

## PROVERSE HONG KONG

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### Proverse April 2016 Newsletter

What can you do with a thesaurus? No, this has nothing to do with Theseus who slew the Cretan Minotaur with Ariadne's help. Rather it is, as the Dictionary says, a collection of concepts or words arranged according to sense, a good description of a Proverse book, whether a novel, a short story collection, or a biography. This month, I have been captured by a biography, first printed by The Viking Press, Inc., and printed for a third time by an ambitious publisher, Mutual Publishing of Honolulu. The book contains ingredients that surely fascinated us all when we were children, including a beautiful princess, an enchanted garden of peacocks and banyan trees and the excitement of a coronation. Nancy Webb and Jean Francis Webb's book, *Kaiulani*, tells us of a Princess without a kingdom, the annexation of Hawaii and the short life of the beautiful Crown Princess Kaiulani, who rejected, as suitor, a Japanese Prince, forty years before the attack on Pearl Harbour.

Kaiulani was a witness to the first formal coronation of an Hawaiian King, later deposed. Life for the young Princess, after the annexation of Hawaii, consisted of traveling with her father. A sixth Christmas away from home was spent in Jersey, an island which the two travellers discovered was convincingly Royalist. "Jerseymen of long ago, after the beheading of King Charles I, had rushed into the sea behind fiery leader, Sir George Carteret, to meet Cromwell's ships as they came. Men without weapons actually had borne their armed comrades, mounting such a defence that the Roundheads were turned back. Hawaii's own latter-day Carterets (Sam Nowlein, Robert Wilcox, Lot Lane) had proven less effective – but no less steadfast!"

The official histories do not treat of it as such, but it does seem that the Princess and her small entourage had begun to wander without purpose, whilst the Queen in Hawaii had now signed a document relinquishing her right to the Hawaiian throne. After Jersey, Kaiulani and her father travelled by ship to Paris. One bright spot during the voyage was a meeting with fellow passenger, Anthony Hope Hawkins, who, under the name, Anthony Hope, had become famous for his book, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, repeating his success with a sequel, *Rupert of Hentzau*, the first being the subject of several popular films. It seems that Kaiulani found Hawkins to be excellent company. No doubt this was reciprocated.

On arrival in Paris, the Princess was besieged by reporters who suggested that her just completed voyage had a political significance, seen in connection with the fact that the Queen was in Washington at the same time, attempting to save her kingdom from annexation. But to no avail. Kaiulani and her father fended off the journalists as best they could. They were, many of them, not so much interested in the fate of distant Hawaii, but rather in developments in Havana



and perceived Spanish tyranny in that country. The cleansing efforts of Fidel Castro had not yet begun.

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### **THE PROVERSE SPRING RECEPTION, Tuesday, 19 April, 7-9pm**

**We strongly advise you to book now to avoid disappointment! A registration form (in both Word and PDF format) as well as payment by PayPal are available at <[proversepublishing.com/event\\_register](http://proversepublishing.com/event_register)>.**

Do join us at the annual Proverse Hong Kong reception and literary event, to be held on Tuesday, 19 April, Helena May, 35 Garden Road, 7-9pm. Books by writers based in Australia, India, Turkey and Hong Kong will be launched.

We will hear from Henrik Hoeg, who has become an energetic force for the popularising of poetry in Hong Kong and whose own first poetry collection, “Irreverent Poems for Pretentious People” will be launched on 19 April.

Dr Deepa Vanjani will be flying in from Indore, Central India, for the launch of her first poetry collection, “Shifting Sands”, inspired by her intense experience while visiting the Big Buddha of Lantau.

We will also launch prominent Turkish playwright, Hasan Erkek’s children’s play, *Princess Flower*. Women among you may be happy to know that it is a Princess rather than a Prince who undertakes a difficult journey to accomplish a social task, and men may be relieved that there are good roles for males also.

Patty Ho’s second poetry collection, *Of Leaves & Ashes*, will impress you by the amount of work the author has put into this publication. Not only has she composed poems, but music to accompany several of the poems, several of which she also performs as songs, all contained on the CD accompanying the book.

Many of you will remember Jan Pearson, who spoke so well at two recent Proverse events about her two previous Hong Kong novels, *Red Bird Summer* and *Tiger Autumn*, the latter praised in the *Sunday Morning Post*, as “one of the best Hong Kong novels in years”. Jan will not be with us on 19 April, but her third Hong Kong novel, *Black Tortoise Winter*, will be launched in her absence. (We hope to see her in November instead.) You can in fact jump the gun and purchase this, the third in her “Celestial Symbols Series”, from <https://wwwcreatespace.com/5949480>.

