

# China Reconstructs

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• **Our 30th Anniversary**

- **Boom in Shipbuilding**
- **Beijing Fashions**
- **Ancient Weapons**





萬世長春  
軒轅手植柏得高宗於黃帝陵寫賀  
中國建設雜誌創刊三十週年紀念  
八十四叟錢松品作於北京

Everlasting spring by Qian Songyan



VOL. XXXI NO. 1

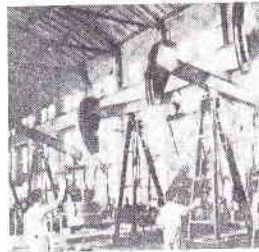
JANUARY 1982

## CONTENTS

<b>The 30th Anniversary of China Reconstructs</b>	
Three Decades Mirroring the New China	2
Beginnings, Growing Pains and Prospects	6
In Its Founder's Spirit	7
Readers' Letters Old and New	8
From Noted Artists	9
<b>Economics/Society</b>	
New Trends in Foreign Trade	13
China's Shipbuilding Boom	19
A Chinese Village's 45 Years	24
First Railway to the 'Roof of the World'	29
Basic Forms in the Socialist Economy	42
The Fashion Scene in Beijing	67
<b>Science</b>	
Fighting Back the Deserts	38
Studying Tibet's Weather	57
Protecting Rare Yangtze Alligators	74
<b>The Arts</b>	
Recent Trends in Chinese Writing	16
Symposium on Dai Literature	45
A Dance Triumph	48
<b>Medicine</b>	
Tribute to a Pioneer: Dr. Samuel Rosen	34
Lin Qiaozhi — China's Beloved Baby Doctor	35
<b>Archeology</b>	
China's Ancient Weapons	58
<b>Across the Land</b>	
International Tournaments: Fencing, Swimming, Water Polo	47
Hainan, the Treasure Island (II)	53
'Flying Dragon' Is Good to Eat	62
Dalian Seamen's Club	63
Beautiful Huangshan	64
<b>Columns and Specials</b>	
Children: Budding Scientist	23
Do You Know? China's Major Holidays	37
Sketches by A Lao	76
Legends and Tales from History: Story of Yi Yin	77
Language Corner: Lesson 13	
Address	78
<b>Cover Pictures</b>	
Front: Shipyard worker	Wang Hongxun
Back: Bohai Offshore Drilling Platform No. 5, built by the Dalian Shipyard.	Wang Hongxun

## Articles of the Month

### New Trends in Foreign Trade



Volume and value are up; manufactured goods are overtaking raw materials as major exports; in imports, the emphasis is on technology. a detailed look at changes in foreign trade, and the reasons for them. Page 13

### A Village's 45 Years

Eminent socio-anthropologist Fei Xiaotong, visiting Kaixiangong for the third time over 45 years, uses it as a microcosm through which to view the history of ups and downs, present prosperity and future problems and prospects of the rural areas in general. Page 24



### Fashion Scene in Beijing



The new fashion consciousness seems here to stay, though it has critics as well as supporters. An exploration of the deeper meanings behind style changes and attempts by the textile and clothing industries to keep up with new demands. Page 67

### Chinese Shipbuilding Revives

Dalian Shipyard, its products now sold in the international market, leads the way in China's shipbuilding boom. Page 19

### Ancient Weapons

Bone, stone, bronze, iron and steel — recent excavations have helped scholars trace the history of weaponry and developments in metallurgy and craftsmanship since the Stone Age. Page 58



# Three Decades Mirroring the New China

ISRAEL EPSTEIN

FROM 1952 to 1982 is a whole generation. During this time the new China, the building of which our magazine was established to reflect, has forged far ahead both domestically and in its position in the world, though not without setbacks. Our magazine, too, has moved forward in zigzag fashion.

To gauge the progress of the People's Republic, three distances need to be measured. First, the distance between China before liberation in 1949 and China today; here the progress has plainly been phenomenal. Second, the distance between the things accomplished and those still to be done; clearly the achievements in all fields are but a fraction of those required to turn a country so vast and populous into a modern socialist land, developed as it should be both materially and culturally. Third, the discrepancy between what was done in these 30 years and what might have been done, thus seen, the

progress, remarkable as it is, has not been unbroken or sufficient. It has been interrupted, even at times put into reverse, by unforeseen twists, turns and errors, which should have been avoided or more quickly remedied.

Of the three distances, the first — the revolutionary change from the old China to the new China led by her Communist Party — is the most decisive historically and the indispensable basis for reducing the other distances.

## Goals and Growth

Today, the new China is determinedly addressing the long, hard task of shortening the second distance. And she is learning from the gains and faults of her first thirty years to extend what has proved valid and discard what has not.

It is this process, so important to the Chinese people and to all others since it involves a quarter of all humanity, that our magazine has sought to illuminate — not in terms of abstract argument, but mainly through close-ups of Chi-

na's past, present and efforts for the future.

Of our beginnings, Dr. Chen Hansheng has written in the accompanying memoir. To add some details, the first issue was planned not in an office — that did not yet exist — but on a bench in a Beijing park by two persons, Dr. Chen and Li Boti. Working personnel, when we actually started publishing in 1952, totaled just six. These six did the organizing, editing and staff writing of articles, translation from the Chinese, editorial correspondence, promotion, photo-collection, layout and copy-reading — in fact everything but the mailing which was from Shanghai, where the printing, too, was done, and where two of us traveled regularly to put each issue to bed.

Today, we have more language editions than we had people then. All departments, including those of photography and design, have larger staffs than the whole magazine had in 1952. The total personnel numbers some two hundred. And fine printing facilities are at hand here in Beijing — sometimes perhaps not as ef-

ISRAEL EPSTEIN, editor-in-chief of *China Reconstructs*, has been with the magazine since it started.

First English-language issue, 1952.



First Spanish issue, 1960.



French edition began 1963.



Arabic edition, from 1964.





fectively used as the relatively primitive ones available then.

Many of us recall with fondness those early direct, family-like days when the whole — the entire new society which we knew was behind us — and the part — our small initiating force — felt so palpably linked, as did we to our early readers. The new nation was young then, the magazine newborn. As the poet Wordsworth wrote during the French Revolution long ago, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive. But to be young was very heaven," and our opening announcement reflected that feeling:

The purpose of *China Reconstructs* is to present the work and achievements of the Chinese people to people abroad who believe that all nations should cooperate for peace and mutual benefit.

As practically everybody now knows and even the ill-disposed can no longer deny in the face of mounting facts, China has moved ahead tremendously. . .

Weak and divided for many decades, our country has become united . . .

Long racked by malignant inflation which brought ruin to agriculture and urban occupations alike, China now has a stable price level and a nationwide economy that serves all the people . . .

Moreover, events have proved that China is now a strong



1961: the late Premier Zhou Enlai, Vice-Premier Chen Yi and Deng Yingchao, accompanied by Soong Ching Ling and Jin Zhonghua (then editor-in-chief) view the commemorative exhibition on the magazine's tenth anniversary.

country . . . She is strong enough to repel all attempts to turn back the clock.

*China Reconstructs* will chronicle the life of the Chinese people in authoritative articles, vivid features, representative photographs, drawings and charts. It will relate how difficulties are overcome and problems solved. It will report on our resurgent art, literature,

music, drama and cinema — and on works that embody our best national traditions and our new experience.

Quickly, the magazine proceeded to do what it undertook. Its first cover, reproduced on p. 2, was of peasants bringing farm implements to their own plots acquired in the land reform, the most basic change in Chinese society in 2,000 years. The back cover featured a

Russian edition, 1966-1978; ceased publication 1979.



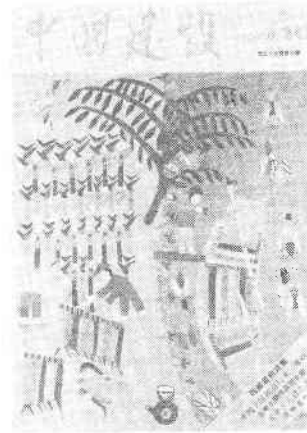
German edition, from 1978.



Portuguese edition began 1980.



First issue in Chinese, 1980.





striking woodcut — the rebuilding of China's wartorn industry. The lead article, by Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen, the late Honorary Chairman of the People's Republic of China and head of the China Welfare Institute, our publishers) was entitled "Welfare Work and World Peace." It was the first of the more than 30 notable pieces she was to write for *China Reconstructs* over almost three decades.

After enumerating the brand-new medical, labor insurance, child-care and other services available to the mass of Chinese people for the first time in history, Soong Ching Ling wrote: "Such policies, principles and progress are possible only in nations that are truly independent — nations which allow no infraction of their own right of self-determination while at the same time seeking cooperation with all who respect that right. In fact, the effort a government puts into people's welfare is not only an accurate measure of its devotion to peace; it is also a reflection of its status among the nations of the world."

Another article, dealing with China's major flood control efforts was written by the then Minister of Water Conservancy Fu Zuoyi, a former Kuomintang general who had cast in his lot with the people. Then Minister of Health Li Dequan wrote on the new situation in her field, Chen Hansheng on the new rise of industry. An accompanying feature discussed the role of workers' initiative. The transformed status and role of women were reflected in pieces on freedom of marriage and Beijing's first woman street-car driver; and concern for children in an account of the Children's Theater founded by the China Welfare Institute in Shanghai.

Later in the year, the magazine printed articles on the initial steps of socialized farming, from mutual-aid teams to agricultural co-operatives; the making of the first domestically-produced automobiles and tractors; new developments in education and many other fields. Four more key articles were contributed by Soong Ching Ling.



1978: Soong Ching Ling receives Israel Epstein and Li Boti, both on the magazine's editorial board, at her home. On the right is Luo Shuzhang, a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

World renowned actor Mei Lanfang gave his views on Beijing Opera — an art of which he was the acknowledged master. Noted sociologist Fei Xiaotong wrote on China's nationalities and veteran archaeologist Xia Nai on new excavations. Among foreign authors were the Rev. James Endicott of Canada, Rewi Alley of New Zealand and Joan Hinton of the U.S.A. Besides textual and picture materials, we printed three new Chinese songs with piano arrangement and English singing versions. Our well-illustrated regular philatelic column began. Broadness and variety were the watchword.

#### Some Landmarks

In 1955, upon becoming a monthly, the magazine inaugurated a "To Our Readers" column which was to run for ten years. It discussed informally a wide range of subjects from major home and world issues to folk festivals and entertainments.

By 1957, its fifth anniversary, *China Reconstructs* had established its distinct character and become known internationally. Greetings came not only from China's leaders but from Indonesian President Sukarno, Indian Prime Minister Nehru, Japanese ex-Premier Tetsu

Katayama, Burmese political leader U Nu, South African black leader Moses Kotane, Nobel prize-winner Lord Boyd Orr of Britain; from writers Vercors of France and Naomi Mitchison of Scotland, from Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury; from parliamentarians, trade unionists, journalists and other friends from many lands.

We also published a 434-page anthology, *China in Transition*, incorporating our 74 best articles from those five years. The breadth of the coverage can be gleaned from the 18 section headings under which they were grouped: Changing Land; People's Government; Two Revolutions on the Farm; Building Up Industry; One Land, Many Peoples; Temple, Mosque and Church; Science Serves the People; Conquering Nature; Workers' Unions and Security; The Fruits of Labor: For Life and Health; Toward Schooling for All; Writing and the Theater; Music, Ancient and Modern; Digging into the Past; Old Tales and New Laughter; The Enjoyment of Living.

In the same year, Premier Zhou expressed his hope that we report on the actual life of the Chinese people with socialist construction as the framework. And the next



year Chairman Mao Zedong gave us this endorsement, "*China Reconstructs* speaks through facts; this is what we should do in publicity for abroad."

The tenth birthday of *China Reconstructs*, in 1962, was keynoted by an exhibition and celebrations presided over by Soong Ching Ling and attended by such revered leaders of the Chinese people as Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and Chen Yi. In general, up to that time and for three years afterwards, the magazine continued and expanded on the sound basis previously laid. A systematic series on Chinese history from ancient to modern, a children's page, a foreign trade column and a special one devoted to questions and answers were added. There was an increase in articles by foreign writers about the new China: they came from Asia, Africa, the Americas, eastern and western Europe and Oceania.

During the same period we distributed, with our regular issues, 28 special supplements; among the most popular were three catalogues of postage stamps of the new China, pamphlets on Chinese history, Beijing opera, simple Chinese conversation, modern Chinese paintings, and a first-hand report on how a village moved from individual cultivation to socialism. Much liked, too, were a folk-song collection and a one-act play "Between Husband and Wife"; readers from several countries wrote that they had performed both the songs and the play.

### Snags and Setbacks

From the late 1950s, however, *China Reconstructs* was invaded and affected, to various extents, by the ultra-Left line then spreading in the country. During the Great Leap Forward we were over-declamatory and gave currency to a number of exaggerated claims and statistics that were poured out at the time—even printing a cover-picture in this genre. Although the country, and we ourselves, soon recoiled from the over-

blown claims, the unscientific ultra-Left trend would recur.

Indeed, it surfaced in its worst form in the "cultural revolution" in 1966. Our magazine, like other publications in China, gradually became filled with bombast as a substitute for reporting and analysis. Friendly readers began at once to protest. "You have swung completely to your opposite," one of them, an African, said in a discussion. "Sometimes I have to read a sentence twice or thrice to get the drift. Comments and views should be given in factual context." Another, a Sri Lankan, added, "Be simple in language. I've plowed through *Three-Family Village* (a political tract of the times) and just can't tell what it's about." A New Zealander exploded, "It's time to save you from yourselves. *China Reconstructs* used to be the most popular Chinese magazine abroad. But with all this undiluted sloganry you'll soon have no readers. You may think you're advancing. In fact, you're missing the train." Numerous letters came in the same vein.

### Struggling Back

It was only in 1971, after the fall of the power-grabbing Lin Biao, that the magazine began once more to look like itself. Gradually, displaced older workers came back to their jobs. Then the gang of four tried to assert supremacy, and throughout China's press such distortions were propagated as the branding of the Tian An Men incident of early 1976 as "counter-revolutionary"—which they pushed into our columns as well. In fact the incident was an outburst of feeling among the people, especially the youth, in defence of the revolution, democracy and socialism.

Since the gang's downfall in 1976, we have been trying to run *China Reconstructs* in a way that will preserve and further develop the spirit in which it was launched by Soong Ching Ling, Zhou Enlai and others. Our readers find it more varied and popular. A light, small-

er format has been adopted (necessitated among other things by rising mail costs, but also presenting problems we haven't overcome yet, such as poor printing of black-and-white pictures).

### Today and Tomorrow

Our operation is not an easy one. For one, the stereotyped writing that was hammered into people in the "ultra-Left" period is a habit not easily discarded by persons drilled in it. For another, most of our translators from the Chinese are working from their first language into their second, opposite to the normal direction of translation, and that is very hard (if the reader doubts this, let him try translating *into* his second language). Usually required is re-editing, without alteration of sense, into a manuscript that is fluent, idiomatic and takes some account of reading habits in English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Arabic. For good work in this regard, warm thanks are due to our non-Chinese colleagues, one or more of whom helps each edition "speak" in his or her native tongue. Over the decades scores of such friends have helped; some have remained 25 years or more.

Now China has entered her new period of "the four modernizations." Flexibly and realistically in light of the country's actual circumstances, she is experimenting with ways to make her socialist system yield its full potential. This effort on the part of a billion people will be watched closely everywhere. We are confident that, however arduous, it will succeed. In the meantime, China's contacts with countries and peoples all over the earth are widening. Our magazine, too, is growing and changing, with encouragement from readers—who we hope will multiply in number in the years to come. We intend to work vigorously to contribute to wider understanding of the Chinese people's progress and problems. And thus do our part for friendship among peoples and for world peace. □



# Beginnings, Growing Pains and Prospects

CHEN HANSHENG

FOR this the thirtieth anniversary of *China Reconstructs* I have been asked to set down some of my recollections. I will begin by explaining how the magazine was born. Before the establishment of the People's Republic of China, there was civil war between two forces — one led by the Communist Party headed by Mao Zedong and one led by Chiang Kai-shek. When the revolutionary side won and Chiang fled to the island of Taiwan, two general notions arose in the world. One was the realization that China had asserted her nationhood, and the other was pure and simple fear of communism. Among prominent Americans, to take one example, General Evans F. Carlson and Edgar Snow represented the first view, whereas official policy-makers then gave expression to the second. A similar duality of views occurred in other parts of the world.

It was to explain the realities of the new China to people abroad that Soong Ching Ling, the widow of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and a major participant in China's united government, initiated the publication of this magazine, which began as a bi-monthly in English. Premier Zhou Enlai supported this endeavor and at a dinner in March 1951 asked me to help organize a staff for this purpose. In April of that year I went to Tianjin to invite Li Boti, then a reporter for Xinhua News Agency, to come to Beijing to make the necessary preparations. Soong Ching Ling invited Israel Epstein and Elsie Fairfax-Cholmeley, who had worked with her in the China Defence League in the years of the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45), to come from New

York. They arrived at the end of July to help with the preliminaries and the actual production. By the time the first issue appeared in January 1952, several members of Madame Sun's China Welfare Institute in Shanghai were working on promotion and distribution. Before we had our own photo and art department, Gu Shuxing, a talented photographer, worked indefatigably to secure pictures and advised on layout.

I wish also to mention some members who served on our Editorial Board. It was headed by Jin Zhonghua, the then editor-in-chief of Xinwen Daily News in Shanghai. Madame Li Dequan, the then Minister of Health who was the widow of General Feng Yuxiang, Wu Yifang, the then President of Ginling Women's College in Nanjing, and Qian Duan-sheng, President of the College for Legal and Administrative Studies were active members of the Board. At the suggestion of Premier Zhou

I served as the vice-chairman. The contents of every issue of the magazine were discussed and decided by the Board.

The new bi-monthly did in fact clarify a number of misunderstandings about China current in many countries at that time. A reader in Southeast Asia wrote us, "Since the publication of *China Reconstructs*, some neutral people I know have radically changed their former wrong views of China into new ones which are favorable to China. This . . . is partly due . . . to the descriptions and information so factually given." A British reader wrote from London that he did not find us one-sided, saying, "It does you credit that you inform your readers that there has been a critic, rather than to claim that 100 percent of China's visitors were 100 percent satisfied with everything they saw."

In those years our magazine was barred from circulation in the United States. The U.S. government listed *China Reconstructs* among publications non-admissible into the country, and postal offices and customs authorities were instructed to destroy any copies that came into their hands. Furthermore the Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department stipulated that subscribers

The author with Elsie Fairfax-Cholmeley, one of the magazine's original staff members. Zhang Shuicheng



CHEN HANSHENG is advisor to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Chairman of the Chinese Society for Central Asian Studies.

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# In Its Founder's Spirit

REWI ALLEY

**C**HINA RECONSTRUCTS for thirty years has reported unfolding events in China as clearly and concisely as possible to an increasing readership in many lands and in many languages. Its inception was due to the genius of Chairman Soong Ching Ling, who saw in it a contribution that her China Welfare Institute could make. Its first editor, Dr. Chen Hanseng, laid the foundations for the success of the work that was to follow. Newspapers are important, but they are rarely kept, whereas a sprightly magazine goes from hand to hand and reaches an ever-growing circulation.

Looking through bound volumes of the magazine, I am struck by

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**REWI ALLEY, New Zealand educator, author and poet, has lived and worked in China for over 50 years.**

how well the presentation of material has improved. China is a vast section of the world, but perhaps sometimes there is still an inclination to present material in the way Chinese themselves like best, rather than that which ensures interest from overseas recipients.

