downward
from the three-story peak, to within a man's height of the ground. It seemed uninhabited.
There were the relics of a woodpile, indeed, near the door, but with grass sprouting up
among the chips and scattered logs. The small raindrops came down aslant; the wind was
not turbulent, but sullen, and full of chilly moisture.

Clifford shivered from head to foot. The wild effervescence of his mood—which had so
readily supplied thoughts, fantasies, and a strange aptitude of words, and impelled him to
talk from the mere necessity of giving vent to this bubbling-up gush of ideas—had entirely
subsided. A powerful excitement had given him energy and vivacity. Its operation over, he
forthwith began to sink.

“You must take the lead now, Hepzibah!” murmured he, with a torpid and reluctant
utterance. “Do with me as you will!”

She knelt down upon the platform where they were standing, and lifted her clasped hands
to the sky. The dull, gray weight of clouds made it invisible; but it was no hour for
disbelief; no juncture this, to question that there was a sky above, and an Almighty Father
looking down from it!

“O God!”—ejaculated poor, gaunt Hepzibah,—then paused a moment, to consider what her
prayer should be,—“O God,—our Father,—are we not thy children? Have mercy on us!”
The UK government is "going for growth", ignoring sage advice that growth, like happiness, is best achieved by concentrating on more specific goals (advice given by no less a sage than John Stuart Mill). But then David Cameron, the prime minister, has also asked the Office of National Statistics to investigate the possibility of a "gross national happiness" index - following the lead of the Himalayan state of Bhutan. All of which puts me in mind of Karl Marx's saying that history repeats itself, first as tragedy and then as farce.
DANISH CINEMA: LARS VON TRIER AND THE “DOGME” RULES
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In the special features that accompany the 1991 film DVD “Europa” by Lar Von Trier, from Denmark, he makes reference to the “Dogme” Rules.

**Lars Von Trier: Dogme 95**

**Dogme 95**

- **Years active**: 1995–2005
- **Country**: International, started in Denmark
- **Major figures**: Lars von Trier, Thomas Vinterberg, Kristian Levring, Søren Kragh-Jacobsen, Jean-Marc Barr
- **Influences**: Realism, French New Wave
- **Influenced**: Mumblecore, New Puritans

Dogme 95 is an avant-garde filmmaking movement started in 1995 by the Danish directors Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg, who created the “Dogme 95 Manifesto” and the “Vow of Chastity”.

These were rules to create filmmaking based on the traditional values of story, acting and theme, and excluding the use of elaborate special effects or technology. They were later joined by fellow Danish directors Kristian Levring and Søren Kragh-Jacobsen, forming the Dogme 95 Collective or the Dogme Brethren.

Dogme is the Danish word for dogma.

The genre gained international appeal partly because of its accessibility. It sparked an interest in unknown filmmakers by suggesting that one can make a recognised film of a quality to gain recognition, without being dependent on commissions or huge Hollywood
Budgets. The directors used European government subsidies and television station funding instead. The movement has been criticized for being an attempt to gain media attention. Others hold that Dogme was initiated to cause a stir and to make filmmakers and audiences re-think the art, effect and essence of filmmaking.

History

The friends Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg wrote and co-signed the manifesto and its companion “vows”. Vinterberg said that they wrote the pieces in 45 minutes. The manifesto initially mimics the wording of François Truffaut’s 1954 essay “Une certaine tendance du cinéma français” in Cahiers du cinéma.

They announced the Dogme movement on March 22, 1995 in Paris, at Le cinéma vers son deuxième siècle conference. The cinema world had gathered to celebrate the first century of motion pictures and contemplate the uncertain future of commercial cinema. Called upon to speak about the future of film, Lars von Trier showered a bemused audience with red pamphlets announcing “Dogme 95”.

In response to criticism, Von Trier and Vinterberg have both stated that they just wanted to establish a new extreme: “In a business of extremely high budgets, we figured we should balance the dynamic as much as possible.”

The first of the Dogme films (Dogme #1) was Vinterberg’s 1998 film Festen (The Celebration). It was critically acclaimed and won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival that year. Lars von Trier’s Dogme film, Idioterne (The Idiots), also premiered at Cannes that year but was less successful. Since the two films were released, other directors have made films based on Dogme principles. French-American actor and director Jean-Marc Barr was the first non-Dane to direct a Dogme film: Lovers (1999) (Dogme #5). The American Harmony Korine’s movie Julien Donkey-Boy (Dogme #6) also was considered a Dogme film.

Het Zuiden (South) (2004), directed by Martin Koolhoven, included thanks to “Dogme 95”. Koolhoven originally planned to shoot it as a Dogme film, and it was co-produced by von Trier’s Zentropa. The director decided he did not want to be so severely constrained as by Dogme principles.