### **PROVERSE PRIZE 2015**

We will announce the winner(s) in the 2015 competition for the Proverse Prize for unpublished writing. -- Who will they be? -- Are they in Hong Kong or overseas?

### **DISTINGUISHED POET**

We are particularly glad to welcome the distinguished poet, Emeritus Professor Edwin Thumboo, visiting from Singapore, who will give us the pleasure of reading two or three of his shorter poems.



## PROVERSE AUTHORS

Old friends, several Proverse authors will be with us and give us the pleasure of their company.

The fee is HKD180 and covers complimentary canapés. There will be a cash bar.

Please visit <[proversepublishing.com/event\\_register](http://proversepublishing.com/event_register)> which gives all details and the registration form.

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## PROVERSE READERS' CLUB

**Join us on Saturdays**, at Dymocks Books and Café, 104B, 1/F, D'Deck, DB Plaza, Discovery Bay, Lantau, NT, Hong Kong SAR, 3.00-4.00pm. **The Proverse Readers' Club** free series of 20 sessions, hosted mostly by Gillian Bickley, continues up to 25 June 2016 .

So far we have had excellent talks from Proverse authors, Paul Ting, Gerard Breissan, Birgit Linder, James Tam, Verner Bickley, Elbert Siu Ping Lee, Jason S Polley, Akin Jeje, Celia Claase and Andrew S Guthrie. We are grateful to Viki Holmes and Victor E. Apps for each having hosted a session.

The next featured writer in the "Proverse Readers' Club" series of twenty free events will be **Jason S. Polley**, to talk about his fictional biography of an illegal Pakistani immigrant in Hong Kong.

**Come to meet Jason on Saturday, 16 April**, at Dymocks Books and Café, 104B, 1/F, D'Deck, DB Plaza, Discovery Bay, Lantau, NT, Hong Kong SAR, 3.00-4.00pm

### ALL WELCOME!

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Also in the "Proverse Readers' Club" series, on 23 April, Victor E. Apps will talk about his young adult novella, *The Perilous Passage of Princess Petunia Peasant*; on 30 April, Proverse Publisher, Gillian Bickley, will introduce *In Time of War* – the diary, and journal entries of a Hong Kong POW – which she jointly edited with Richard Collingwood-Selby (who lives in Chile); on 7 May, Catherine Zhang will talk about her fictional tale, loosely based on the life of a Buddhist saint, *Mila the Magician*; on 21 May, David Diskin will talk about his 2011 Proverse Prize-winning novel, *The Village in the Mountains* and on 28 May, Philip Chatting, who won the Proverse Prize 2014, will talk about his short story collection, *The Snow Bridge and Other Stories*. You can find information about all these writers and books, as well as those who will feature in June, on the Proverse website and facebook page.

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## The International Proverse Prize for Unpublished Fiction, Non-fiction or Poetry, 2016

The entry documents for the Proverse Prize 2016 are already on our website ([proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com)). If you have a book-length work that you would like to be published, why not enter it for the Prize? The Winner receives publication and HKD10,000.00. If two people tie for the Prize, both are published and they receive HKD5,000 each. Depending on the quality of entries in any year, supplementary publication prizes may be awarded.



To see and hear six of the writers, among those previously successful in the Proverse Prize competition, speak about their books, please watch the video of the Proverse Prize Library Talk hosted by The University of Hong Kong Libraries reading club at the following link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_S5ToqqAVdE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_S5ToqqAVdE). This was published on 21 September 2015, uploaded by HKU Libraries.

The online archive of Newsletters from the present and previous year, with a few Press Releases, media notices and links to media interviews, give information about the founders and background of the Proverse Prize, previous winners and successful works already published, including entries from Australia, The Bahamas, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the UK. There are also many photographs of related Proverse events. To see these, visit the Proverse website <<http://www.proversepublishing.com>>.

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We are grateful to the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong & Macao for posting information on their facebook page about events featuring our authors who are Canadian citizens.

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### ***NOTICE***

#### **EMAIL ADDRESS**

For the time being at least, we are sending our E-Newsletters from our gmail address. If you hear of anyone who is not receiving our E-Newsletters, please do tell them this and also please suggest that they look in their Spam folder. If there are any problems, they should please contact us at [proverse@netvigator.com](mailto:proverse@netvigator.com).

We do upload our newsletters to the website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com); but this is usually quite some time after we send them out to our newsletter subscribers.

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