The emergence of the new China has been an enormously significant event in world history, presenting so many aspects that challenge the imagination of the great masses of the world. In the course of such a revolution, led by human beings, there are bound to be mistakes that have at times slowed progress. *China Reconstructs* has through the years tried to give a picture of changes as they have taken place and as the magazine's on-the-spot reporters

have seen them. So the contribution of the journal has been a highly significant one. Its issues have been bound each year; they go into libraries and become invaluable reference material for the future.

*China Reconstructs* has always done its best to present official policy in easily understandable terms for the overseas reader. Its illustrations on the whole are brilliant. One wishes the magazine all success in the future, knowing well that its production has entailed much devoted, self-sacrificing work, carrying with it always the great spirit of its founder.

As political, cultural, technical and business contacts with other lands increase, it is essential to carry on the good work of the magazine. □

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and buyers of *China Reconstructs* should submit to registration. It was not until some years after the Korean war that our magazine was admitted into that country.

In 1955, the magazine changed from a bi-monthly to a monthly. Subsequently *China Reconstructs* began to appear in other languages. A Spanish (1960) edition followed the English (1952) and shortly afterwards, French (1963), Arabic (1964), Russian (1966), German (1978), Portuguese (1980), and Chinese (1980). It is regrettable that the Russian edition had to be suspended in 1979 due to difficulties in getting it to subscribers. The Chinese edition appeared in response to the request of Chinese and persons of Chinese descent living abroad.

Internally the magazine met with some setbacks due to political

upheavals in our country, especially during the so-called cultural revolution. During this period we received some apt criticisms from our readers. An American student wrote in 1972 complaining of language "too theoretical and corny" and advised us to "speak in the people's language." Another subscriber, a Canadian wrote: ". . . life is not all happiness, and everyone does not always smile. Yet *China Reconstructs* gives an impression of forever smiling faces and satisfactory solutions to all problems." He said we should not be afraid to "discuss failures and disappointments which were also bound to exist."

We remain grateful to those who pointed out such shortcomings. Our editors began to eliminate defects in 1972 but could do so effectively only after the overthrow of the gang of four in 1976.

To our great sadness, our founder Soong Ching Ling passed away on May 29, 1981, in her 90th year, from leukemia. We lost a leader and eminent contributor. A partial consolation is that she was able to see some results of the magazine's efforts to improve the reporting of the real situation in China and present articles which meet the requirements of readers. China is now undergoing an economic readjustment as well as improvement of our education, and is making special efforts to complete and enforce the legal system. All these efforts are made in a revolutionary spirit.

I do not doubt that *China Reconstructs* will continue to illuminate the process in articles of real value and to report realistically for its readers. So I, for one, congratulate this internationally popular journal on its thirtieth anniversary. □





"Yours is a magnificent magazine because it grows out of a people who had history and culture and who now have emancipation and the future. . ."

J.W., Toronto, Canada; Mar.-Apr. 1953 (among first letters published)

"When I had done reading (*China Reconstructs*) I wrote a letter for publication to one of this city's daily papers, in which I said I had received this grand publication of yours and had read it, and was left with the feeling that here is a nation which should have the recognition of the U.S.A., as it had Great Britain's, and whose delegates to the United Nations should be seated."

A Reader, Nebraska, U.S.A.; Sept.-Oct. 1953

"Please ask Pa Chin to give us another . . . story like 'Ming Feng's Choice.' It was so interesting that I translated it into Sinhalese and passed it on to the village girls who do not understand English. . . . The hand-written book is still circulating and I understand more than 50 people have enjoyed it. The editor of a local magazine has agreed to publish it."

Bandara Ekan, Hanguranketa, Ceylon; February 1959

"The progress in education and the liberation of the women of China makes me very happy indeed."

T.E. Thiel, Rainham, England; July 1959

"I gave the stamps from your envelope to a stamp collector here who writes for the 'London Free Press.' He was glad to get them but very surprised because he said that they were from 'Red' China, and did I have any friends there? I replied that I had over six hundred million friends in the one and only China."

G.M. Whirter, London, Canada; December 1959

"Since taking out a subscription, I have read three issues of your excellent magazine. . . . These three were enough to erase the false image of your great people which had been fostered in my mind."

Miski Abdelhamid, Benahmed, Morocco; March 1964

"Your magazine is rather hard to get in our country, but so many people want to read and understand about China. . . . It is necessary to manage circulation properly so that it reaches the common masses."

S.M.T., Gujranwala, Pakistan; November 1972

## Our Readers Write—a 30-Year Dialogue

From the beginning of our magazine, readers from all over the world have been writing to tell us their thoughts and feelings. Their warmth and friendship has touched us deeply. Their support and understanding has led us to hope that in some ways we are accomplishing our purpose. Their sincere suggestions and criticisms have inspired us to work even harder to improve our magazine. Our readers do not always agree with us, or even with one another. That is as it should be in a dialogue through which we all seek to learn from one another. The letters below are only a few of the thousands received over the years. To old and new readers alike we say, "Please keep writing!"

—The Editors

"I hope that the articles in CR will become shorter so that they will be more attractive and easier to read."

Tulio Prada Garcia, Santander, Colombia; January 1978

"I read your magazine not long ago and I have found several things which I like very much. . . . I am a Romanian seaman, and I came for the first time to China—Dairen (Dalian) harbor. I know that the friendship between our two peoples is very sincere and very big. I have seen how the Chinese people from Dairen made a good reception for us. Maybe you can help me to learn more about your country."

T.T., Constanta, Romania; October 1978

"I am a reader of *China Reconstructs* and *China Pictorial*. Both magazines are wonderful. I am a dentist and have placed your magazines in my waiting room for my patients to enjoy. Not a few have told me that they are now subscribers."

M.N.E., Lausanne, Switzerland; December 1978

"In recent months, CR has changed—to my eyes—from a political art form to practical reports on a real and believable China. Real people with reasonable disagreements and agreements appear in your pages. A China which is an attractive land to visit and enjoy is appearing. A China which is freer to go about the business of life instead of talking about it . . . is appearing."

K.I.M., Oliver, Canada; July 1979

"I agree with the English reader's comments published in your February issue. He suggested you should report not only achievements but also shortcomings and provide readers with objective and reliable accounts."

H.G.F., Bielefeld, West Germany; August 1979

"We received copies of the magazine CR, and find it to be interesting and informative. . . . The magazine has been approved for use in Montgomery

County Public Schools, grades seven through twelve."

Regina Crutchfield, Maryland U.S.A.; February 1981

"Please accept our deep condolences on the passing away of Soong Ching Ling. . . . We hope that you will carry out (her) behests and keep your magazine improving and developing. We'll encourage each other and advance together with you."

Fukui Hajime, Tokyo, Japan; November 1981

"The passing of Soong Ching Ling was a great loss both to China and the entire world. My wife and I have enjoyed reading *China Reconstructs* for many years, and your special supplement on Soong Ching Ling was beautifully done, and in excellent taste.

As a librarian, editor and indexer, I wish to contribute to better understanding of U.S.-China relations and especially to create a memorial tribute to Soong Ching Ling. Therefore I am preparing a cumulative author, subject and title index to *China Reconstructs* from its inception to the present. . . .

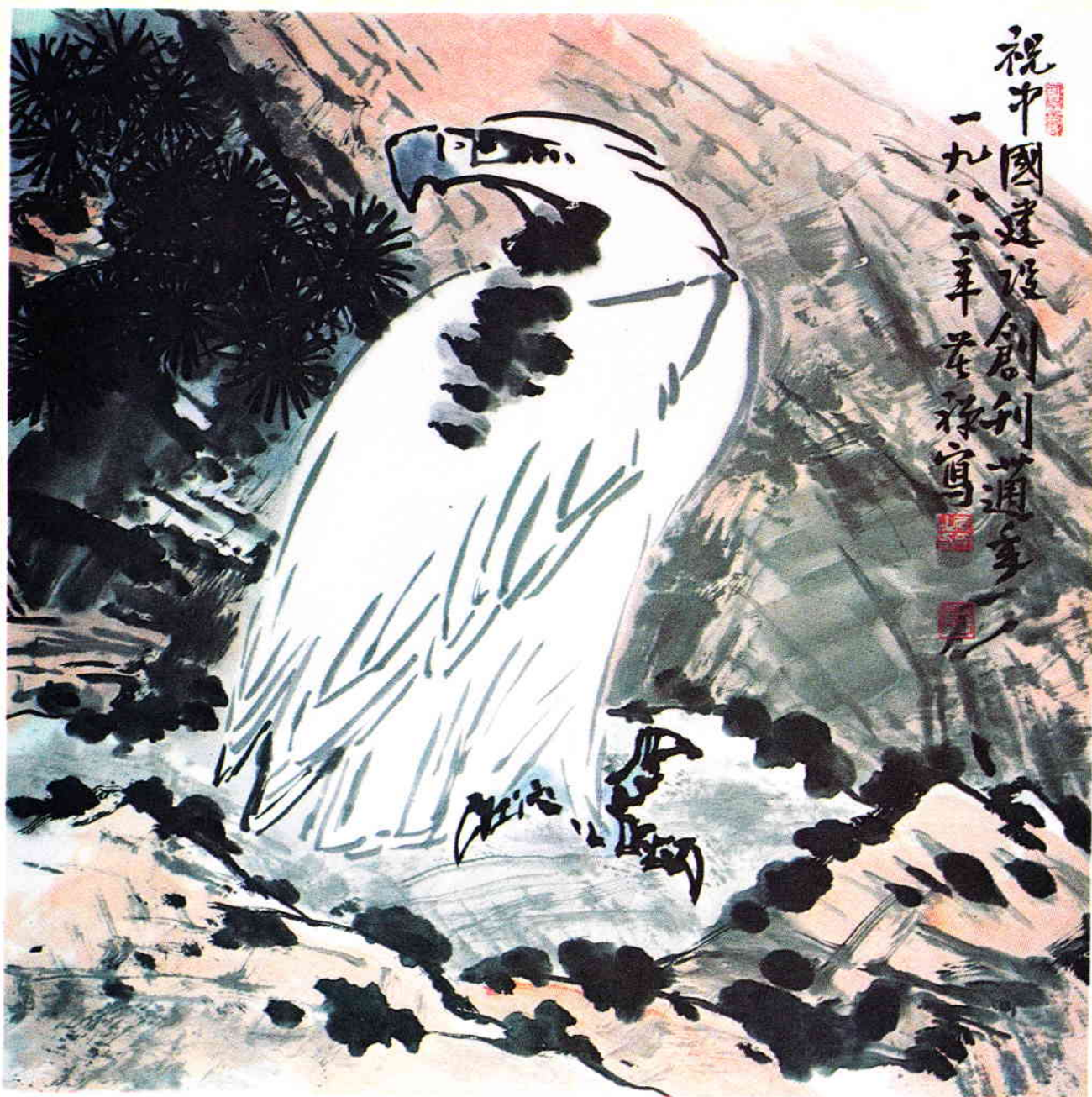
Since I am an information specialist with access to a large data processing facility, I intend to place all of this information on the computer. At present the authors and titles from the first eight years of *China Reconstructs* have been key-punched and processed. . . .

I would like to personally present the finished index to the editorial staff of *China Reconstructs* when my wife and I visit China in April, 1982, as members of the Society of American Archivists study tour. . . .

Through my membership in the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association, I have seen how direct contact between the peoples of our two countries is beneficial to everyone. *China Reconstructs* is an excellent vehicle to foster international friendship and understanding."

Herman Baron, Moylan, Pa., U.S.A.

## From Noted Artists



Eagle by Li Kuchan



# 源德長流

中國建設創刊  
卅周年紀念  
一九五九年七月  
王江波題  
通不何雪野



Yaks by Wu Zuoren



青春圖

中國建設創刊卅周年紀念

五八年春

程十發寫





# 孺子牛圖

中國建設創刊卅周年  
紀念九三月不來會並誌



# New Trends in Foreign Trade

WEN TIANSHEN

**D**URING the current economic readjustment, China's foreign trade has not only not declined, but has even expanded to some extent. Total 1981 export-import value is estimated to be 10 percent higher than that of 1980.

Chinese government leaders have repeatedly declared that China will actively promote foreign trade and develop the internal economy through cooperation and technical exchange on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. In 1981 China held economic and trade exhibitions in a number of countries. Preferential treatment and tariff agreements were negotiated with Australia, New Zealand, the European Economic Community, Canada, Japan and the United States. Trade and economic cooperation between China and third world countries have also increased substantially.

## Changes in Trade Structure

A growing proportion of exports is now made up of manufactured goods rather than raw materials. For instance, every year China exports over 200 varieties of tea, 80 percent of the pig bristles and 70 percent of the rabbit meat on the world market, plus large quantities of medicinal herbs. Though the quantity of these exports has remained quite large, their ratio in the total value of exports has decreased. At the same time the ratio of textiles, chemicals, machinery, electrical and light industrial products has risen. Two years ago, for example, the total value of machine tools sold to Mexico was only U.S. \$320,000. In 1981 it reached \$2.5 million, and may rise to \$3.2 million by 1982 from the contracts so far signed between the two countries. High-value coal

exports have also increased with the development of better transportation capacity.

For the first time Chinese watches are being sold on the British market, with the 1981 export of 195,000 "Spring Thunder" and

"Sea Gull" wristwatches to Britain. The Dongfang Electrical Machinery Plant, which made the large power-generating equipment for the Gezhouba Dam project has won a bid to supply equipment for the Comanche Hydropower Station

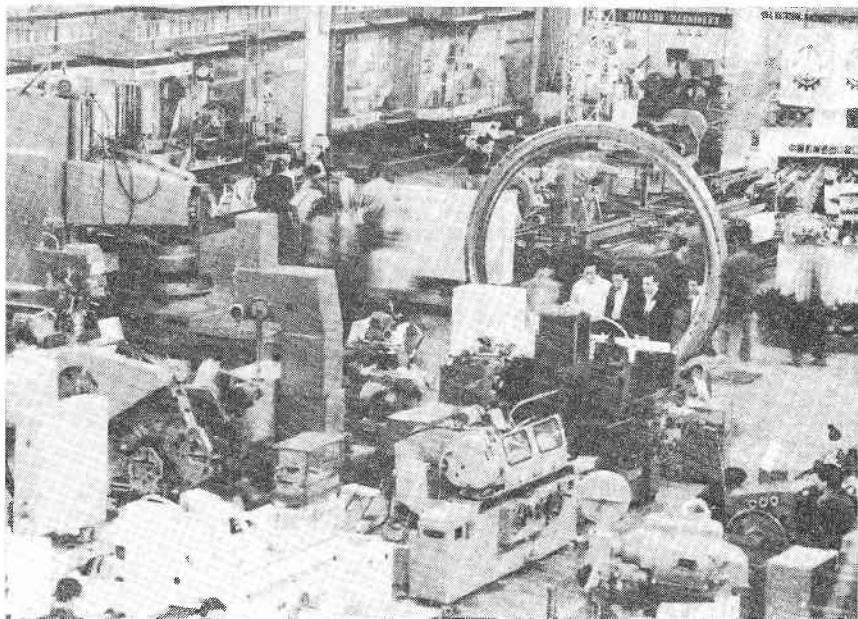
**Simplified export procedures and greater attention to customers' needs are attracting more and more buyers from abroad, such as this Lebanese businessman participating in the semiannual Export Commodities Fair for the first time.**

*Xinhua*



**Hall of Machinery at the Fair. Machinery and electrical equipment are becoming a significant part of China's exports.**

*Xinhua*



WEN TIANSHEN is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.





Traditional arts and craft products such as jewelry are still an important part of China's exports. *Xinhua*

in California, the first sale of hydraulic electrogenerating equipment to the United States.

The structure of imports has also changed. In line with the policy of reducing investments in capital construction, China now stresses the import of necessary advanced technology and equipment instead of complete sets of plant and equipment which require large amounts of foreign exchange. China has for instance recently imported from the United States the technology of making large combine harvesters.

The changes in structure reflect China's efforts to step up economic development in the quickest, most efficient and cost-conscious way. To increase the attractiveness of its exports, the needs of foreign markets are studied and attempts are being made to increase variety and improve the quality and packaging of products.

At the same time import policy stresses manufacturing methods, machine-making technology and scientific managerial knowledge. China actively cooperates with foreign firms in joint enterprises which include agreements on technology transfers. Efforts are being made to reduce imports of automobiles, trucks, tape recorders, refrigerators, computers and other

products that can be made in China.

### New Ways of Doing Business

As an exporter, China ranks only 30th among the world's nations, and the total value of exports is correspondingly low. At the same time there is a great need to upgrade enterprises which can supply both domestic and foreign markets, partly through selective imports of technology. New, more flexible foreign trade policies have been adopted to accomplish both of these aims. In the past, all foreign trade was handled directly by centralized national import and export corporations under the Ministry of Foreign Trade. China has now set up 20 new export-import companies specializing in such areas as aviation, shipping, machinery and electronic technology. Individual enterprises, localities and production departments have also been given increased autonomy in foreign trade relations.

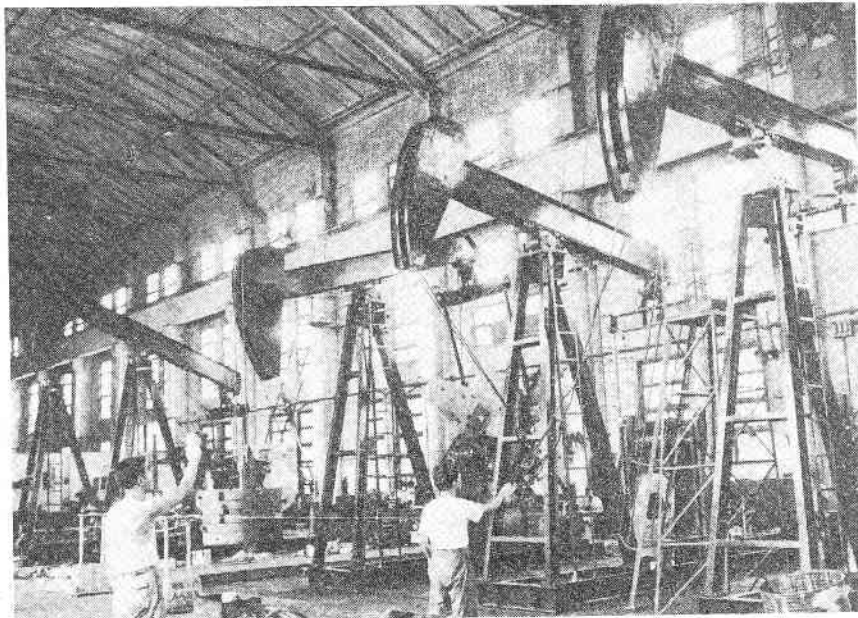
Results have been impressive. The China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation now oversees the export of over 200 different kinds of machine tools. The China National Shipping Industry Corporation has signed contracts with foreign customers

for 20 cargo and oil-drilling ships ranging from 10,000 to 36,000 tons. One such vessel, the 27,000-ton ocean-going freighter *Great Wall*, was launched at Dalian, Liaoning province, in September 1980. Under the auspices of China's National Aviation Import and Export Corporation, enterprises now produce aircraft landing gear doors, engine parts and a new-type helicopter with blueprints and materials supplied by foreign customers.

Since 1980 a number of Chinese electronics factories have signed contracts with U.S., Japanese, West German and Hongkong firms to process and assemble different kinds of machinery, radios, tape recorders and TVs, and to make such high-quality products as radar equipment and ground satellite stations. More and more orders for electrical machinery of various kinds are now being received from foreign countries. Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines have imported complete sets of China-made cotton-spinning machinery and equipment for small hydro-power and iron-and-steel plants. The United States, Japan and Western Europe are also showing increasing interest in Chinese electrical machinery, and it is

Type 160 oil extractors made for a U.S. firm by the Shanghai Compressor Mill.

