

PROVERSE HONG KONG

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

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

Before I lost the first draft of this Newsletter by pressing the wrong button, I mentioned April 1st and “trick” or “treating.” You may remember a time when remarkably decorated children would come to your front door and ask for alms to celebrate “All Fools’ Day.” You would fish out a ten dollar bill, for which the child seemed to be grateful. But, this year, in all probability, when a child came to your door, you may have asked him or her, why there was a day dedicated to tricking, or making a fool of someone. You probably received an accurate answer after the child had consulted his or her mobile phone. You had received your answer, but you wondered whether it was worth it? Was this cheating or progress?

Occasionally, a child might appear who would merit the title, “bookworm.” It is a pity that this word has rather an odd flavour – somewhat discouraging perhaps – and probably not to be uttered in a public library. No doubt some of our readers took advantage of such a library. I certainly did, beginning, in our local library, with the children’s section and then turning to the well-stocked adult shelves with their eclectic variety of novels. Eventually, I joined the experienced readers who stood ready to pounce when the librarian’s assistant wheeled a trolley of books round the room. Soon I was borrowing four books a week, working my way steadily through a mixture of “school stories,” including such old favourites as, “Tom Brown’s Schooldays.” Later, as a change from the lives of fictitious schoolboys, I took to swashbuckling novels, detective stories and espionage.

The library was built of faded, weathered brick. Inside, it favoured dark-brown, scuffed woodwork, green-painted pillars and tiled floors covered with “linoleum.” It housed an adult library from which up to four books could be borrowed at one time, plus a children’s library and a reference room supplied with dictionaries, encyclopedias, trade directories and newspapers, invariably open at the “Situations Vacant” pages.

I believe that the Library still exists. At least I hope it does. It provided an essential service.

An essential service. That is what Proverse aims to provide in Hong Kong, with its catholic selection of novels, short stories, poetry, biographies and real-life adventure stories. Up-to-date catalogues are available now on request.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Proverse Spring Reception, Thursday, 9 April 2015, Blue Room, Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong, 7.00pm-9.00pm, prior registration essential. The registration form is already available on the Proverse website, proversepublishing.com
(Enquiries to: proverse@netvigator.com; Tel: 2259-3456 (office hours).)



The following books are scheduled to be launched:

Verner Bickley, *Poems to Enjoy*, Book Five (rounding off his five-volume collection for children and adults);

Andrew Carter, *Bright Lights and White Lights* (a young man's life in Hong Kong).

Lawrence Gray, *Cop Show Heaven* (satire);

Andrew Guthrie, *Alphabet* (poetry collection);

Jan Pearson, *Tiger Autumn* (her second Hong Kong thriller).

Also featuring:

Peter Gregoire, *The Devil You Know*.

Two of the authors are flying in for the launch of their books: Jan Pearson from Australia and Andrew Carter from the UK. Andrew will be particularly busy. As well as participating in the Proverse Spring Reception on 9 April, he has the following dates:

Solo book-launch, Friday, 10 April, 6-9pm: Orange Peel, Shop A-C, 2/F, Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguiar Street, LKF, Central, Hong Kong.

Book signing, Saturday, 11 April, 3-5pm, Dymocks, Discovery Bay Plaza.

Interview, Friday, 10 April, 11.00am, with Phil Whelan on Morning Brew, RTHK Radio Three.

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**The Entry Documents for the International Proverse Prize 2015** are already on the Proverse website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com) and entry forms/fees are already being received. This annual competition for unpublished non-fiction, fiction or poetry is open to everyone who is at least eighteen on the date they sign the entry forms and there is no residence, citizenship or nationality requirements. The winner(s) in the 2014 competition will be announced on Thursday, 9 April.

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

For the time being at least, we are sending our e-Newsletter from our gmail address. Please do open and read it, just as you have been doing, when it is sent from [proverse@netvigator.com](mailto:proverse@netvigator.com).

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Proverse books are available from our Hong Kong-based distributor, The Chinese University Press, Shatin, NT, from their website, www.chineseupress.com.

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**DO JOIN US AT THE COMING EVENTS IF YOU CAN!**

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