

## Seminar SAW - Exploring 19th and 20th centuries historiographies of mathematics in the ancient world, 2015-2016

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### Historiography of ancient mathematics and astral sciences in China before its professionalization

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*Wylie's translation of the terminologies for the traditional Chinese mathematics*

**Abstract:** In his *Jottings on the Science of the Chinese. Arithmetic*, Alexander Wylie outlined a general history of Chinese mathematics in English language. It was inevitable to translate some specialized terminologies when he explained some specific examples. The translation of these terminologies significantly embodies the comparison between the mathematics in China and the one in the West. This presentation focuses on Wylie's translation, trying to find out how the English versions of the terminologies were shaped. It could be seen that the translation of the terminologies was shaped by the co-influence of two factors: the works by the mathematicians such as De Morgan in Britain, and the milieus in China, including the mathematical books and the Chinese scholars' interpretation upon which Wylie relied.