*Xinhua*



estimated that total export value in this field will increase at an average of 50 percent a year in the coming period.

China's National Metallurgy Corporation has set up links between foreign trades and the industries it serves. Factories are invited to take part in sales promotion meetings, and negotiations on trade and performance contracts. Corporations specializing in transport, packaging and advertising have been set up to advise and assist various industries on foreign trade needs.

### Joint-Venture Projects

Since the 1979 passage of the law permitting for the first time joint ventures between Chinese firms and foreign investors, a number of such enterprises have been set up. From the Chinese point of view, the big advantage has been higher quality products and better economic results through the acquisition of advanced

techniques. Both the specialized import-export corporations and departments set up by various localities have played a part in setting up these new enterprises.

Special policies adopted in the coastal provinces of Guangdong and Fujian have given greater powers to local enterprise managers and established conditions that make these areas particularly attractive to foreign investors. The Shanghai Textile Industry Bureau has jointly set up with some Hongkong industrialists a woolen textile plant which includes a yarn mill, two knitwear mills and a machinery repair shop. The plant now produces high-quality wool and rabbit-hair sweaters which sell well on the world market. The operation takes advantage of China's ample supply of rabbit hair and trained textile workers, while introducing the most up-to-date international knitting and finishing techniques. When it reaches full production, the plant

will produce 1,500,000 pounds of rabbit-hair wool and 1,200,000 sweaters a year, and eventually it will make other clothes for export too.

The Tianjin Winery, a joint enterprise set up with R. Martin, uses French equipment and technology, and has begun to export wines that some judge to be among the best in the world. Joint offshore oil exploration projects carried out in cooperation with Japanese and French firms have located very rich oil and gas fields, and a new stage of joint exploitation is about to get underway. The China-Schindler Elevator Co., Ltd. — formed three years ago by China's National Building Machinery Corporation with Swiss and Hongkong firms — has completely restructured its management system and is now turning out high-quality products for the market. Its sales have increased by 33 percent, while the value of its exports has doubled. □

## New Publication: Picture Album of Zhong Nan Hai

The lavishly illustrated *Zhong Nan Hai, Beijing — Political Center of a Country of One Billion* has just been published in English, French, Japanese and Spanish by *People's Pictorial*.

Zhong Nan Hai compound in Beijing houses the offices and some of the homes of China's top leaders and features an ancient and beautiful garden.

The album's 93 color and black & white photos include scenes from the life and work of Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De and others, Mao's former residence, and the architectural and natural splendors of the compound.

The album is 12 mo, copperplate printed. Please order promptly. Wholesale to the trade.

Order number: 85 — 183 p

General distributor: **GUOJI SHUDIAN** (Publication Center)

P.O. Box 399 Beijing (37), China





# Recent Trends in Chinese Writing

FENG MU and LIU XICHENG

THE smashing of the gang of four was a turning point not only for modern Chinese history, but also for Chinese culture. Literature, freed from the chains of feudal-fascist control and modern superstitions, began to flourish.

The origin of this new literary period can be traced to the April Fifth Movement of 1976\*. The songs and poems of that day were a genuine expression of popular feeling. The gang of four could not stop these works from spreading from hand to hand, awakening people to new hopes and ideas.

Literary developments in the years since the fall of the gang may be divided into two stages. The first was marked by fervent criticism of the gang's cultural au-

toracy. Cultural organizations were re-established. Literary works which had been banned were revived. At a huge cultural forum sponsored by *People's Literature* magazine in December 1977, over a hundred writers of all kinds repudiated the gang's allegation that "a black line had dominated the field of art and literature" before the "cultural revolution" and dedicated themselves to the development of a true socialist literature. By the time of the May 1978 meeting of the Federation of Literary Organizations, all of the writers silenced during the "cultural revolution" were cleared of the political charges that had been brought against them. For a time little was published. Many veteran writers needed time to organize their thoughts, while most new writers were young and inexperienced. But soon a flood of new stories and articles began to fill the void.

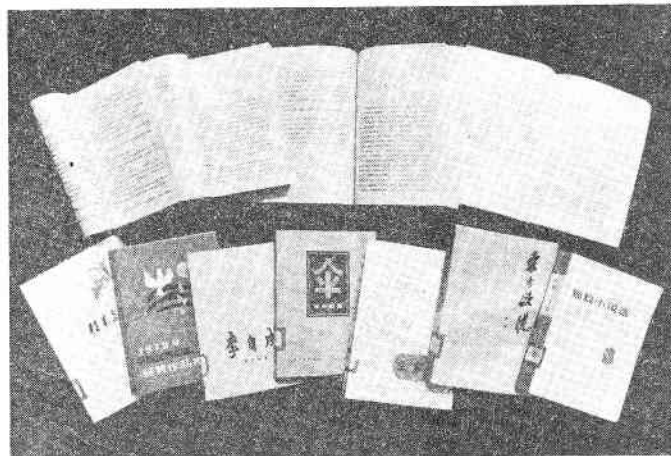
The second stage began after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th

Party Central Committee called on the Chinese people to emancipate their minds and seek truth from facts. Chinese writers responded with an outburst of creativity. A March 1979 symposium on literary theories sponsored in Beijing by the staff of *Wenyi Bao* accelerated the process, as did the October 1979 meeting of the newly-revived Chinese Writers' Association. This period also saw the emergence of new writers — from factories, from schools, from the countryside — who had never published before.

## New Works

The short story "The Homeroom Teacher" published in late 1977 by a young Beijing teacher, Liu Xinqu, was one of the first works of the new period to attract attention because of its fresh style and subject matter — the plight of the "lost" generation of youth whose lives and thinking had been distorted by the "cultural revolution." Less than a year later another pioneering story, "The Wound", by the young writer Lu Xinhua, was published. The story portrayed the mental sufferings of a young intellectual Wang Xiaohua and her mother brought on by the "cultural revolution." "The Wound" was immensely popular because it spoke feelingly of the kinds of invisible wounds which hundreds of

\*In defiance of the gang of four, the masses in their tens of thousands gathered on that date in Tian An Men Square to honor the memory of Premier Zhou Enlai, who had become a symbol of resistance to the gang. The songs, poetry and speeches of that day spoke openly for the first time of people's hatred of the gang. The demonstrations went on for days.



Just a few of the works that have come pouring out of Chinese presses since the end of the "cultural revolution".

FENG MU is vice-chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association and editor-in-chief of the magazine *Literature and Art*.

LIU XICHENG is a literary and art critic and deputy director of the editorial department of *Literature and Art*.

thousands of Chinese families had suffered; it led to a trend, the "literature of the wounded".

The 1979 movement to emancipate thinking stimulated some new trends. Writers such as Liu Zhen ("Black Banner") and the woman writer Ru Zhijuan ("The Wrongly-Edited Story") broadened their view from the ten years of tragedy to include the whole 30-year period since liberation. They tried to find out what lessons should be learned from the road taken by our country in the building of socialism. Other writers, such as the young woman writer Zhang Jie ("Love Can Never Be Forgotten") explored present-day problems of love and marriage, extolling true and pure feelings over materialistic considerations. Anti-feudal themes appeared, criticizing such vestiges of feudal practices and thinking as heavy-handed bureaucracy, the "special privilege" mentality, "back door" arrangements and selfish individualism.

Altogether some 8,000 short stories have been published in the last few years alone, of which about 200 may be considered of lasting value. Since the Chinese Writers' Association's magazine *People's Literature* launched short-story writing contests, 25 excellent stories won awards in 1978 and 1979, and another 30 in 1980.

A number of writers have also turned to the novel, which provides greater scope for the development of character, theme and background. Two excellent recent examples — which we have heartily recommended to friends in literary circles abroad as representative of current Chinese literature — are *Approaching Middle Age* by Chen Rong, and *An Uncharted River* by Ye Weiling. The former tells the story of a hard working middle-aged woman doctor, Lu Wenting — her years of selfless devotion to her patients, her patriotism and sense of responsibility despite her low salary. Other characters in the novel include an overseas Chinese couple who endure so much political discrimination that they finally leave the country. But perhaps the author's most telling creation is Qin Po, a "Marxist-Leninist old

lady" whose mouth is full of "revolutionary" truths and who can always be counted on to parade her sense of superiority to everyone else. Qin Po has undoubtedly entered contemporary Chinese literature's gallery of memorable characters.

*An Uncharted River* begins with a Hunan province university student drifting down a river on a wooden raft. The river journey becomes a comment on contemporary society. The peace and magnificence of the river and mountains are contrasted with the sorrows and joys among human beings. The central character is an old raftsmen, Pan Laowu, whose hard life has made him tough and dauntless. He has no kin left, and has never



Ru Zhijuan, pioneer of a new, more personal and introspective style.

Wang Zijin

married. Witnessing the many injustices of the "cultural revolution," he cannot express his feelings openly, instead becoming rude and temperamental. But under this crusty exterior, the author gradually reveals, is a sensitive and even noble spirit: he helps two lovers to a secret rendezvous; he helps a persecuted official get a transfer; he meets his childhood sweetheart. Finally, he risks his own life in raging flood waters to save his young companion. For the author, Pan Laowu reflects the



Veteran writer Ding Ling's novel, "During a Bitter Cold Day", has just been published. Xinhua

enduring qualities of the Chinese peasant.

#### Four 'Generations' of Writers

The membership of the Chinese Writers' Association has expanded from a little over 900 before the "cultural revolution" to over 2,400 today; local branches include even more members. Writers active today can be roughly divided into four distinct "generations".

The first is made up of the few veteran writers in their 80s who, after years of eclipse during the "cultural revolution" are now writing again. The late Mao Dun's novel *Tempered* and two volumes of *Collected Reviews* have been republished. His *Literary Reminiscences* are being serialized in the journal *Historical Materials on the New Literature*. Ba Jin's *Random Thoughts* and *Recent Writings* have recently been printed, as well as his translation of Alexander I. Herzen's *Memoirs*. He is currently working on a novel — *She Has a Pair of Beautiful Eyes*. Woman writer Xie Bingxin's short story "Empty Nest" won a national award in 1980. Finally, Yang Xianru has published *Umbrella*, a novel about the splits among intellectuals after the defeat of the Great Revolution (1924-27).

The second generation includes those veteran writers old enough to have participated in the anti-Japanese resistance. Many occupy leading posts in literary and art





Young and old believe they can learn from one another. Left to right: Zong Pu, Liu Xinwu, veteran poet Ai Qing, and Kong Jiasheng. Wang Zijin



The late, much-revered writer Mao Dun frequently visited bookstores to talk with readers of his works.

organizations, but still continue to write. Ding Ling has completed and published her novel, *During a Bitter Cold Day*. Sha Ting's novel *Qinggangpo Village* has also appeared, along with a number of short stories. Ai Wu's short novel *Adventures on a Mountain* has been serialized in a literary journal. Yao Xueyin is working on the third volume of his *Li Zicheng*; Ouyang Shan and Zhou Erfu are also completing multi-volume works. Ai Qing has published several popular anthologies of his poems. Yang Mo has completed both a novel and a volume of non-fiction called *Diary Which Is Not Really a Diary*. The poet Zang Kejia's reflections on his own works has been serialized in several journals.

The third group, the middle-aged writers who constitute the backbone of China's current literary scene, are at the peak of their powers and have written some of the most popular works of the last few years. A number of Beijing members of this generation have recently formed a society to exchange ideas on social problems and literary craftsmanship. Among them are Wang Meng, Deng Youmei, Cong Weixi, Liu Shaotang, Lin Jinlan, Chen Rong, Ke Yan, Zhang Jie.

The young writers whose works were first published after the fall

of the gang of four constitute the fourth and last group. They turned to literature through their turbulent life and sad experience during the "cultural revolution." With their willingness to think deeply about society and their courage in expressing bold new ideas, their works reflect the wounds of the young people and their awakening, striking a sympathetic chord among young readers. Notable writers in this group include Feng Jikai, Jiang Zilong, Liu Xinwu, Li You, Su Shuyang, Jia Pingao, Zhang Kangkang, Ye Wenling, Kong Jiasheng, Chen Cun, Wang Anyi, Wang Runci, He Shiguang, Shu Ting and Luo Gengye. These writers have sprung up "like bamboo shoots after spring rain." They are the future of Chinese literature, and the future looks bright.

### Literary Criticism

In the process of seeking truth from facts, Chinese literary figures have advanced the main trend of revolutionary realism in literary and art works. They see their task as not only to look realistic contradictions in the face, but to give people strength; not only to criticize reality, but to affirm it. Since writers and artists are urged to emancipate their minds, it is inevitable that some will produce works which violate the principle of revolutionary realism. Such

works have been criticized by ordinary readers and by members of literary and art circles.

The article "On the Erroneous Tendency of *Unrequited Love*," which appeared in the No. 19 issue of *Wenyi Bao* magazine, raised some serious questions about the script of the film *Unrequited Love*. It pointed out that in China's literary and art circles today there exists an erroneous ideological trend which turns away from the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist road, and that this film script is an example of the trend.

Members of China's art circles are dedicated to the policy of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend, and in the process unfolding normal and healthy criticism and discussion, because this is an important means of promoting literary progress and training successors to the cause of socialist literature.

Leading organizations in the arts and the editorial departments of various newspapers and magazines are acting in the spirit of the forum on the ideological front sponsored by the Party Central Committee, trying to overcome weakness and slackness, unfold normal literary criticism, irrigate flowers and wipe out weeds so as to bring about a new flourishing of literature in China. □

# China's Shipbuilding Boom

QIU JIAN

CHINA was one of the world's first nations to develop shipbuilding and ocean navigation. As far back as the Northern and Southern dynasties (420-589), noted scientist Zu Chongzhi invented a ship propelled by a treadwheel. At the end of the 15th century famous Chinese seafarer Zheng He led large fleets to such distant places as western Asia and east Africa. His largest fleet included as many as 260 vessels. His biggest ship was 121 meters from bow to stern and 54 meters wide and could carry up to 1,000 people.

In later centuries, however, Chinese shipbuilding declined, and only in recent years has it experienced a revival.

A leader in this revival is the Dalian Shipyard in northeast China, which was founded in 1898 during the Czarist Russian occupation of the port of Lushun-Dalian (Lushun-Dairen). Later the Japanese imperial army took over from the Russians. In its first fifty years, the shipyard was a crude affair with dilapidated workshops and obsolete equipment. Its 4,000 workers were virtual slaves.

## Reaching World Standards

The shipyard has undergone many renovations and expansions in the past thirty years. Originally capable only of repair work, it has now become a comprehensive shipbuilding enterprise with a full range of equipment, a strong technical force, and the capacity to construct ships of many kinds, marine diesel engines, propellers, anchor chains and other equip-

ment. It now has four slipways (one of them for constructing ships of the 100,000-ton class), two docks, four 100-ton gantry cranes and eight other large cranes, and a competent staff of technicians and workers. It has become one of China's major builders of large oceangoing vessels.

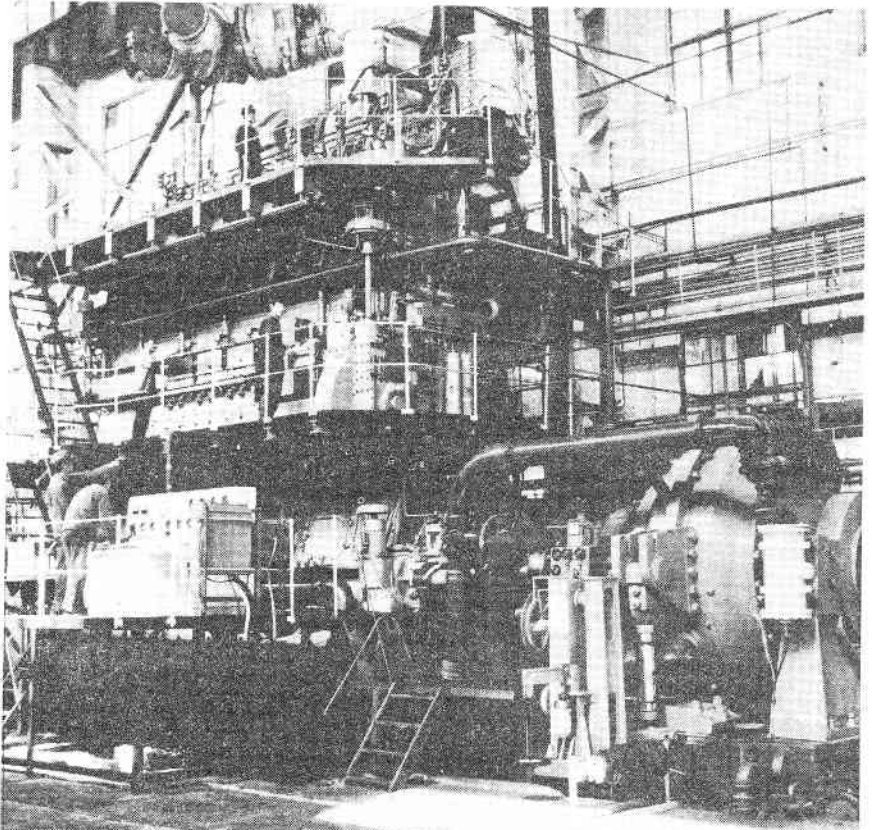
On September 14, 1981, the *Changcheng* (or *Regent Tampopo*), the shipyard's first 27,000-ton oceangoing freighter built for export was launched. It was made under a contract between the China Corporation of Shipbuilding Industry and Regent Shipping, Ltd. of Hongkong.

The *Changcheng* is a single-deck after-engine bulk carrier with

five big holds and four 25-ton deck cranes. It has a cruising speed of 14.5 knots and a maximum navigation distance of 17,000 nautical miles. Equipment is so automated that a crew of only 30 can handle it.

In line with the contract, the *Changcheng* was built according to the rules and regulations of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, the noted British ship inspection institution, and according to Japanese standards of quality for shipbuilding. Each major process had to be inspected and passed by a Lloyd's inspector and representatives of the shipowner. Pooling their efforts, the shipyard workers paid scrupulous attention to every

Final test on a ship's engine.



QIU JIAN is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



detail of such procedures as welding, assembly, rust-removal and painting, and in the process brought China's shipbuilding technology to a new stage of development.

Japanese site supervisor Mr. Yasuzo Sakamoto has this to say: "I have been responsible for building more than 150 ships. And I have seen many Chinese vessels. As far as quality of construction is concerned, this is the best of them all. China is beginning to enter the ranks of the world's foremost shipbuilders."

As the *Changcheng* was being launched, its sister ship the *Wangyuan* was already taking shape in the No. 3 slipway. The Dalian shipyard has up to this writing signed contracts with foreign concerns for the building of another eight cargo vessels, each of 27,000 tons' displacement.

### Technical Ingenuity

This shipyard began construction of China's first 10,000-ton oceangoing vessel in 1958. It went on to build China's first 24,000-ton oil tanker and 18,000 hp diesel engines for ships of the 50,000-ton class. The country's first large hydraulic self-raising oil drilling vessel, the *Bohai No. 1* was built some six years ago at Dalian, followed by the *Bohai No. 5*.