Goals and rules

The goal of the Dogme collective is to purify filmmaking by refusing expensive and spectacular special effects, post-production modifications and other technical gimmicks. The filmmakers concentrate on the story and the actors’ performances. They believe this approach may better engage the audience, as they are not alienated or distracted by overproduction. To this end, Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg produced ten rules to which any Dogme film must conform. These rules, referred to as the “Vow of Chastity,” are as follows:

1. Filming must be done on location. Props and sets must not be brought in. If a particular prop is necessary for the story, a location must be chosen where this prop is to be found.
2. The sound must never be produced apart from the images or vice versa. Music must not be used unless it occurs within the scene being filmed, i.e., diegetic.
3. The camera must be a hand-held camera. Any movement or immobility attainable in the hand is permitted. The film must not take place where the camera is standing; filming must take place where the action takes place.
4. The film must be in colour. Special lighting is not acceptable (if there is too little light for exposure the scene must be cut or a single lamp be attached to the camera).
5. Optical work and filters are forbidden.
6. The film must not contain superficial action (murders, weapons, etc. must not occur.)
7. Temporal and geographical alienation are forbidden (that is to say that the film takes place here and now).
8. Genre movies are not acceptable.
9. The film format must be Academy 35 mm.
10. The director must not be credited.

Uses and abuses

The above rules have been both circumvented and broken from the first Dogme film to be produced. For instance, Vinterberg “confessed” to having covered a window during the
shooting of one scene in *The Celebration* (*Festen*). With this, he both brought a prop onto the set and used “special lighting.” Von Trier used background music (*Le Cygne* by Camille Saint-Saëns) in the film *The Idiots* (*Idioterne*). Since 2002 and the 31st film, a filmmaker no longer needs to have his work verified by the original board to identify it as a Dogme 95 work. The founding “brothers” have begun working on new experimental projects and have been skeptical about the later common interpretation of the Manifesto as a brand or a genre. The movement broke up in 2005.[3] Today, filmmakers submit a form online and check a box which states they “truly believe that the film ... has obeyed all Dogme95 rules as stated in the VOW OF CHASTITY.”[4]

Criticism

Remodernist filmmaker Jesse Richards criticizes the movement in his *Remodernist Film Manifesto*, stating in relation to Point 10, “Remodernist film is not Dogme ‘95. We do not have a pretentious checklist that must be followed precisely. This manifesto should be viewed only as a collection of ideas and hints whose author may be mocked and insulted at will.”[5] American film critic Armond White also criticized the movement, stating that it was “the manifesto that brought filmmaking closer to amateur porn”. He believed the movement would be rejected as insignificant by film historians.[6]

Notable Dogme films

Complete list is available from the Dogme95 web site (via Internet Archive).

- Dogme #1: *The Celebration*
- Dogme #2: *The Idiots*
- Dogme #3: *Mifune's Last Song*
- Dogme #4: *The King Is Alive*
- Dogme #5: *Lovers*
- Dogme #6: *Julien Donkey-Boy*
- Dogme #7: *Interview*
- Dogme #8: *Fuckland*
- Dogme #11: *Diapason*
- Dogme #12: *Italian for Beginners*
- Dogme #13: *Amerikana*
- Dogme #14: *Joy Ride*
- Dogme #15: *Camera-Dogme15*
- Dogme #17: *Reunion* aka *American Reunion*
- Dogme #18: *Et Rigtigt Menneske*
- Dogme #19: *Når Nettene Blir Lange* (Norway)
- Dogme #20: *Strass*
- Dogme #21: *Kira's Reason: A Love Story*
- Dogme #22: *Era Outra Vez*
- Dogme #23: *Resin(film)*
- Dogme #24: *Security, Colorado*
- Dogme #25: *Converging with Angels*
- Dogme #28: *Elsker Dig For Evigt* (Open Hearts)
- Dogme #29: *The Bread Basket*
- Dogme #30: *Dias de Voda*
- Dogme #31: *El Desenlace*
- Dogme #32: *Se til venstre, der er en Svensker*
- Dogme #33: *Residencia*
- Dogme #34: *Forbrydelser*
- Dogme #35: *Così x Caso*
- Dogme #37: *Gypo (film)*
- Dogme #38: *Mere Players*

Notable figures

- Thomas Vinterberg
- Lars Von Trier
- Soren Kragh-Jacobsen
- Kristian Levring
- Jean-Marc Barr
- Anthony Dod Mantle
- Paprika Steen
- Fran Ilich
- Harmony Korine
- Susanne Bier
- Richard Martini

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[3]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogme95
[4]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogme95
[6]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogme95
Notes and references


3. Kristian Levring interview (via Internet Archive)

4. Dogme 95 – Dogmefilms (via Internet Archive)
