

PRESS RELEASE



ROBERT VAN GULIK NOW! takes centre stage at Dutch Days in Shanghai on the 20th and 21st of April 2013

Shanghai, 28th of March 2013 - The ROBERT VAN GULIK NOW! committee together with the Shanghai Normal University and the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Shanghai will hold an extensive programme on the 20th and 21st of April 2013 to celebrate the life and works of the legendary Dutch writer, sinologist and diplomat, Robert van Gulik and his influence on Chinese culture today. Robert van Gulik (1910 – 1967) revived the celebrated Judge Dee stories which serve as a reference to traditional Chinese culture throughout the world today. The events will take place during the Dutch Days, an initiative of the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Shanghai.

The programme will kick off with an International scientific conference entitled 'The Dutch Mandarin: Robert van Gulik's place in contemporary Chinese Culture'. Eight professors from renowned universities including Harvard, Tsinghua and Leiden, will present their papers on the influence of Robert van Gulik in China today. The conference aims to preserve and continue the dialogue on the importance of the van Gulik works in China today with a focus on his ground breaking studies on Judge Dee, the Chinese lute, the gibbon and his studies on sexual life in ancient China.

The conference will be followed by a public event at the Minsheng Art Museum entitled "Yuan Fang, what do you think?", echoing the latest web craze which mobilized 2.5 million Chinese netizens in October 2012 confirming the fame of the Judge Dee stories in China today. The public event will explore the impact of Robert van Gulik on Chinese popular culture today.

Finally, an exclusive reading, supported by ABN AMRO, will feature the daughter of Robert van Gulik, Pauline van Gulik, who will read a special extract from the Judge Dee at work stories at the prestigious Fairmont Peace Hotel.

All events are co-organised by the ROBERT VAN GULIK NOW! committee and are supported by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Shanghai, Shanghai Normal University, ABN AMRO, KLM, BSUR, Marco Klein, Fairmont Peace Hotel, 2666 Library, Minsheng Art Museum, and Hainan Publishing House.

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QUOTES ABOUT THE EVENTS

"Robert van Gulik has a strong Chinese complex. His untiring and affectionate pursuing of the root of Chinese culture makes him a real, outstanding and eternal Chinese scholar-official."
Professor ShiYe. Shanghai Normal University - Comparative Literature & World literature

'Van Gulik's profound knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture and the Chinese people is a great inspiration to every diplomat serving in China.'
Peter Potman, Consul General of The Netherlands

"We are delighted to see today a great van Gulik appetite from younger Chinese generations. We hope that through the Robert van Gulik NOW! platform we will continue to spread the spirit and energy of Robert van Gulik into the contemporary context, serving as an endless source of knowledge and creativity"
Marie-Anne Souloumiac, Founding member ROBERT VAN GULIK NOW!

PROGRAMME

20th April – 9:00 - 18.00 International Conference

The Dutch Mandarin: Robert van Gulik and Chinese Culture
Shanghai Normal University - Comparative Literature & World literature
Address: Room 3&4, Conference Center, 100 Guilin Lu, near Qinzhou Nan Lu
桂林路 100 号, 近钦州南路
Selected seats available for media RSVP to rvgnow@gmail.com
English Spoken

21st of April – 14:00-15:00 Public Event



Yuanfang , what do you think?
Minsheng Art Museum
Address: Bldg F, 570 Huaihai Xi Lu near Hongqiao Lu
淮海西路 570 号 F 座
Open to public
English and Chinese spoken

21st of April – 17:30- 18:30 Exclusive reading ABN AMRO

Judge Dee reading by Pauline van Gulik
Fairmont Peace Hotel
Address: 20 Nanjing Dong Lu, near Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu
南京东路 20 号, 近中山东一路
Selected seats available for media RSVP to rvgnow@gmail.com
English spoken

ABOUT THE ROBERT VAN GULIK NOW! Committee

Robert van Gulik NOW! aims to create a platform to preserve, gather and disseminate knowledge about van Guliks' work and spirit in China today. The project is led by Marie-Anne Souloumiac, the granddaughter of Robert van Gulik and Wilbert Kragten, a passionate Robert van Gulik reader and collector. Ingrid d'Hooghe and prof. Shi Ye, both respected academics act as advisors to the project.

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