There are abundant reserves of oil on the continental shelf of China's seas, and oil workers at first built stationary offshore platforms to serve as bases for drill rigs. The platforms took a long time to build and were difficult to



Vice-Premier Gu Mu (3rd right, front row) and shipowner Mr. Y. S. Pao (1st left, front row) at the launching ceremony for the "Changcheng".

move from place to place. But the techniques needed to build drilling ships were complicated, and technical data on key components were kept secret. Only a few countries in the world were able to design and build them on their own. Workers and technicians at the Dalian shipyard did a large amount of research, and after many experiments finally succeeded in building China's first drilling vessel.

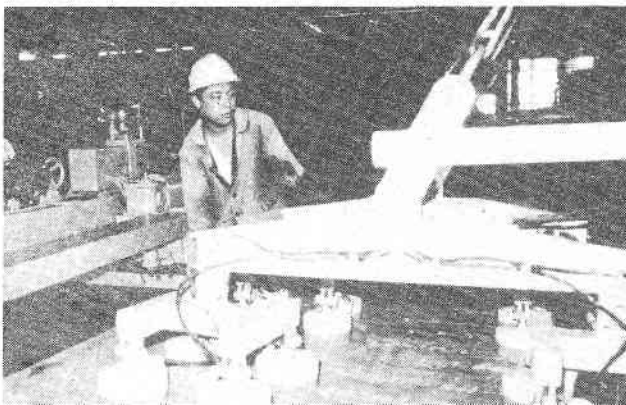
Since it was commissioned in March 1973, the *Bohai No. 1* has undergone the test of wind and waves. In force 11 gales its pylons have not shifted and the ship's hull has remained steady. In the past eight years all its equipment has operated normally in situations of extreme heat and cold. Now construction has started at the Shanghai Shipyard on the first semisubmersible oil drilling vessel designed in China.

In the naval flotilla that assisted in China's carrier rocket test in the South Pacific in 1980 were two large oil and water-supply ships with equipment supplied by the Dalian Shipyard.

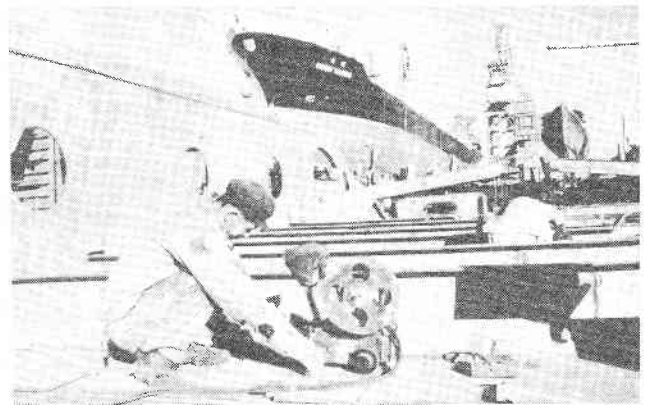
A key problem in constructing a supply ship is the equipment used to transfer oil and water from one ship to another. But the only reference material Dalian engineers had when they first started to study the matter were a few photographs they had found in foreign books and magazines. Nobody had ever seen the probe at the tip of the fueling line.

Engineer Mi Wanwen and technician Liu Wencheng studied the picture of a refueling operation at sea, but it showed only the hose and not the probe. Finally, they put forward a design that seemed plausible. The design group then set up a field base for model experiments. Six months

Automated equipment makes the handling of heavy steel components a quick and easy process.

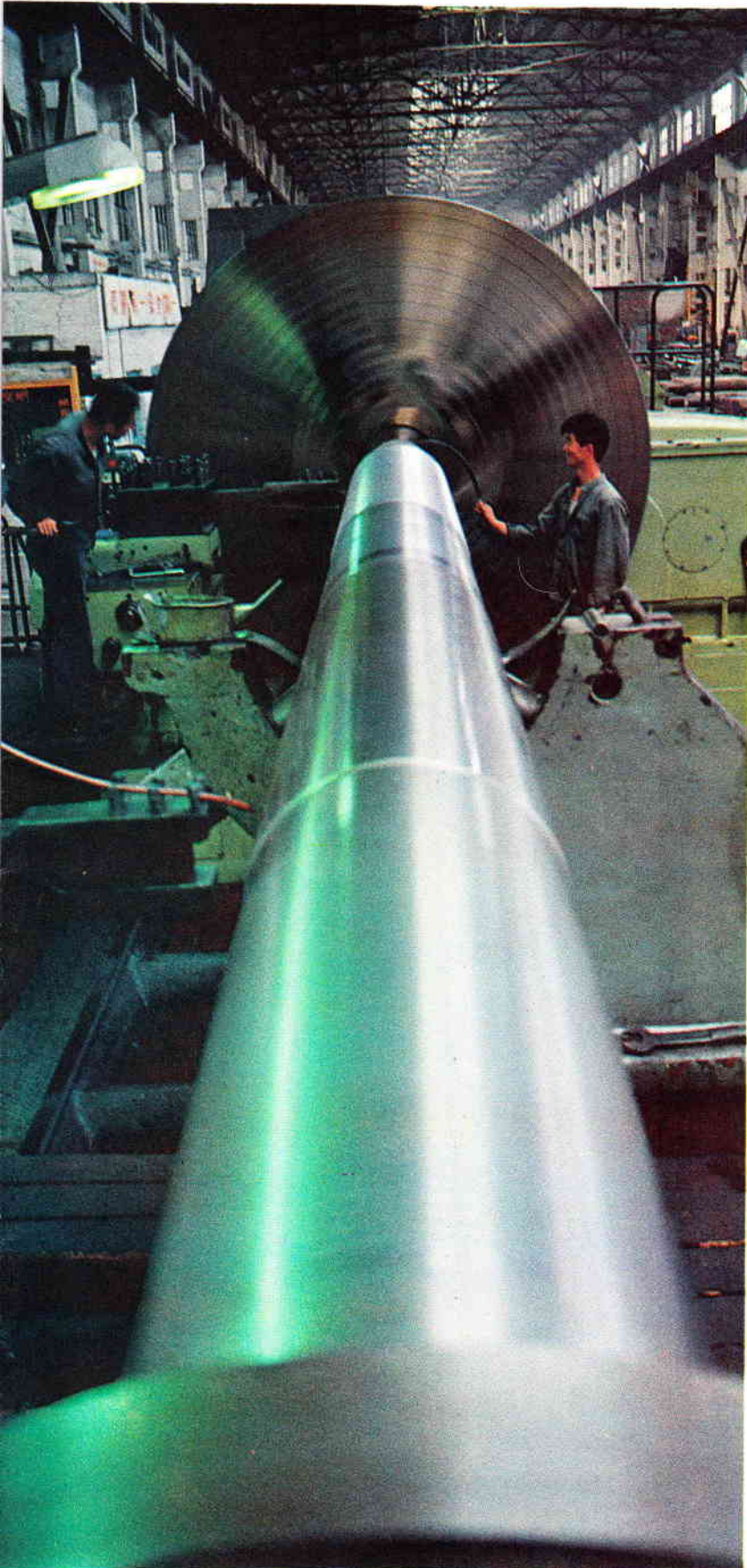


Welding steel plates.



Photos by Wang Hongxun





Processing a transmission shaft,

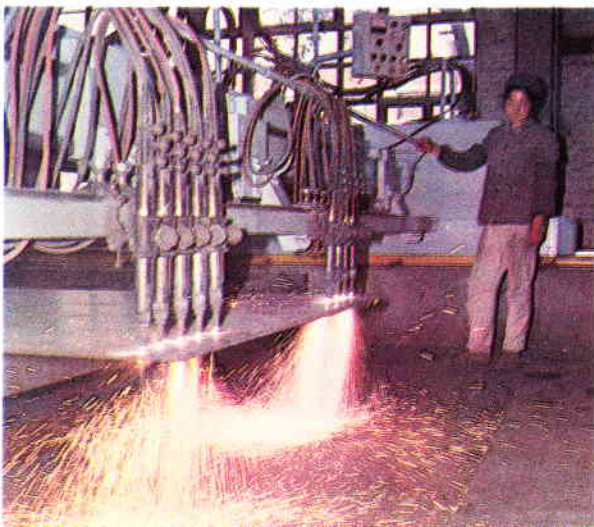


Propeller being examined for quality.



The designers of the 27,000-ton freighter.

In the cutting workshop.







The first 27,000-ton freighter designed and built by the Dalian Shipyard.

*Photos by Wang Hongxun*

later, after several revisions, China's first transverse refueling system for use at sea was ready to go into production.

### New Ship Exporter

On April 6, 1981, a yearly report published by Lloyd's Register of Shipping declared that one of the most interesting developments in world ship construction in 1980 was the appearance of China as an exporter.

Between 1962 and the present, China has launched a hundred 10,000 to 25,000-ton ships. Whereas China's shipbuilding industry used to serve mainly the country's domestic needs, in the last couple of years, in line with the policy of readjusting the national economy, the industry has turned toward the international market. Beginning in 1980, China's shipping has estab-

lished permanent professional contacts with more than a hundred foreign firms as well as educational and government institutions in 40 or more countries and regions.

The No. 6 Ministry of Machine Building alone has signed contracts with foreign firms for the export of more than 80 ships of various types totaling more than 600 thousand tons. These, plus a number of oil drilling platforms and some machinery assembled with customers' materials, have brought the total business volume to more than US \$600 million.

### 'Made in My Motherland!'

With the advances in China's shipbuilding industry, more and more oceangoing ships are serving as the emissaries of the Chinese people in their contacts with other peoples. Two years ago the

Chinese ship *Liu Lin* crossed the Pacific and for the first time sailed into the port of Seattle in the United States. An American Coast Guard patrol boat came out to meet her, and an American official said in his welcoming speech to the crew: "The clear sky today symbolizes the progress of Sino-American friendship. This day should have come 30 years earlier!"

When the *Dongfeng* made her maiden voyage to Vancouver, Canada, a 70-year-old overseas Chinese woman, supported by her grandchildren, mounted to the bow of the ship and said emotionally: "This ship was made in my motherland! At last I have seen one with my own eyes." Another elderly overseas Chinese was heard to say: "It's dozens of years since I left China, but standing on this ship makes me feel as though I were back in my homeland." □

## Children

### Budding Scientist

MY dear little friend Fan Xiaohui: I've received your letter and your picture. I'm glad to have a little friend like you. As people say, you are my little 'rival'..." What was 85-year-old Professor Mao Yisheng, distinguished head of China's Academy of Railway Science thinking of to write such a letter to a nine-year-old school-boy?

It all started last July when Xiaohui, his teacher Chen Lianyu and his 4th-grade classmates at Beijing's Yumin Primary School paid a visit to Professor Mao. During their talk Xiaohui said that he had read the professor's book, *Golden Key*, and had been particularly impressed by one thing. When the professor was 19 and a sophomore in college, he had memorized the calculated value of  $\pi$  up to 100 decimal places in order to train his memory. After reading the book Xiaohui, who wants to become a scientist, had committed to memory the same list.

The professor immediately called for pens and paper. "We'll have

a race," he said, "and see if we can both do it correctly." Writing quickly, the old scientist and the boy completed their lists without a single mistake. And the young boy's nimble fingers helped him finish just ahead of the professor. The "loser" was immensely pleased: "This shows how very bright and full of promise China's younger generation has become!"

Xiaohui's feat is a natural outgrowth of his longstanding interest in science. Both his parents are engineers at Beijing's Power Research Institute, and they began to teach him about science at a very early age. As his enthusiasm developed, they bought him a number of children's science books and a subscription to the magazine *Amateur Astronomer*. In the last few years he has read a great many books on scientific subjects.

His particular interest in astronomy and mathematics has been encouraged by his teachers, who have arranged visits to the planetarium and helped him to construct a telescope. His ambition right



Fan Xiaohui writes the calculated values of  $\pi$  from memory at Mao's home.  
Yao Yang

now is to become an astronomer in order to probe the secrets of the universe. Already he can name more than a hundred stars with their correct positions and rattle off the names of the planets of the solar system in order, the distances between earth and sun, and earth and moon. He understands black holes and knows what the surface of Mars looks like.

Despite his interest in science, he has not neglected other areas of life. For the past three years he has been cited by his school for excellence in his studies, his overall work record and his physical condition. □



### Fei Xiaotong Honored with Huxley Medal in London

FAMOUS Chinese sociologist Fei Xiaotong received the Thomas H. Huxley Memorial Medal from the Royal Anthropological Institute in London on November 18, 1981. The highest academic honor in international anthropology, the award was established in 1900 to commemorate Thomas H. Huxley, noted British naturalist. Professor Fei is the first Chinese so honored.

Fei Xiaotong studied sociology at Yanjing and Qinghua universities and received a doctorate in anthropology in 1938 from the London School of Economics, where he worked under famous anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. His doctoral dissertation "Peasant Life in China" was based on a scientific survey he had conducted before going abroad of the rural village of Kaixiangong near his hometown in Jiangsu province. The dissertation was immediately published in England, becoming a classic in the field. Professor Fei is president of the Chinese Sociology Association and leader of the effort to re-establish sociology as an academic discipline after the disruptions of the "cultural revolution."

In 1957, Fei Xiaotong revisited Kaixiangong under the auspices of the then Institute of Economics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and in September 1980 the 73-year-old scholar visited the village for the third time. His article provides a window on the enormous changes in China's countryside over the past half century. It is condensed and adapted from his November 1981 speech accepting the Huxley Medal.



After 45 years Prof. Fei revisited the village together with sister Fei Dasheng (center) and wife Meng Yin. Zhou Yungu

## A Chinese Village's 45 Years

FEI XIAOTONG

Ripe fields of rape promise a good harvest for Kaixiangong Zhou Yungu

KAIXIANGONG, near my own birthplace, is the village where I conducted fieldwork in 1936. My doctoral dissertation at the London School of Economics, under the direction of Professor Bronislaw Malinowski, was based on this survey and was published in English in 1938 under the title *Peasant Life in China*. In October 1980 I had a chance to study Kaixiangong for the third time over a 45-year period.

Located on the southeast bank of Lake Taihu, Jiangsu province.



CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

the village enjoys easy access to both Suzhou and Hangzhou, two busy urban centers of the lower Yangtze region — today one of China's more prosperous agricultural areas. Among the 700,000 production brigades sampled in a 1979 national survey, no more than 1,632 had a per capita income of over 300 yuan; the national average was less than 100 yuan. Kaixiangong's figure was 300 yuan, placing it high on the national scale and about average on the regional scale. This is a dramatic change from what I found on my first visit in 1936.

The enormous changes that China has experienced during the past half century are unprecedented in world history — changes which have transformed a country under semi-colonial and semi-feudal rule into a socialist society. This transformation has affected every individual and every village in China — including Kaixiangong.

### Hunger and Oppression

After my 1936 survey, I observed that the major problem facing China was "the hunger of the peasants." This problem became worse for Kaixiangong between 1936 and 1949, the year of liberation. By the late 1940s landlords owned 50.5 percent of the farmland in the

village, and 75 percent of the peasant households worked rented land. Most peasants were poor and lived on borrowed money. Usually, they sold their food grains immediately after each harvest to clear their debts and then again borrowed money to buy food for the coming winter.

Economic misery during this 13-year period was compounded by repeated floods around the Lake Taihu region, the result of official negligence of water conservancy programs, by oppressive taxation and by roving gangs of bandits. Many peasants fled the village. Under these conditions, farm production remained stagnant or actually declined. The condition of the peasants in Kaixiangong was ultimately the product of an exploitative system of land tenure and of the political power which sustained that system. Chinese peasants did not become the masters of their own land until the liberation of 1949 transformed the nature of political power. The land reform of 1952 fundamentally transformed the system of economic production. With these basic changes China entered a new era.

The effects of land reform may be seen by a comparison between production figures for 1949 and 1952. Grain production increased 42.15 percent. Peasants' purchasing power doubled. Between 1949 and

1955, grain production grew from 2,250 kilograms to 4,200 kilograms per hectare.

### From Land Reform to Communes

The establishment of the communes in 1958 appears, in retrospect, to have been premature. These mistakes were largely corrected during the 1962-1966 period, when ultra-Leftist tendencies were rectified, production teams designated the local fiscal units for economic management, and the distribution of income according to skill and actual labor time expended was implemented.

This period also witnessed an increase in state investments for



Inside the brigade silk-reeling mill.

Zhou Yunqu



basic improvements in farmland and irrigation systems, including electric-powered pumping facilities. As a result, grain production in Kaixiangong increased at an annual rate of 8.25 percent during the five-year period from 1962 to 1966. The village industry of sericulture and silk reeling, which had a long tradition in Kaixiangong, was not only restored but further expanded. Commune members thus enjoyed an average annual income of 119 yuan by 1966.

Many villagers referred to 1962 as the turning point in their economic fortunes. "From this year on," they told me, "we could

unacquainted with local conditions; and the leftist emphasis on absolute egalitarianism. The average income of the villagers in 1976 thus lingered around 114 yuan.

The major policy changes introduced in 1978 finally removed the various negative effects of the leftist phase. Since then, economic production in rural areas like Kaixiangong has entered a new and promising phase of development. By 1980 the average yearly total of food grains available to the peasants of Kaixiangong had increased to 500 kilograms.

On a national level, although agricultural output since liberation has increased by 169 percent nationwide, the growth rate for individual shares of grains has only increased by 52 percent. As late as 1980, the average yearly individual share of grains per person in China was 273.7 kilograms, in contrast to Kaixiangong's 500. Some agriculturally underdeveloped regions in China thus have yet to solve the problem of hunger.

And the primary reason for the imbalance between China's dramatic increases in food production and the availability of food to the peasants can be found in the similarly dramatic increases in the Chinese population. Food production has only just kept up with the increases in population. It is for this reason, of course, that controlling our population is a major problem facing the country today. Not only is the soil of Kaixiangong more fertile than many other parts of the country, and hence capable of producing more food, but its population increase has also been slower. The result is that the people have surplus grain to raise pigs and chickens and considerable land to grow mulberry trees for raising silkworms. Consequently, their income is higher and life better.

The solution to China's food problem lies not merely with increasing grain production, but with controlling population increase. China's population of one billion cannot be reduced in the near future, even with effective family planning programs. The most conservative estimates sug-

gest that the population will reach 1.2 billion by the end of the century, and the vast majority — some 80 percent — will live in the rural areas. This is a basic fact from which all plans and theories about the Chinese economy and society must flow.

### Diversification

The per capita income of Kaixiangong in 1980 approached 300 yuan, about three times the national average. But as late as 1978, Kaixiangong per capita income remained at 114 yuan. How, after a long period of stagnation, did the villagers succeed in enriching themselves so quickly?

As early as 1936 I noted the importance of village industries as a means to raise the standard of living in rural areas. During my 1957 visit to Kaixiangong, I became concerned about the tendency to neglect peasant sideline occupations and about the lack of official support. Much of the increase in peasant incomes in Kaixiangong since 1978 can be explained by a shift away from a single-line concentration on cultivating food crops to a new, pluralistic approach. The collective economy absorbed and expanded the peasants' side occupation of cocoon cultivation into a publicly-owned silk industry and a great variety of individual sideline household occupations was encouraged. About 100,000 rabbits are now being raised in the commune where Kaixiangong is located, producing an annual income exceeding one million yuan. The average income from all sideline occupations reached 120-150 yuan per person in 1980 — that is, about half of the village's per capita income.

