

## Mitchell, James -TAPEI -GR

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**From:** Alvyn Austin [alvyn@yorku.ca]  
**Sent:** March 9, 2001 2:16 AM  
**To:** james.mitchell@dfait-maeci.gc.ca  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Mackay Plaque Draft Text -- Latest News (fwd)

Thank you, thank you, Jimmy, on behalf of the Mackay Fan Club, North American branch.

That was the bestest, happiest, over-the-top introduction to Taiwan I could have conceived. I still gloat as I tabulate the list, counting on my fingers: 1 desk, 1 ambassador, 2 mayors, 3 cabinet ministers, and the Premier! The last person who had a prayer meeting with the premier of Free China was probably Eisenhower!

I loved our travellin' roadshow, and the unique perspective it gave me on the whole country travelling from north to south and back again, recognizing the same landmarks in reverse. Thank you for getting up after a few hours sleep, and rushing in to save the day. Not just once, but a night market in the middle of the night. I hope that Fay doesn't mind missing you every evening.

One of my greatest pleasures was getting to know you. Auntie Diana sure does know how to bring people together. I called her when I got back, and she sends her best regards.

We still have many things to talk about, I barely got started on Shanxi, for example. One of these days when I get a copy made, I'll mail you my thesis. It is a narcotic view of an indigenous evangelical Christian Daoist syncretic sect which specialized in treating opium addicts with morphine ("Jesus opium"). The sect was wiped out by the Boxers, their first target when they got to Shanxi after Shandong. The book will be published by Curzon UK and Eerdmans US, when I get around to the revisions. My work on Pastor Hsi and indigenous sects has coloured my view of Mackay -- that his whole generation, the pioneers, went native in one way or another. And to be successful they had to tap into the deep sectarian tradition.

In the meantime, here is a brochure I have just finished on Mackay which you can post on the website or whatever. I have given it to Danny Huang who is returning to Taiwan today, to see about printing etc.

Cheers, and see you again soon d.v. Alvyn.

Brochure:  
In Memory of  
Dr George Leslie Mackay  
The Black-Bearded Barbarian of Taiwan

A vast and trunkless head of stone stands in the middle of a busy intersection in Tamsui Town, Northern Taiwan. It is 3 to 4 metres tall, made of black basalt, which if it were attached to a body would tower 15 metres. It depicts a balding white man with a pronounced cranium and piercing, slightly oriental, eyes, and an enormous beard that curls down to the base. He is gazing past a noodle shop toward the broad Tamsui River and the Goddess of Mercy Mountain beyond.

The inscription in Chinese and English reads:  
"Dr. MACKAY 1844-1901 -- In 1872, George Leslie Mackay, a Canadian Presbyterian missionary was assigned to Tamsui, Taiwan. Dr. Mackay established numerous churches, introduced Western medication, and practiced medicine free of charge for the poor. Dr. Mackay set up the Oxford College in Tamsui and the Tamsui Girls School to broaden the horizon of knowledge about the Occidental civilization for Taiwanese. The

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