

## Considering Why James Legge 理雅各 (1815-1897) is Considered to be a Great Man

- Probably the most important European sinologist of the whole of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- The best-known English translator of the Ruist (“Confucian”) scriptures in the world
- Established Union Church on biblical principles that sought to overcome denominational and cultural differences
- Courageous and principled in his interactions with Chinese and British officials, making him a local hero in Hong Kong during the 1860s
- Presented with two honorary doctorates, one from the USA (University of New York, 1842), another from the UK (University of Edinburgh, 1884)
- The first recipient of the international prize for Chinese literature, the Prix Stanislas Julien, in 1875
- Made the first Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at Corpus Christi College in 1876, probably the first non-Anglican professor in Oxford
- A promoter of public education in Hong Kong, helping to start the Central School
- A promoter of girls’ education in Hong Kong, and womens’ education in Oxford, being involved with the establishment of Somerville College there in the 1879
- A tireless opponent of the opium trade in the British empire and in China
- The first non-royal person to appear on a Hong Kong postage stamp (in 1994)