One three-person household I visited was able to earn 1,087 yuan in 1980 by selling 9 pigs and the fur of 2 sheep, and 8 rabbits; by providing fertilizer to the collective; and by marketing produce from their private plots. In addition, they received 660 yuan from the collective for their contributions to its collective agricultural and sideline production. The household's total yearly income



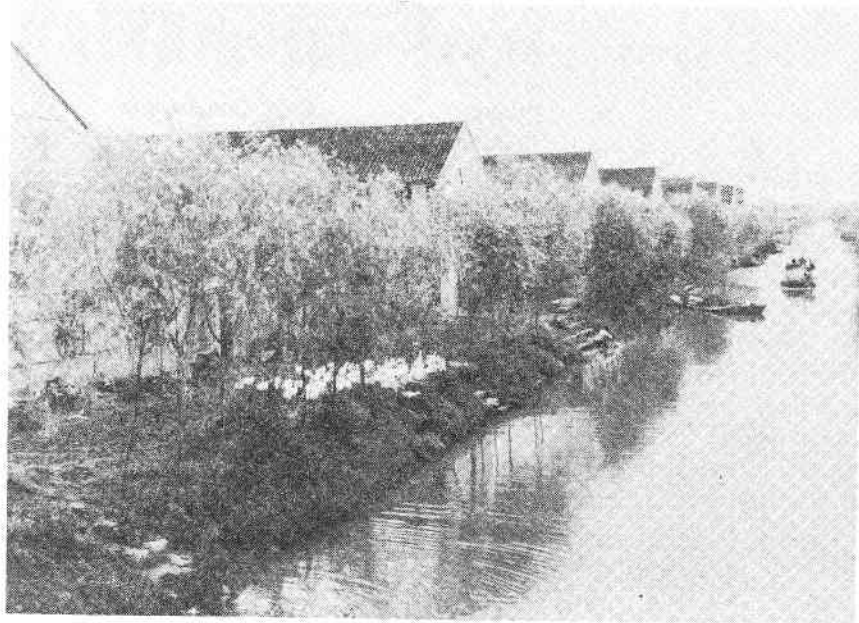
Posing with a friend of long ago — A Xiu, now 78 years old. At right, as she appeared in 1936.

have three meals of steamed rice every day." By "three meals of steamed rice," they meant one kilogram of grain daily for an able-bodied peasant.

### 'Leftist' Damage and Recovery

But this period of rectification was followed by the so-called cultural revolution. Peasant incentives for economic production were drastically reduced by the policy of promoting grain production at the expense of sideline occupations and rural industries; the increased power of higher level cadres





Increased incomes and savings have been poured into new housing.

Zhou Yungu

Below, the village as it was 45 years ago.



reached 1,747 yuan, or an average of 582.3 yuan per member. While this income is higher than average, this is not a particularly wealthy household by village standards.

### Housing

With the basic problems of food and clothing solved, and with many peasants now able to save substantial sums, new demands have been created. Housing, including both buildings and furnishings, has become the major new concern. Most villagers are still living in the same houses I saw during my 1936 survey. The houses are not only rather more dilapidated, but they also house considerably more people. Premises which I clearly remember housing three families now sometimes house ten.

Traditionally, when young couples marry, they take up residence with the young man's family. In the past, with savings scarce and a housing shortage, villagers were faced with the alternative of postponing their sons' weddings or dividing their already small living quarters to provide a separate room for the newlyweds. Today most families with sons of marriageable age are busy with housing projects. In the past year fifty new housing units have been added

to the cluster of 250 households in the southern part of the village — adding, I confess, considerable confusion to the already chaotic layout of the settlement. And many more villagers told me of their intentions to spend their savings on new housing.

A wedding is also the occasion to add new pieces of furniture to the household — beds, tables, chairs, wardrobes and so on. I made a quick survey of newlyweds' living quarters to estimate the value of each household's investment (the bride's family actually contributes the major share of the expense for furnishings, while the groom's family provides the living quarters). According to my calculations, the expenditure on furnishings for each newlywed couple exceeded 2,000 yuan. Such extravagance in a village that has only recently won the battle for subsistence might justifiably be criticized. But it may also be regarded as an important and long-overdue process of renovation in the broad cycle of village life, and most of the furniture represents major investments for life-long use by the young couple.

Indeed, among the new problems arising from the recent economic boom in the Chinese countryside is the currently inadequate supply of

consumer goods — including furniture, clothing and other items — for the 800 million people of the rural areas.

### Collective Economy

But to focus on individual sideline production is to focus on only part of the story of the economic recovery of Kaixiangong. For a major part of the peasants' income still comes from the village's collective economy, and in recent years changes in this area have also been great.

Within the collective economy, there are three major sources of income: income deriving from participation in agricultural production, income derived from sideline production based on agricultural production, and income derived from collective industries.

In Kaixiangong, agricultural production and sideline or industrial production had been the primary mode of production since 1950. The reintroduction of the collective raising of silkworms contributed to the increase in per capita income to a point in excess of 100 yuan in 1966. However, at that time the ratio of collective income derived from agriculture

versus sideline production was 87.8:11.9.

Since 1978, the agricultural sector of the collective economy in Kaixiangong has expanded. The tendency towards ultra-Left egalitarianism has ended. Now, rather than equal pay regardless of work in agricultural production, peasants are paid on the basis of actual work performed, and their enthusiasm for participation in collective agricultural production has commensurately increased.

Agricultural organization in Kaixiangong now emphasizes individual responsibility for production. The fields remain collectively owned, but a number of households assume major responsibility jointly for certain tracts of land. Under these new policies, collective agricultural production in Kaixiangong has increased by 39.2 percent between 1978 and 1979. Income from sideline collective enterprises such as silkworm production has also increased, and with it individual income.

#### Importance of Rural Industries

But beneath the successful development of collectively organized agriculture and sideline production are cruel and inescapable facts. Not only is the price of grain low, thereby restricting the amount of income to be derived from its production, but in many parts of China, including Kaixiangong, the limits of agricultural growth have been, or are about to be, reached.

Moreover, some of the unfavorable factors which have restricted the growth of grain production also cast a shadow on those sideline occupations which depend on agricultural products such as raising pigs and poultry, which depend on surplus grains, and raising silkworms, which depend on mulberry leaves. The

restoration of sericulture in Kaixiangong was made possible by the newly installed electric powered pumping facilities, which transformed a large tract of flooded area into mulberry groves. But the prospect of further increases in mulberry acreage in Kaixiangong appears as bleak as further increases in the output of grain.

It is within this context that the new promise of collectively organized rural industry must be understood. Collectively owned rural industries in China may be divided into two categories: in the first category are those industries involved in processing local agricultural products. The silk industry in Kaixiangong is a good example. The second type of rural industry has evolved largely in villages located close to cities, where urban factories have contracted with commune or brigade workshops to manufacture parts for bicycles, sewing machines, radio sets, and the like. This latter type seems to have a bright future.

In Kaixiangong several new collectively owned industries were introduced in 1979: two soybean mills, one silk reeling filature, and one silk weaving workshop. While all three sectors of the collective economy have registered increased output, the proportion of individual peasant incomes derived from the collective agricultural sector has declined while the proportion derived from agricultural sideline production and industry have increased. To take one of Kaixiangong's production brigades as an example, in 1979 the collective income from agriculture, sideline production, and rural industries were 50.3 percent, 22.6 percent and 26.6 percent respectively. By the end of 1980, with the introduction of new collective industries, 41 percent of collective income was from agriculture, 19 percent from agricultural sideline

production and 40 percent from collective industries.

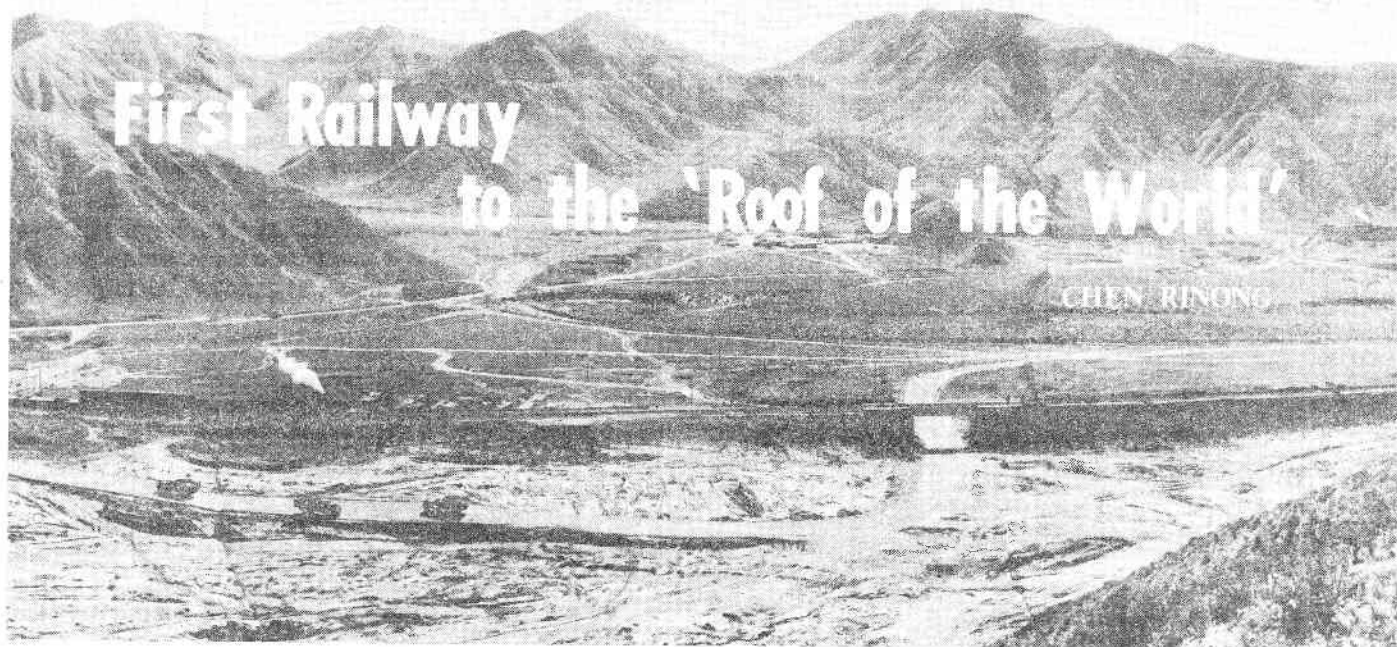
#### Two Conclusions

Two conclusions emerge. The first is the necessity of preserving and expanding collective production in rural China. While a substantial increase in peasant income can indeed be attributed to individual sideline activities, a significant portion of that increase has come from increases in collective activities. In Kaixiangong the individual's average share of income from collective production reached 150 yuan in 1979 — a 33.3 percent rise from the 1978 level.

Second is the importance of developing and fostering rural industry in China. In a populous country such as China, once the basic problem of subsistence is solved, a major solution to the problem of rural poverty must be to spread a great variety of smaller scale industries throughout the vast rural areas rather than to concentrate a small number of large industries in the big cities. What is happening today in Kaixiangong is also happening in many other parts of China, as formerly impoverished brigades break out of cycles of poverty through sideline enterprises and rural industries.

The introduction of rural industry has the effect of increasing the ratio of industrial labor in the national economy, but it also avoids an excessive concentration of population in urban centers. Introduction of rural industry thus leads to the elimination of an otherwise potentially widening gap between workers and peasants. What I found in Kaixiangong is particularly exciting to me.

My dream of many years is now emerging as reality; we are witnessing the beginning of the industrialization of the Chinese countryside. □



ONLY 30 years ago, Tibet's forbidding climate and terrain made it one of the world's most inaccessible places. Those same conditions have made the building of a railroad extremely difficult. The completion of the first stage of the projected Qinghai-Tibet Railway thus represents not only a real boon to the local people, but also a considerable engineering feat. This first stage covers the 834.5 kilometers between Xining, capital of Qinghai province, and Golmud, gateway to Tibet; the line will later be extended to Lhasa, Tibet's capital.

In the early years after liberation Tibet's first modern road, the Qinghai-Tibet Highway, ended the region's almost total isolation. But even highway travel is slow; a bus takes about 15 days to travel the road's 1,600-km. length. And the low oxygen content of the air means that internal combustion engines operate at 30 percent below capacity, thus consuming excessive amounts of gasoline.

Rail transport is thus a much faster and more economical way of moving people and goods into and out of the region. The first railway survey by Chinese geologists and engineers was completed by the early 1960s, and some 180 km. of track was laid

between Xining and Harkai. The project was discontinued during the "cultural revolution," but construction resumed in 1975.

### Conquering Nature

Although the new line required less earth-moving than a number of other projects, the treacherous climate and complex terrain made this one of the most difficult railway construction projects ever undertaken by Chinese engineers. The project's deputy chief engineer Chen Yanwu, a veteran of difficult mountainous terrains in Sichuan and other places, summarizes the disadvantages in four words: high, cold, arid and windy. In light of these conditions, military units were assigned to construction work.

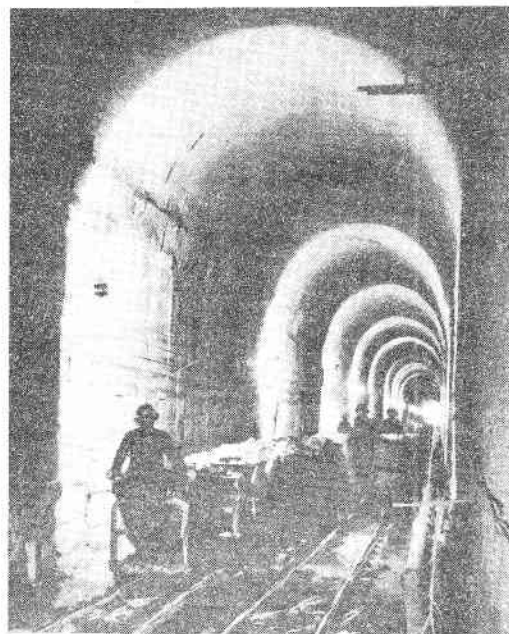
Most of the worksite was 3,000 or more meters above sea level, and construction workers suffered from the high altitude and lack of oxygen. Work continued despite chronic attacks of dizziness, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite and other discomforts. The six-month season of intensive cold shortened the period when construction could be done at all. Low temperatures affected tools and materials and necessitated constant checking of the quality of the work.

The aridity of some sections meant that water for drinking and

construction had to be conserved carefully and brought in from other areas. Over a four-year period, truck teams transported over 2½ million tons of water and logged some 1,550,000 km. in mileage. The region is often hit by sandstorms, and there are gale-force winds as much as 70 days per year. New roadbeds were sometimes destroyed or buried under sand overnight.

Inside the Mt. Guanjiao tunnel.

Liu Xinian



CHEN RINONG is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



The builders constantly devised new methods to deal with local conditions. Four piers had to be built across the Junhe River in the dead of winter. Short of conventional fuels, construction crews hauled several tons of yak dung from nearby grasslands. The improvised fuel was used to thaw the frozen ground so that foundations could be dug. Heated sand and gravel were used to melt ice from steel plates and to prevent the mixture of cement and water from freezing. Small sections of the piers were prefabricated indoors and then put together in the open.

### A Mountain Tunnel

Mt. Guanjiao, 3,700 meters above sea level, stands between the great Tianjun grassland and the Tsaidam Basin. A 4,000-meter tunnel through the mountain was one of the builders' most serious challenges.

Young construction worker Yuan Wuxie explained the problems: "The tunnel passes through 11 separate faults; moreover, the rock there is mostly limestone and schists containing minerals which expand regularly when water seeps down from above. Despite our best efforts, we experienced 130 major and minor cave-ins. So much underground water accumulated in the tunnel that in a 24-hour period some 10,000 cubic meters had to be pumped out.

Because of the lack of oxygen and the dampness, one could not even strike a match. After hours of working in these conditions, workers often felt dizzy or even fainted."

In 1975 a cave-in trapped 127 workers in a tunnel. A huge mass of earth and stone had to be removed, but underground water was rising constantly. Yuan himself was a member of the rescue team who dug frantically for 14 hours to reach the trapped workers, and it was he who first crawled through the passage to contact them. All 127 were brought safely back to the surface.

The tunnel took a year to dig. It was lined with reinforced concrete before track was laid. But even then the work was not over. A later trial run showed signs of distortion in the track and tunnel due to expansion of the rock strata, and repairs and preventive measures had to be taken before the tunnel was safe for trains.

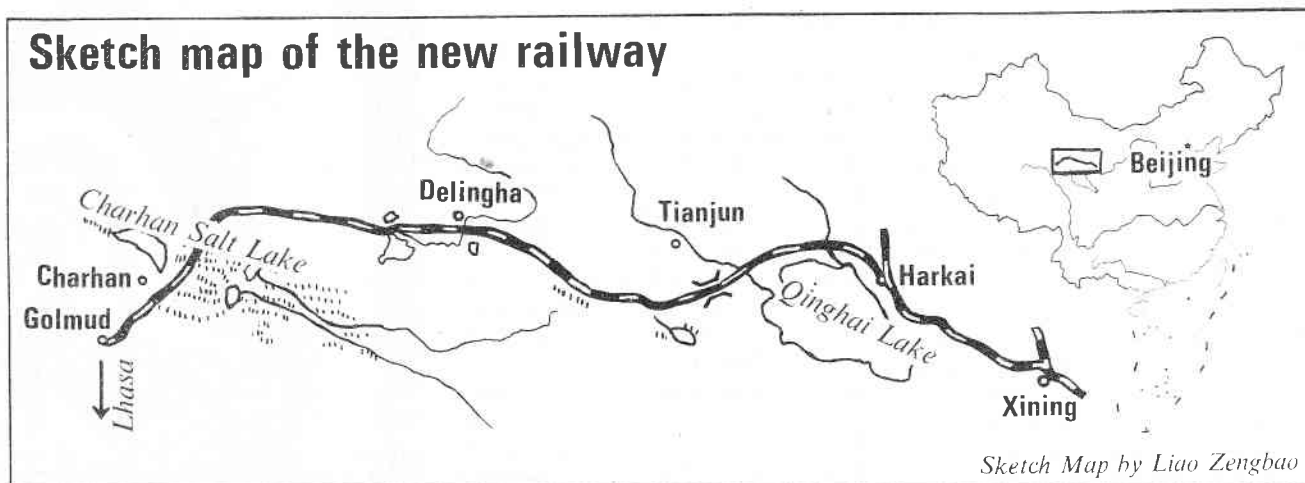
### Salt Lake

The most unusual geological feature the railwaymen encountered was Charhan Salt Lake, composed not of water but of crystallized salt formed by centuries of evaporation. Some 30 km. of track had to be laid across the lake, and construction methods had to be adapted to the layers of

salt, which averaged 18 meters thick. Each square meter of salt can support a 42.5-ton pressure, twice the tensile strength of ordinary soil, but the salt had to be stabilized. The builders compacted the salt surface with rollers, blasted salt "rocks" on either side of the railway, and piled them up as roadbed on which salt water was poured to harden it. Finally, a layer of gravel was laid on top.

On both lakeshores, sections of fine sand saturated with water at freezing temperatures presented another problem. The ice seemed hard, but even a little vibration affected its stability, and of course the ice would melt eventually. The builders used a vibrating pile driver to compress gravel into pipes and then drive the pipes into the ground. This increased the density of the soil and raised the per-unit bearing capacity. Ten months of hard work were required to drive 56,000 pipes into the ground and fill them with 48,000 cubic meters of gravel.

On the northern lakeshore was a karst section in which underground water had created a number of holes, many of which were invisible from the surface. The builders had to search meter by meter, eventually finding some 1,100 holes and filling them with corrosion-proof pebbles, to make the karst a solid foundation for the roadbed.

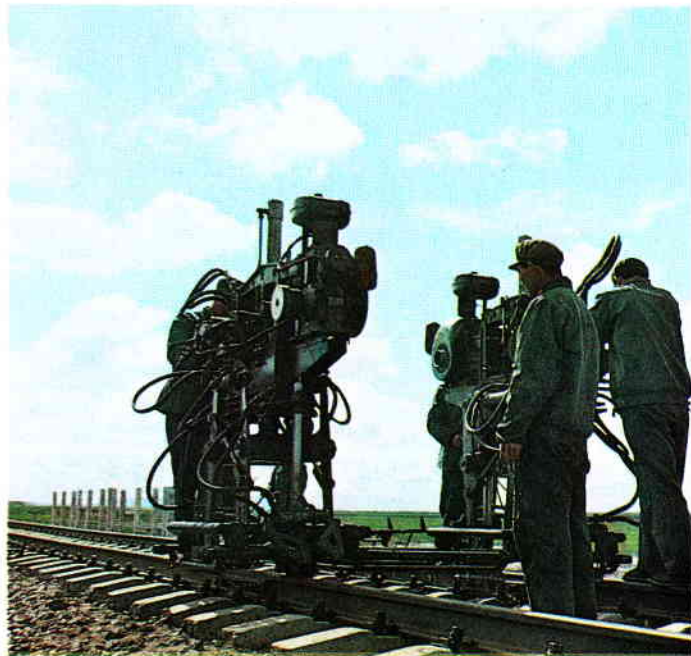




A ceremony marks the arrival of the first train at Golmud station.

*Li Zhongkui*

Track maintenance. *Wang Xinmin*



Tibetans present milk tea to the railwaymen. *Wang Xinmin*







A train passes near the north shore of Qinghai Lake.

*Wang Ximin*

Riding in comfort.

*Wang Ximin*





The last stage of construction was the building of communications and support equipment along the railway line, including hospitals and living quarters for railway workers and staff. On July 28, 1979, the section was completed, and local people were invited to mark the opening. Tibetan and Mongolian herdsmen dressed in their holiday best rode to the ceremony on horseback. They presented railway workers with local delicacies and small gifts symbolizing good luck. Many took their first train rides.

### Opening the 'Treasure-House'

The excitement of the local people is not hard to understand, for the new railway will have enormous impact on the economy of the region. Delingha means "vastness" in Mongolian, and this boundless grassland once housed only the scattered tents of herdsmen. With the development of the economy and the construction of the highway to the region, Delingha became the township capital of the Haixi Autonomous Prefecture and the center of its thriving pastoral area.

But with the high cost and inconvenience of truck transport, few of its animal products could be shipped out to other parts of China. In one county, some 70 percent of the able-bodied workers were needed just to do transport work. Driven overland to Xining, many yaks and sheep either died or lost significant amounts of weight.

With the railway at hand, a new cold storage facility has been built. Now every year some 50,000 head of yak and sheep can be slaughtered, put in cold storage, and then shipped by train. This has increased the region's output by some 150 tons of mutton and beef per year. It is also much easier now to bring things in from outside. Minnows from Xining have been used to stock a large freshwater lake in west Delingha which now raises enough fish to supply the whole area.

Some people refer to the Tsaidam Basin as a "treasure-

house" because of its rich but largely untapped deposits of oil, natural gas, non-ferrous metals, chemical raw materials and salt. Before the new railway, transportation costs made the exploitation of these resources uneconomical. Now things have changed. A large zinc and lead mine has been opened, with a special spur linking it to the main railway line. The government is setting up an integrated enterprise for non-ferrous metals which will eventually include mining, ore dressing and smelting operations.

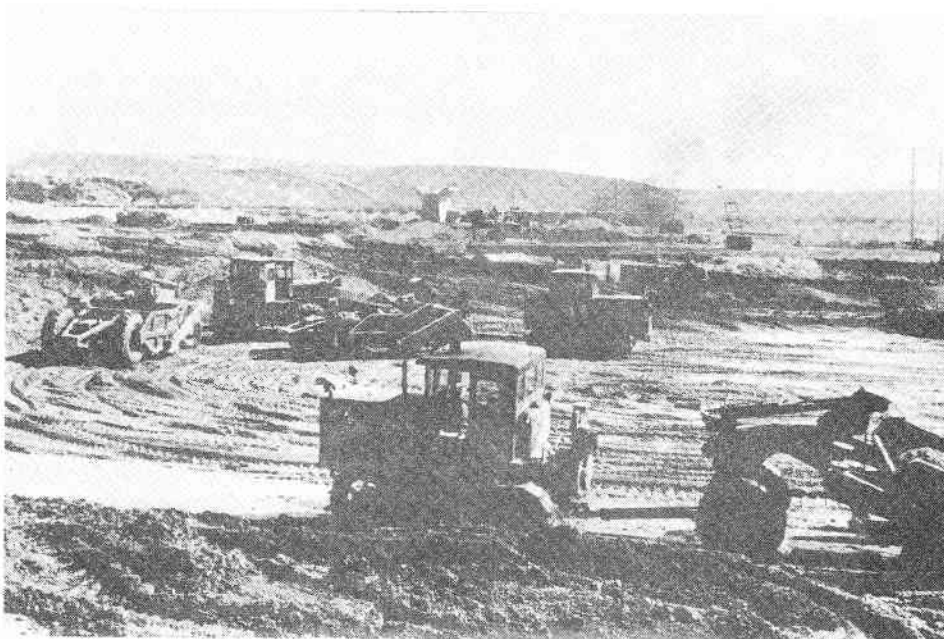
Tsaidam Basin means "salt marsh" in Mongolian, and the area has over 30 lakes, 24 of them salt lakes which have considerable economic potential. Special spurs have linked the biggest lakes with the new railway. On one of these lakes is the Charhan Potassium Fertilizer Plant, which has an annual output of 300,000 tons. In the past, truck transport used to cost the plant 200 yuan per ton; by rail, 50 yuan per ton is enough to transport fertilizer to Xining. The government is planning to build a large chemical plant nearby.

Golmud, the terminus of the first stage of the railway, was formerly a grazing ground, and is now the second largest city in Qinghai province. Population has jumped from 1,000 to 120,000. Along its tree-lined streets are department stores, office buildings, schools, movie theaters and apartment buildings. Golmud has become the transport and communications hub linking western Qinghai with Tibet, Gansu and Xinjiang, and a transfer station for all cargo moving into and out of Tibet. Animal products, medicinal herbs and other Tibetan goods pass through the city on their way to other parts of China. Some 80 percent of the government material aid sent to Tibet is first shipped to Golmud by rail and then sent on to Lhasa by truck.

A Tibetan city official says, "The railway is playing an important role in our economic development, in improving people's livelihood, in strengthening ties between Tibet and the central government, and in national defense. We Tibetans are really eager to see the early completion of the railway to Lhasa." □

Despite high-altitude operating difficulties, mechanized equipment speeded construction.

Wang Xinian



# Tribute to a Pioneer

A good friend of China died in Beijing on November 5, 1981. Dr. Samuel Rosen, world-famous American ear surgeon, suffered a sudden ruptured aneurism of the aorta while on his ninth visit to China. He was 84.

At the solemn memorial service in Beijing on November 11, China's Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Huang Hua said in part:

"Dr. Rosen worked and studied tirelessly to alleviate the pain of his patients and to benefit the people. . . . Since the 1930s, he followed with warm interest the development of the Chinese people's liberation cause, confident that all the sufferings and humiliation to which the Chinese people had been subjected would eventually be ended.

"Dr. Rosen rejoiced at the progress in the People's Republic of China. He was invited to China in 1964, but did not make it because of man-made obstacles known to all at the time. In 1971, when I was Chinese ambassador to Canada I was instructed to write inviting him and his wife Helen Rosen to visit China. On the very next day after he received my letter he flew to Ottawa for their visas.

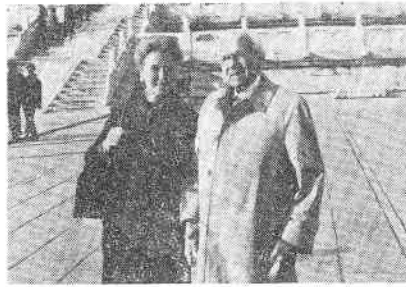
"In Beijing," he added, "Premier Zhou Enlai had thanked them for their sympathy and support."

Recalling the close personal friendship he had formed with Dr. Rosen, Huang Hua went on: "We should learn from his devotion to the enhancement of the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples. Let us continue to make joint efforts and surmount the obstacles along the road so as to further advance this friendship."

Huang Zhen, chairman of China's Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and former Chinese ambassador to

Washington, added that this cause concerns not only the interests of two great peoples and two great countries, but also world peace. Since the normalization of diplomatic ties, progress had been made. But much work still had to be done in Dr. Rosen's spirit.

United States Ambassador Arthur William Hummel, Jr., said that Dr. Rosen's contributions to science and public health had benefited the U.S., China and the world. For some 50 years, he had also contributed to friendship and understanding between the two countries, surmounting many difficulties. Due to various circum-



Dr. Samuel Rosen and Mrs. Helen Rosen in Beijing, 1981.

stances, many persons in the U.S. government had been able to join in such efforts only during the past ten years. Now hundreds of millions of people, on both sides of the ocean, were doing so.

**H**OW Dr. Rosen had helped Dr. Norman Bethune raise money for medical supplies for China's liberated areas during her war of resistance to Japan after 1937 was recalled by Hou Tong, vice-president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. It was then that Dr. Rosen began his long friendship with Soong Ching Ling, the late Honorary Chairman of the People's Republic of China. Sub-

sequently, Dr. Rosen had opposed the Korean war and the hostility of the U.S. government of the time to the new China, and been subjected to McCarthyite persecution.

Prof. Bai Xiuming, president of the Chinese Medical Association, told how, after the improvement of US-China relations, the Rosens, finally able to come to China, often led medical groups for exchanges with Chinese medical personnel, donated medical equipment to Chinese institutions and helped Chinese doctors undertake further study in the United States.

Dr. George Hatem (Ma Haide) said in the course of a eulogy written by Rewi Alley on behalf of himself and Dr. Hans Muller (all three old friends of the deceased) "Sam was never a romantic but a straight-thinking, down-to-earth American scientist, knowing that reality must be built on reality, and that many enormous problems had to be faced. He was always thrilled when he encountered solid successes in his China travels, each one a vindication of his belief in China today."

**D**R. ROSEN worked to make the world a better place for people, said noted author Han Suyin. There was no smallness in his make-up. To be with him was joy, laughter and source of hope.

Helen Rosen spoke last: "Sam was a simple man. He happened to be a proud American who believed in the concept of freedom and justice for all. He believed men and women the world over were good people, and worked for the same things. In the Chinese people, he found the struggle for human decency on a very high level."

The couple's son Dr. John Rosen and daughter Judy Ruben were present at the meeting, as were some 200 Chinese and foreign friends, colleagues and admirers of Dr. Rosen.

At the wish of Helen Rosen, part of Dr. Rosen's ashes will be returned to the United States while the other part will be scattered over the land of China. □

**Lin Qiaozhi:**

# China's Beloved Baby Doctor

SA YUN

**T**HE news that Dr. Lin Qiaozhi had been hospitalized came as a shock to many people.

The 81-year-old Lin is China's best-known obstetrician/gynecologist; the first children she brought into the world are now in their fifties. She has trained more than a generation of physicians, including specialists of wide renown who are a major force in Chinese medicine. She herself never married or gave birth, but in another sense she has given life to thousands.

Dr. Lin is now recuperating at Capital Hospital, the successor institution to the famed Peking Union Medical College (P.U.M.C.) where she began her medical career 60 years ago and spent 50 years of her professional life. During her present illness former students, former patients, relatives and close friends visiting her bedside have recalled scene after scene of her past life.

## Life Is What Matters

Some time before China's liberation in 1949, a woman three months pregnant came to the P.U.M.C. with a sudden hemorrhage of the uterus. Examination revealed a cervical tumor, and a biopsy showed signs of malignancy. The usual practice in such cases was to perform an immediate hysterectomy. But when Dr. Lin learned that the woman had no children and that her husband was an only son, she was filled with sympathy. In semi-feudal old China, the wife of an only son who failed to carry on the ancestral line would likely suffer unbearable discrimination and maltreatment.

Dr. Lin once more studied the lab slides, and although the division of the cells' nuclei was abnormal, all signs were not typical of cancer. Her years of clinical experience told her that many pregnant women exhibited abnormalities which later disappeared; it might be cancer, it might not. Prompted by a rigorous sense of duty, she made up her mind to allow the pregnancy to continue so long as the mother was not endangered. The decision would mean considerable work on her part and the risk of serious criticism if something went wrong.

As the woman came for weekly examinations, there was no sign of further growth of the tumor. The child was born and the symptoms disappeared. Full of gratitude, the new mother and her husband named the child Nianlin (in remembrance of Lin) — one of the earliest of Dr. Lin's many namesakes.

After the outbreak of the Pacific war, the P.U.M.C. closed. For a time Dr. Lin headed the department of gynecology at Zhong He, a private hospital where the wards were divided into 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes. Dr. Lin ignored such distinctions, giving equal time and attention to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Once she saved the lives of a woman and her baby from a 3rd class ward. The child's father thanked her, then haltingly added that he could never afford the fees due a high-class doctor. Dr. Lin immediately sent a note to the hospital cashier saying there would be no charge for this case.

One night, also during the Pacific war, she was called to a tiny courtyard in Beijing. In a small damp room, lit dimly by a kerosene lamp, a woman moaned



Dr. Lin Qiaozhi

and tossed on the brick bed. The amniotic fluid had already burst, but the child would not come. The woman's eyes were glazed; her face had turned blue. The family was desperate. They obviously could not afford the services of a doctor, but with the woman's life at stake they were ready to pay any price.

The woman was in poor physical shape, having had little food or proper care during pregnancy. Now she was as weak as a candle flame in the wind. Dr. Lin set to work. The baby was born in the middle of the night, and the woman fell into a deep sleep. When the family timidly asked the exhausted Dr. Lin what the charge would be, she quietly laid some banknotes on the table. The woman would need nutritious food after such a delivery.

## Always on Call

Dr. Lin once joked that she has been "on duty" all her life. In her younger days she would stay with a patient from the moment the latter was placed on the delivery table to the baby's birth. She still follows through on all cases passing through her hands. She has a telephone at her bedside, and insists that doctors on duty report all developments to her, even at night. Sometimes when a doctor unwilling to disturb her rest fails to ring her up, she

SA YUN is a reporter for the newspaper Health.





Younger doctors have learned much from Dr. Lin's rigorously thorough examinations and from her empathetic relations with patients. *Zhang Naijia*

paradoxically doesn't sleep well all night.

For years, Dr. Lin hasn't had a single Sunday to herself. Even on such holidays as National Day and the Spring Festival she comes to the hospital to see patients. When people try to persuade her to slow down in recognition of her age, she says, "I'm not used to staying home. Even one day at home makes me feel like a baby deprived of its milk." Friends and relatives have often prepared sumptuous meals to celebrate her birthday or other occasions only to have her leave them in response to a hospital call. She says that babies born on her birthday are the best presents anyone could give her.

Dr. Lin is offended by the occasionally expressed idea that there's not much to obstetrics since women have always been having children anyway. She will tell you that this branch of medicine involves the lives and long-term health of both mother and child, toward whom the obstetrician bears a special responsibility. Each woman behaves differently during childbirth, which can be full of unpredictable changes. The welfare of both mother and infant often hangs on an instant's decision. An obstetrician must keep close watch over the process of birth, and a word of encouragement or sympathy to

the woman in labor may often have a decisive effect.

Although Dr. Lin has long since achieved fame, she still conducts detailed personal examinations, listening carefully to patients' descriptions of symptoms and writing complete case histories. She maintains that this scientific approach to diagnosis and treatment cannot be scanted. She has amassed a wealth of clinical knowledge, and her diagnoses are greatly respected. She receives many letters from former students asking her advice, and scrupulously answers all of them.

#### A Doctor's Life

Recently it was suggested that she write a book, but Dr. Lin would not take the time from her clinical practice. She has written no scholarly volumes, but her in-depth studies of diseases of the reproductive organs have inspired former students to carry out more extensive research, and she is happy over their successes.

Dr. Lin has a rigorous scholarly bent, but she is also a warm and cultured person. She loves music, enjoys walking tours of the city suburbs, and is addicted to Shakespeare. She is a kind, doting mother to patients and students. When any young doctor has problems in work, life or marriage, she is always ready with advice or practical help.

Lin Qiaozhi was born in 1900 to a comparatively well-off family in the city of Gulangyu in southeast China's Fujian province. The first half of her life was spent in the semi-feudal, semi-colonial old China. The young Lin made up her mind to learn a professional skill that would benefit her country and people.

Despite the prejudices against career women in those years she managed to pass the entrance exams at the P.U.M.C. medical school and after eight years of hard work graduated at the top of her class. The only positions then held by women at the P.U.M.C. were nursing jobs. And a nurse was discharged if she got married. Lin Qiaozhi faced a difficult choice: family or career. She chose medicine. She became the first woman intern at P.U.M.C., and some years later chief of the department of gynecology and obstetrics — the first woman in all of China to hold such a post.

On the eve of liberation, some people, not knowing what to expect from the Communist Party, began to leave the mainland. One of Lin Qiaozhi's students tried to persuade Lin to leave, but she declined: "Where would I go? I'm Chinese. Life would be difficult no matter where I went. If things turn out well for China, I'll share in the good life. If not, I'll suffer together with her. My whole existence is tied in with my work. And I can't believe the Communists don't want medical science." In the end Lin convinced her student, and both stayed. Nevertheless, the corruption of the old China had left a great impression on Lin, and she felt an instinctive aversion for politics. When invited to attend the ceremony of the founding of the new China, she did not go.

Later, however, the many reforms in the political field under the new social order and the advances of the national economy had a strong effect on her thinking. Party cadres sent to work at the P.U.M.C. gave her every attention and assistance and

waited patiently for her to come around. Lin herself gradually came to realize that the Party offered new hope for her country. She began to tell people. "The Communist Party has convinced me."

In the following years, she came into contact with many leading Communists and became fast friends with some. She was

particularly impressed by the late Premier Zhou Enlai and his wife Deng Yingchao and their spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication to the revolution.

Ultimately Lin Qiaozhi's thoughts and sympathies became completely merged with the people's revolutionary cause. She was elected deputy to the First National People's Congress held in

1954, and to all succeeding congresses, eventually becoming a member of its Standing Committee. She is the first woman council member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Two years ago she was also elected vice-president of the National Women's Federation. □

**DO YOU KNOW?**

**China's Major Holidays**

**W**HAT are China's annual holidays? New Year's Day, International Women's Day, International Labor Day, and International Children's Day are celebrated in many parts of the world. The anniversaries of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, of the People's Liberation Army and of the People's Republic of China are national holidays reflecting China's recent history. In addition, there are a number of old traditional festivals whose dates are determined by the lunar calendar:

**Spring Festival** is the most important of the traditional festivals, celebrated with a variety of feasts, entertainments and sports events. It is also a time for family reunions. Whole families often eat festive dinners and sit up late or even all night to greet the lunar New Year. From the first to the third days of the festival, people visit family and friends to exchange New Year's greetings.

**Lantern Festival** means that in many places "lantern gatherings" are held, with various kinds of colored paper lanterns on display. *Yuanxiao* (sweet dumplings made of glutinous rice flour and symbolizing "reunion") are eaten that night.

**Qingming** (Pure Brightness) is the traditional time for honoring the dead. In rural areas it marks the start of spring plowing. Nowadays revolutionary martyrs are often commemorated on that day. In most of China the weather is

pleasant and flowers are in bloom, so it is a good time for people to go on outings.

**Dragon Boat Festival** is on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. People eat *zongzi*, a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or

reed leaves, and put their houses in order. In some places dragon boat races take place on rivers.

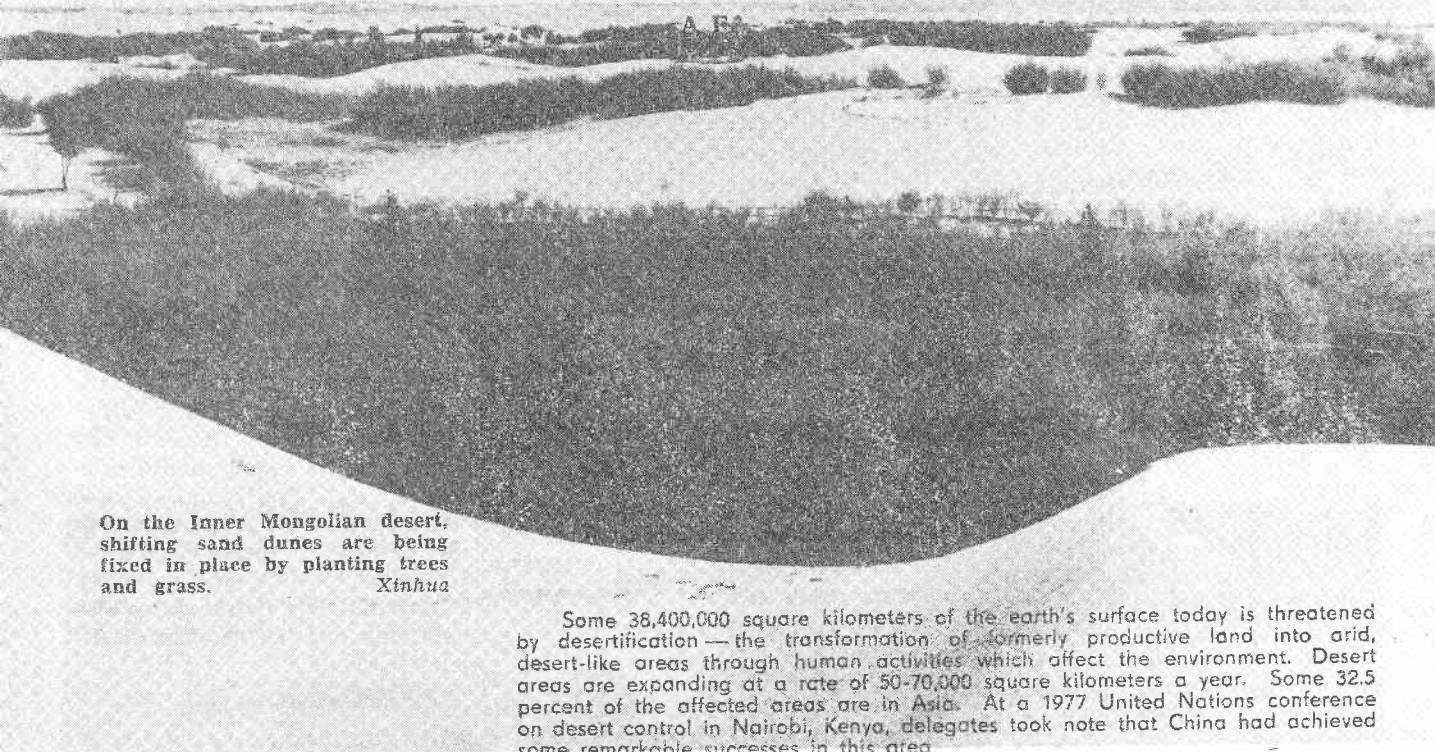
**Mid-Autumn Festival** is the harvest celebration. The weather is pleasant. On the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month, the moon is bright and round. People admire the full moon and eat moon cakes (a kind of round cake filled with sugar, peanuts and walnuts).

Many minority nationalities also celebrate a number of other traditional festivals.

**CHINA'S MAJOR HOLIDAYS (1982)**

date	in lunar calendar	holiday	work holiday
January 1		New Year's Day	1 day
January 25	1st, 1st month	Spring Festival	3 days
February 8	15th, 1st month	Lantern Festival	
March 8		International Women's Day	1 day for women
April 5	12th, 3rd month	Pure Brightness Festival	
May 1		International Labor Day	1 day
May 4		Youth Day	
June 1		International Children's Day	1 day for children
June 25	5th, 5th month	Dragon Boat Festival	
July 1		Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party	
August 1		Army Day	
October 1	15th, 8th month	Mid-Autumn Festival	
October 1		National Day	2 days

# Fighting Back the Deserts



On the Inner Mongolian desert, shifting sand dunes are being fixed in place by planting trees and grass. Xinhua

**T**HE group left Beijing on September 4 and traveled 20 hours on the Beijing-Tongliao railway to reach Naiman Banner (Daqin Tal) on the eastern margin of the desert area in north China. The train passed through the Horqin Desert at night, arriving at the Naiman sand-fixing forest farm at 6:00 a.m. just as the sun rose, giving the visitors their first dramatic look at what seemed a verdant garden set amid the surrounding desert.

Hao Zemin, vice-director of the Forestry Office of the Jinzhou Railway Bureau, explained that the construction in 1974 of the very rail line the group had traveled prompted efforts at desert control. In the section which passed through the Horqin Desert, sandstorms attacked and sometimes buried the railbed. To fix the shifting sands, shelterbelts of trees and checkerboard grids were developed—the latter composed

Some 38,400,000 square kilometers of the earth's surface today is threatened by desertification—the transformation of formerly productive land into arid, desert-like areas through human activities which affect the environment. Desert areas are expanding at a rate of 50-70,000 square kilometers a year. Some 32.5 percent of the affected areas are in Asia. At a 1977 United Nations conference on desert control in Nairobi, Kenya, delegates took note that China had achieved some remarkable successes in this area.

Large stretches of China's north, northeast and northwest are covered with deserts. The Gobi and other deserts occupy 1,490,000 square kilometers, constituting 15.5 percent of the nation's total land area. In north China, 3.4 percent of the land, or 328,300 square kilometers, is now covered with sand, thus affecting the livelihood of 35 million people.

Since 1949 the government has organized a number of long-range scientific studies and experimental projects to determine the causes of desertification and find ways of reversing this trend. Many methods of land reclamation and protection have been developed, and people in the threatened areas mobilized to put them into effect.

Following a first international seminar held in 1978 in Lanzhou, northwest China, the United Nations Environmental Program and the Chinese government jointly sponsored a second such seminar in September 1981. Fifteen officials and experts from nine countries, accompanied by leaders of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Environmental Protection Office under the State Council and the Desert Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences went to study conditions in Liaoning and Gansu provinces, the Inner Mongolia and Ningxia Hui autonomous regions. The foreign experts were impressed with China's efforts at desert control. Following is a report by a staff reporter accompanying the study group.

of earth or planted grass laid out in a grid of one-meter squares which act as windbreaks to protect tree or grass seedlings planted within the squares. The trees planted included poplars and other varieties which could flourish without much water. To keep animals out, barb-wire fences were put up around the protected areas.

The group traveled in a special train to inspect the shelterbelt

sections at close hand. In the distance, sand dunes gleamed harshly in the strong sunlight, but on each side of the rail line stretched shelterbelts almost 285 meters wide. After three or four years the pine trees have grown to a man's height. "As you can see," said Hao, "sand has accumulated outside the shelterbelts—some 10,000 cubic meters of it. The trees have kept all this sand off the tracks. We are now starting to turn this

A FA is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



shifting sand into fixed dunes by planting trees on them. Grass seed sown around the dunes will also help stabilize the sand." The visiting experts, familiar with desert control methods through their own experience, expressed great interest.

### Protecting Farmland

When the group visited Huanghua Tala commune ("lovely pasture lands" in Mongolian), commune head Harbars told them, "Years ago this area was all pastureland. But excessive grazing destroyed vegetation and gradually the land was covered with shifting sands. We learned that we cannot live on this land unless we plant trees to protect it."

The commune began to plant shelterbelts only ten years ago. There are now 15 fields measuring 50 × 50 meters surrounded by narrow poplar shelterbelts 20-30 meters wide and 7-10 meters high. In the fields corn, sorghum, millet and wheat had been planted and were doing well. Trees and shrubs had been planted in pasturelands protected by the shelterbelt system. The shrub leaves were being used for winter fodder and *Caragana korshinkii* twigs for making baskets. The shelterbelt network has thus not only provided protection for pastures, but also improved the local supply of food, fodder and materials for the handicraft industry.

The herdsmen have also set up *kulum*, or manmade pastures protected by trees, earthen walls and fences. The grasses planted in the *kulum*s are used for winter cattle feed. Starting in 1974, the commune has built 18 of these pastures with an average yield of 1,875 kg. of grass per hectare.

According to Harbars, a key factor in the protection and development of local pasturelands has been a readjustment of the ratio of farming, animal husbandry and forestry. The areas devoted to forestry and pastureland have been increased to 70 percent, while the area used for crops has been reduced to 20 percent. The



Along the Baotou-Lanzhou railway, grass is planted in checkerboard grids to give new seedlings protection from the wind. Xinhua

forestry system combines shrubs planted in patches and the shelterbelt trees. Planting is done according to scientific plan in order to stabilize shifting sand dunes. Over 10,000 hectares — 50 percent of the total land — are now covered with trees or shrubs; the remainder is natural pasture and farmland.

### Protecting Cities

Chifeng (Ulanhad), is a rising industrial city of Inner Mongolia surrounded on three sides by sand dunes 20 meters high. What's

important to local residents is that the sand is now outside the city rather than blowing through the city streets. In the past every time the wind blew — and that was on average 42 days out of the year, for five days at a time — Chifeng was enveloped in clouds of dust and sand. Houses were buried. Cars inched along in broad daylight with their headlights on. The sandstorms played havoc with industry, the economy and domestic life. Winds drove the dunes around the city southeastward two to ten meters every year. Vegetation covered less

At the 1981 international seminar held in China, foreign scientists discuss desertification with their Chinese counterparts. Wang Zhimin



than 10 percent of the area, and the few meager trees and shrubs that could take root struggled to survive.

Today Chifeng has become one of the cleanest cities in China. Touring the city, the study group members admired the colorful flower beds planted at crossroads and the poplar and willow trees lining the streets. The heaps of litter and dust which once clogged main streets and piled up in small lanes were nowhere to be seen.

On the outskirts of the city, local officials proudly showed the group the source of all these changes. On either side of the highway stretched sand dunes thickly planted with trees, and thus stabilized. Climbing to the top of a high dune, the group could see the large crescent-moon-shaped shelterbelt stretching from east to west which is the city's major protection against sandstorms.

Zhao Jingyang, head of the Chifeng Forest Farm, talked

about developments since the farm was established in 1954. In the first few years farm workers had concentrated on planting grasses which had helped stabilize the sand, and then moved on to trees. Beginning in the 1960s a balanced planting of coniferous and broad-leaved trees, shrubs, forested areas and pastureland had taken place. Some 4,600 hectares of sand dunes have been covered with trees, and vegetation coverage in the area has reached 74.47 percent. Afforestation has stabilized the shifting sand, broken the force of the wind, purified the air, improved the climate and beautified the environment. "The only way to defeat wind and sand," says Zhao, "is to plant trees, trees and more trees."

### Great Green Wall

Some 1,500 km. westward of Chifeng are the Linhe and Dengkou (Bayan Go) counties of Ba-

yannur League, Inner Mongolia. Both counties began to plant shelterbelts about 30 years ago to control the sands of the Ulanbuho Desert. "The shelterbelts here," explained 53-year-old Ma Shou-shou, head of the Bayannur League sand-protection station, "are only part of a great network of shelterbelts planted in 320 counties and banners stretching over 11 provinces and autonomous regions in China's north, northeast and northwest. When completed, this system will be a great green wall 5,700 kilometers long and covering an area of 690,000 hectares. This green 'Great Wall' will provide protection from invaders from the north in the form of sandstorms."

During the group's visit, commune members brought out cartloads of melons, pears and grapes grown in oasis areas that had once been marked by nothing but drifting sands. This visible sign of humanity's victory over the desert set the international experts to dreaming—how wonderful it would be if one day all the world's deserts could be turned into blooming oases.

### Desert Research Station

The Shapotou Desert Research Station is a branch of the Lanzhou Desert Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It is located in Zhongwei county, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on the southeast edge of the Tengger Desert, where the climate is ferocious. The surface sand reaches temperatures of 74° C in summer; winter temperatures reach -30° C. The rate of water evaporation is 15 times greater than local rainfall. High winds scour the area 200 days out of every year. What vegetation can possibly grow in such a climate? The research station is there precisely to find this out.

After years of experiment, a number of species of sand-fixing

Chinese scientists examine plants specially selected and bred for their ability to survive in dry areas. *Xinhua*



trees and plants which require little water have been successfully cultivated, including *Salix flavida*, *Salix mongolia*, *Hedysarum mongolicum* and *Caragana korshinkii*. Today about 2,000 hectares of vegetated plots are laid out in neat patterns around the station.

One extremely important development is visible in the vegetated areas at the station. Trees and plants do not just act as wind-breaks. They capture dust carried by the wind. The dust falls to the ground, where it mixes with decaying leaves to form humus—topsoil. The humus is so far no more than a crust one to five mm. thick. But the excited foreign visitors rubbed pieces of the crust in their hands and spoke about the implications: a fundamental change from sand to soil was taking place. A complete transformation might take many years, but it was the hope of the future.

An experimental plot established on the slope of an oasis near the Huanghe River roused great interest among the foreign experts. The 100-meter slope is divided into three terraces. The lowest section, a tree nursery, has become fertile land after 15 years of irrigation and cultivation. Forty varieties of trees from other parts of China and abroad flourish here. The middle section has somewhat less hospitable growing conditions for young trees transplanted from the bottom terrace. Only the hardiest specimens are moved to the top terrace, where growing conditions are like those on natural sand dunes. These experiments help scientists determine which trees are most suited to the desert and semi-desert areas of north China.

### Professor Zhu Zhenda

Many scientists have contributed to China's progress in desert control. One of the most respected authorities in the field is Professor Zhu Zhenda, head of the Chinese Desert Society and vice-director of the Lanzhou Desert Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. After

leaving Shapotou Station, the study group traveled to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu province, for discussions with Professor Zhu and his colleagues at the institute.

Since 1959 Professor Zhu has personally investigated all of China's desert areas, bringing back data that have greatly advanced understanding of desert conditions. His first study was of the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang, which makes up one-third of China's desert area and is the world's second largest after the Rub al Khali Desert of the Arabian Peninsula. Since the 1880s foreign experts had claimed that Taklimakan could support no life. The four study teams led by Professor Zhu successfully refuted this view, and his book *Study on the Geomorphology of the Taklimakan Desert* became a classic.

In the following years Professor Zhu and his colleagues extended their investigations to the other desert areas of China, eventually producing the monumental *Outline of Chinese Deserts*, the first comprehensive description of the distribution, development and regional characteristics of the deserts. It also suggested measures to bring the deserts under control, and these ideas were further developed in *Desertification Control in China* and *Desertification in North China: A Regional Plan for Control*.

### Causes and Solutions

Both works argued that the major cause of the spread of deserts in north China was irrational economic activities which hurt the environment. Some 85 percent of the damage was due to indiscriminate reclamation of land, herding and the cutting down of trees; over 9 percent was caused by misuse of water resources and industrial and mining activities which damaged vegetation cover; only a little over 5 percent was attributable to the natural shifting of sand dunes onto productive land.

The primary way to prevent further desertification, then, was a planned, rational use of land



Shelterbelts line roads and fields in Anxi county, Gansu province.

Xinhua

and other natural resources; reclamation could be accomplished only by reversing the conditions that had caused the damage. Specifically, Professor Zhu's suggestions are:

1. Readjustment of land-use policies, including increases in forestry and stockraising over agriculture in line with local conditions, and the adoption of appropriate measures such as afforestation to promote sand control.

2. Solving the problem of fuel sources and protecting vegetation cover where it still exists.

3. Promotion of family planning so as to control population growth and reduce the human pressure on the cultivated land of north China.

These suggestions have received wholehearted support from the Chinese scientific community and from the various government departments concerned with these matters. The study group, which had already seen many of these ideas successfully put into effect, eagerly discussed them with Professor Zhu and his colleagues.

The Chinese experts and workers at the Institute and elsewhere were delighted to learn from their foreign guests about desert control developments in other countries, but perhaps they were most happy that they themselves had been able to make significant contributions to humanity's fight against the encroaching desert sands. □



# Basic Forms in the Socialist Economy

HE JIANZHANG

THE "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China" states: "There is no rigid pattern for the development of the socialist relations of production. At every stage our task is to create those specific forms of the relations of production that correspond to the needs of the growing productive forces and facilitate their continued advance."

What, then, is the pattern for China's socialist economy at the present stage? The Resolution gives an explicit reply: "The state economy and the collective economy are the basic forms of the Chinese economy. The working people's individual economy within certain prescribed limits is a necessary complement to public economy. It is necessary to establish specific systems of management and distribution suited to the various sectors of the economy. It is necessary to have a planned economy and at the same time give play to the supplementary, regulatory role of the market on the basis of public ownership."

Thus the basic characteristics of China's socialist economy at present are:

(1) Coexistence of many different forms of economy, including the working people's individual economy, so long as socialist public ownership (the state economy and the collective economy) retains its dominant position;

(2) Use of the market mechanism to give play to the regulatory role of the market while maintaining a planned economy.

In the early years after the founding of the new China, five different forms of economy existed: state, collective, joint state-private, capitalist and individual. The transformation of private ownership of the means of production to state or collective ownership began in 1953 with the socialist transformation of agriculture, the handicraft industry and capitalist industry and commerce.

## Advances and Setbacks

The original plan was to complete these transformations within 15 years, or by 1967, but in actual fact they were basically terminated by 1956. Of the five forms of economy, only the state and collective economies were left — plus a tiny proportion of individual economy. After 1958, the collectively-owned cooperative stores formed by the merger of small retailers were incorporated into the state commercial network. Handicraft cooperative factories with a relatively high degree of mechanization were elevated to the status of locally-administered state enterprises. Other cooperatives were merged and reorganized, with "small collectives" converted into "large collectives" — or in other words, from assuming sole responsibility for their profits and losses, enterprises were switched over to the system of common responsibility for profits and losses and placed under the leadership of local government handicraft industry administrations. The profits and losses of the "large collectives" were adjusted by the leading administrative organs, and wages and welfare benefits of workers

and staff were fixed slightly lower than those of state-owned enterprises. Thus, there was really not much difference between the "large collective" enterprises and locally-administered state enterprises.

Such policies, designed to restrict and weaken the collective economy, had the obvious effect of dampening the enthusiasm of the workers in this sector and adversely affecting production.

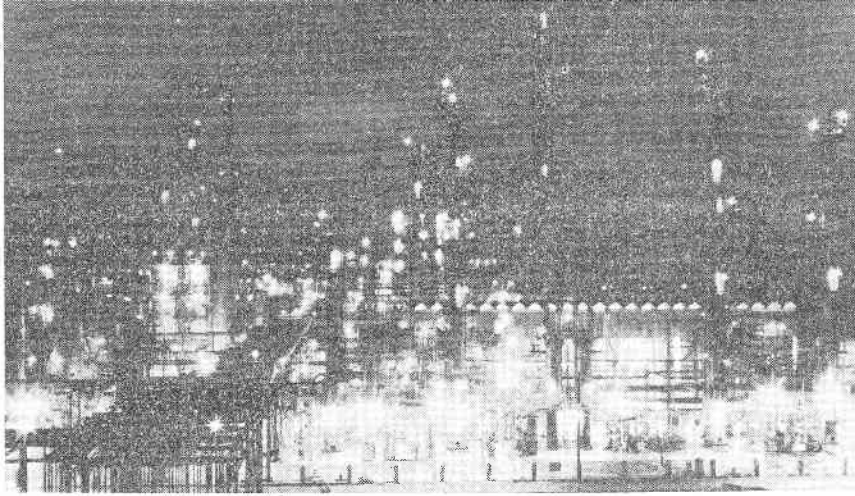
Figures compiled from Beijing show:

Annual-growth rate of full-complement labor productivity in Beijing's collectively-owned enterprises

1953-57	16.3%
1958-75	7.8%
1976-78	3.2%

Labor productivity grew most rapidly during the first Five-Year Plan period (1953-1957), when the socialist transformation of handicraft industries had just been completed and the degree of collectivization was fairly low. At that time systems of sole responsibility for profits and losses and the sharing out of bonuses according to work done were still in force. The growth rate declined substantially after the gradual transition to "large collectives" beginning in 1958, when the enterprises' profits were all handed over to the state and the latter made up the losses. Another result of such ill-considered concentration of production and management was to weaken competition, which in turn led to less variety and lower-quality products.

HE JIANZHANG is deputy chief of the Economic Research Bureau of the State Planning Commission.



Factories all over China now have, within the overall structure of the state plan, more autonomy in managing production and greater responsibility for their own profits and losses.

### New Flexibility

The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CCP adopted policies promoting the vigorous development of the collective economy. The "large collective" enterprises were as far as possible dispersed to become enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profits and losses, and the regulation whereby wages and welfare benefits in collective enterprises were not to exceed those in state enterprises was done away with. As a result the collective economy has developed substantially in the past two years. The number of workers has increased from 20 million in 1978 to 24 million in 1980.

The policy toward the individual economy used to be one of restricting and even eliminating it. In 1953 there were 9 million individual laborers in China's cities and towns, accounting for almost half of the number of workers in the country at the time. By 1966, only 2 million were left. During the "cultural revolution" the individual economy, described as a "remnant of capitalism," was banned. By the end of 1978 only 150,000 individual workers remained. In 1978, following the reforms in economic policies, the individual economy began to recover.

In July 1981 the State Council promulgated "Some Policy Regulations with Regard to the Non-Agricultural Economy in Cities and Towns" permitting working people to run individual businesses

and at the same time allowing such businesses, with the approval of the appropriate industrial and commercial administrations, to employ one or two helpers. Those requiring special skills or techniques could take on not more than five apprentices. By the end of March 1981 the number of persons in such individual businesses in cities and towns had increased to more than 550,000.

Moreover, in 1979 the "Law on Chinese-Foreign Joint Capital Ventures" went into effect. By the end of 1980 China had approved the

In agriculture, collective ownership remains fundamental. Production has been increased by systems of organizing work which promote initiative and reward individual effort.



Small-scale individual enterprises such as this street-corner tailor in Chengdu, Sichuan province, provide conveniences sorely missed during the period of ultra-Leftist ideology and have a definite role to play at this stage of socialist development.

*Photos by Xinhua*



setting up of 20 such joint ventures plus more than 300 cooperative projects. In 1980, China also concluded with foreign concerns some 350 compensatory trade agreements. These joint venture and cooperative projects by nature belong within the scope of state capitalism.

Thus, in towns and cities we have broken out of the previous pattern of an almost homogeneous state economy and adopted a multi-economy pattern which conforms to the present state of the productive forces in our country — one in which state, collective and individual economies as well as different forms of state capitalist economy exist side by side. The experience of the past two years shows that this pattern has done much to invigorate the economy, expand employment, develop production, increase the supply of goods on the market and better satisfy the needs of the people.

### Planning and the Market

Another feature of the present pattern for China's socialist economy is that, while adhering to a planned economy, the state is making use of the market mechanism and giving play to the regulatory role of the market. Marxist classics repeatedly state that a socialist society must have a planned economy. The question is how this should be done.

In the 1950s, many countries, China included, copied the Soviet Union's planning system in the belief that this was a fixed pattern applicable to all socialist states. The basic characteristics of this pattern are the exclusion of market mechanisms and the implementation of a highly centralized directive-type plan. Under such a system, all the activities of an enterprise are subject to norms, quotas and directives passed down from higher administrative organs. In essence, they become appendages of these organs.

In actual fact no higher authority, even with the most sophisticated computers, can calculate accurately the production needs of

hundreds of thousands of enterprises and the everyday needs of hundreds of millions of consumers (needs which are not only highly diverse but are also constantly changing). Even less can it issue in good time production and distribution plans which accurately conform to these needs.

Under such a system, enterprises have no right to revise plans or improve their management in line with the needs of the market. Thus, a centralized, directive-type planning system is inevitably accompanied by dislocations between supply and demand, lack of variety of products, technical stagnation, and a low rate of efficiency.

This raises the question of how, while guaranteeing the planned development of the national economy, one should allow enterprises to adjust production and upgrade management on their own initiative and in good time in line with the changing needs of society (often reflected in the market). In other words, how should one strengthen planned control on the plane of the macro-economy while developing a flexible, responsive micro-economy.

Many countries which used to practice a system of directive-type planning have one by one instituted reforms since the end of the 50s. A point in common among them is that they have to varying extents all used the market mechanism and the regulatory role of the market to break away from the old pattern which equated a planned economy with the system of directive-type planning.

China must do the same thing if it is to free itself from all the maladies of centralized directive-type planning. But that does not mean abolishing unified state planning or doing away with all directive-type planned quotas. The Chinese believe that any large-scale socialized production must distribute the means of production and the labor force among the various departments of the national economy in certain proportions in order to guarantee the coordinated development of the entire economy. To this end, it is necessary to have

unified state planning to avoid anarchy in production. At the same time, it is also imperative to give enterprises certain powers of self-determination in management and administration so that they may be able to adjust to ever-changing economic needs, the better to fulfill the overall state plan.

### A Balanced Plan

This can be achieved in the following way: To begin with, state planning should proceed from the actual situation in China, and be based on our possibilities. By no means should we pursue unrealistically high targets and high rates of advance. The basic proportions of the national economy should be properly handled and an overall balance achieved.

Second, the state should have a certain amount of finances and materials at its disposal, and should reserve the right of decision over and investment in major construction projects

Third, the state should reserve the right of necessary administrative interference in economic activities. When necessary, it should be able to order an enterprise to manufacture a certain amount of a given product, forbid the manufacture of certain products, to order certain enterprises to close down, suspend production, merge with other enterprises, or switch to other lines of production.

Fourth, as regards the majority of the enterprises and their products, the state would, instead of rigid quotas, issue targets of a guiding nature. The enterprises would then draw up their own plans to meet these targets in accordance with the actual market situation. Meanwhile, the state would orient the enterprises toward the requirements of state planning and the needs of society by means of economic levers including price policies, tax policies, loan policies, customs policies and so forth. This would enable China's national economy to free itself from ossification and advance vigorously and steadily toward path of planned, proportionate development. □



# Symposium on Dai Literature

FANG DONG

**T**HE oral and written literature of the Dai people—a non-Han nationality in south China—reflects their affectionate, lively character and their love of freedom and a happy life. Filled with imagination and beauty, it speaks of love, opposes feudal marriage, praises moral character and values, and reflects vividly the features of Dai society from primitive times to the present.

Late last year a symposium on Dai literature—the first national study of a minority literature of such a broad scope—was held beside picturesque Lake Dianchi near Kunming, Yunnan province. It was sponsored by a number of minority literature and folk literature institutes, and attended by famous Dai writers, poets, singers and translators as well as literary scholars from many parts of the country. Papers were read on the sources, characteristics, and development of Dai literature, its re-



A gathering of Dai writers, poets and singers.

lationship with Han literature, with religion and with the literature of Southeast Asian countries.

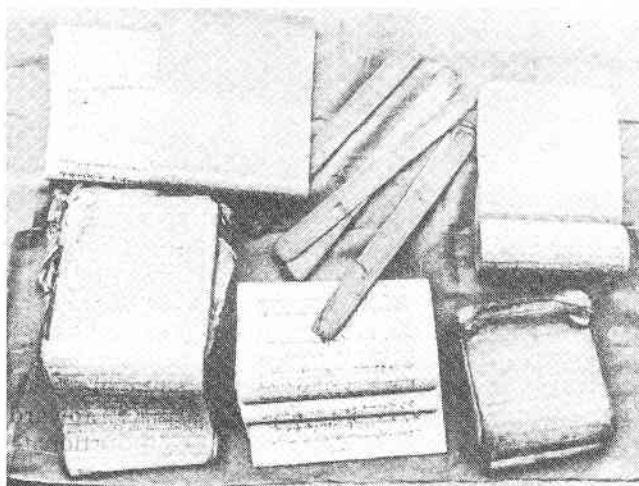
The Dai people, numbering over 750,000, live mainly in the subtropical regions of Yunnan province, concentrated in a number of autonomous prefectures and the Menglian, Jinggu and Gengma autonomous counties and scattered in several dozen other localities. The Dai areas border on Burma, Laos, and Vietnam.

**T**HE Dais have a long history and a splendid cultural tradition, especially in poetry. The symposium discussed Dai poetry according to its stages of development:

1. The primitive stage. A recently discovered book *On Dai Poetry*, written 360 years ago and kept by a famous family of singers for generations, says that the oldest form of Dai literature was the ballad of primitive society.

FANG DONG is a correspondent for China Reconstructs.

Dai folk literature manuscripts and Pattra Sutra preserved in the archives of the Yunnan Nationality Research Institute.



Some Dai literature and poems published since liberation.





Dai writers Yan No, Yan Si and Ai Wenbian (left to right) examine Dai manuscripts and Buddhist Pattra Sutra. Photos by Guan Ping

This is borne out by the discovery of *Ancient Ballads of the Dais*, a book sealed with beeswax and containing over 60 ancient ballads recorded by later generations. In nearly 6,000 lines, Dai work, life, nature, love, marriage, and sacrifices to ancestors are described. In later sections of the book, fairy tales, stories and *Shuochang* (a genre of popular entertainment consisting mainly of talking and singing) are recorded.

2. The Golden Age — Dai literature advanced rapidly as Buddhism spread into the area and was integrated with the Dai feudal system. There is still controversy over just when Buddhism arrived and what effects it had. A few place this between the 11th and 13th centuries, but most put the time between the 6th and 7th centuries. In either case the Dais had already entered class society.

Buddhist scriptures spurred the Dais to create their own writing on the basis of the Bali language, though there are also several other writing systems among them. Writing, of course, greatly accelerated the development of Dai literature. Buddhist scriptures adapted in the area preserved many old tales which had been carried through the generations by folk singers.

Many long narrative poems were so preserved. Records indicate the existence of 550 such poems. So far, about 200 have been discovered and 130 have been compiled. A number have been translated into Chinese and some published. One of them, *Zhao Shutun* (another name: Princess Peacock) is known widely not only in Yunnan and Tibet but also in Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Korea and Japan.

These long narrative poems describe hunting life, chiefs, heroes, and tribal wars, all interwoven with praise of true love. Later poems denounce tyrannical rulers. Buddhism and mythology are strong influences. All the poetry of this period has a strong earthy flavor and romantic color, deeply and realistically reflecting the life of the Dai people of the time.

3. The Tragic Period. Feudal society among the Dai began to decline around the 16th century, as did its Buddhist support. Poetry about struggles against tyranny began to appear. Six outstanding pieces have been published, including *Ebian* and *Sangluo* and *Squash Letter*, which describe the cruelties of war and

feudal rule, popular uprisings, and the injustices of feudal marriage.

4. The New Period. After liberation, the government helped local people explore and collect the literary legacy of the Dais. Dai literary works were published and adapted into dramas or dance-dramas. These have added splendor to China's literary heritage and at the same time greatly advanced Dai literature and art.

During the years after liberation, Dai writers extolled the emancipation of their people, their rich and beautiful homeland and the construction of socialism. Veteran singers sang new songs on new themes. These included *The Song of the Liusha River* by Kang Langying, *Colored Rainbow* by Po Yuwen, *The Song of the Dais* by Kang Langsui and *Happy Seeds* by Zhuang Xiang. New writers such as Yan Feng, Yan Peng, Zhu Guangcan, Zhu Kuansang, Zheng Peng and Yan Wenbian collected, studied and translated folk literature and wrote new works of poetry and prose.

**T**HE symposium explored factors that encouraged the development of the Dais' rich literary legacy.

First, the environment and climate of the Dai areas are superb. The Dais entered feudal society relatively early, paddy field agriculture was well developed, handicrafts came early, and the Dai area was a natural trade crossroads of South China and Southeast Asian countries. A period of relative peace and stability laid the economic basis for an expanding culture.

Second, professional singers, called *zanha* by the Dais, played an active role in the development of the Dai literature. Part of the feudal ruling system and social life, these singers engaged mainly in ancestral sacrifice performances and literacy and art activities. They were also the creators of the long narrative poems. The Dai people say, "Not having the *zanha* is like eating without salt."

Third, Dai literature was enriched by a substantial interflow of culture, including literature and

art, between the Dais, the Hans and other nationalities in the inland provinces.

Fourth, Buddhism brought the influence of the literature of the Southeast Asian countries, especially the folk legends then widespread in ancient India, Nepal and Ceylon and recorded in Buddhist scriptures. As Dai writing developed following the arrival of Buddhism, intellectuals and singers were trained in the temples. Absorbing Buddhist literature and adding the rich folklore and tales of the Dai people, they spread and enriched Dai literature.

Buddhism had both a positive and negative influence on Dai literature. Adversely, it reinforced the feudal system. To some extent it limited the development of Dai literature and changed the original outlook of Dai writings to meet religious needs. This became more and more prominent in later feudal society. In the past, some scholars considered Dai traditional literature Buddhist literature. By an overwhelming majority this opinion was turned down by the symposium.

The symposium included veteran singers who had been silenced during the "cultural revolution" and who spoke of the symposium as a new starting point in the development of Dai literature. New minority writers said that to develop minority literature, minority culture and education must be developed. More teaching must be in the Dai language. The same importance must be given to Dai literary publications. Dai writers, translators, literary critics and researchers must be fostered.

Some minority folk literature researchers at the symposium emphasized that Dai literature had also been held back by the interference of the ultra-leftist ideological trend and that, therefore, the Party's policy on minorities and the principle of "let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" must continue to be defended. □

## Sports Briefs

### International Fencing Tournament in Nanjing

LAST October 5 to 9, the first international invitational fencing meet was held in Nanjing. Fifteen teams from Australia, France, Great Britain, Hongkong, Romania and China took part.

In 498 hard-fought individual events, Chinese woman fencer Zhu Qingyuan emerged a champion and Luan Jujie runner-up. France's Didier Flament ranked as men's champion and Patrick Groc runner-up. In team events, China's A team placed first in the women's division, France second and China's B team third. In the men's events, France placed first, China's A team second and Romania third.

The women's team finals witnessed a hot battle between China's A team and France for first place. The French team, one of the world's strongest, had been champions in the 1980 Olympics and had bested China at the 36th World Foil Championships. Though new to the sport, China's team has improved greatly over the last few years. The contest this time was a severe test. Trailing 2-5 at first, the team evened it out at five all. Then in the crucial battle, Li Huahua, new on the China team, defeated Veronique Brouquier. China broke the French 9-6.

### International Swimming and Water Polo Tournament at Chengdu

Last October 11 to 17, swimmers from Australia, West Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Singapore, the United States and China met in Chengdu at the Sichuan Swimming Stadium, the biggest in China.

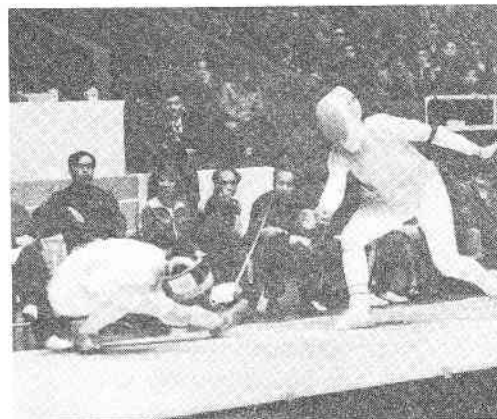
Of 29 events, Australia won 19, West Germany 5, Japan 4. China took one gold, seven silver and nine bronze medals.

China's gold medal was won by Feng Dawei, 16, in the men's 200-meter individual free-style event

with a time of 2'9"69. Feng Dawei, Huang Guangliang, Ma Lie and Wan Qiang broke the Asian record held by the Japanese in the 400-meter free-style relay with 3'32"18.

In water polo, the United States team, strong in skill and tactics, took the top honor, Australia ranked second and China third. □

Zhu Qingyuan (left) defeats an Australian fencer to become individual champion. Lu Yingliang



Feng Dawei, winner of the men's 200-meter individual free-style event. Sun Wenzhi



Hard-fought match between Australia and New Zealand at the Water Polo Tournament. Sun Wenzhi







# A Dance Triumph

LU ZHENGJIA

A major cultural event in Beijing over the summer of 1981 was a solo dance performance by Cui Meishan, a Chinese dancer of Korean nationality, sponsored by the Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble. The enthralled audience seemed to see on the stage not a middle-aged woman but a lithe young girl whose energy and grace swept onlookers through a spectrum of moods and impressions. One young worker later wrote her: "You create beauty with your dances. The images you reflect give me a kind of strength to progress in my own life; they make me feel younger."

Talking about the solo dance performance, Cui Meishan says, "The ten chaotic years of the 'cultural revolution' wasted the most productive period of my professional life. I am almost 50 now, but I still have a burning desire to explore dance, to practice as much as I can, and to make a contribution to my people." When the solo performance was suggested, she agreed immediately, though most dancers her age might have hesitated, particularly since such performances are something of an innovation in today's Chinese cultural scene.

Born in 1934 in Heilongjiang province of a poor family of folk singers and dancers of Korean descent, Cui took to dancing early in life. In 1951 she was accepted as a dance student by Beijing's Central Opera Academy. There she mastered ballet, the classic dances of India and southeast Asia, modern dance, the dances of her own nationality, and the entire Beijing opera repertoire of dance and acrobatics.

THE dancer has always been a lover of music, painting and poetry—a range of interests that have promoted and enriched her own art. She is also a staunch advocate of continual practice, and never misses her daily practice sessions. For the solo performance she rehearsed and rehearsed, meticulously studying and correcting her every movement. Some people might think she had no need to practice the Korean Long Drum Dance or the Dai nationality White Peacock Dance—old favorites which won her awards and public acclaim in the 1950s and 1960s, and which she included in the solo performance—but Cui is a perfectionist.

The other dances she performed amply demonstrated her creativity, her attention to detail and her feeling for a wide range of dance styles. The True Love dance tells the story of a Korean girl waiting the return of her soldier-lover. In this short dance Cui succeeded in conveying the complex and changing feelings of the young girl in a beautiful and touching way. In another mood entirely was her *Girl on the Nile*, a traditional Egyptian dance of earthy vitality featuring vigorous hip and back movements.

Rehearsals for the *Cherry Blossom* dance from Japan presented a very odd sight: Cui walking quickly but in very small steps, a piece of paper held between her knees. This was the dancer's way of mastering the movements of a kimono-clad Japanese girl. On stage it did not look odd at all, but graceful and thoroughly Japanese.

The dance *Oriental Smile* was very special; it brings to life some of the movements and postures of dancers shown in murals of the 1,000-year-old Dunhuang Caves. Yet there is nothing stiff or archaic about it. It was an audience favourite.

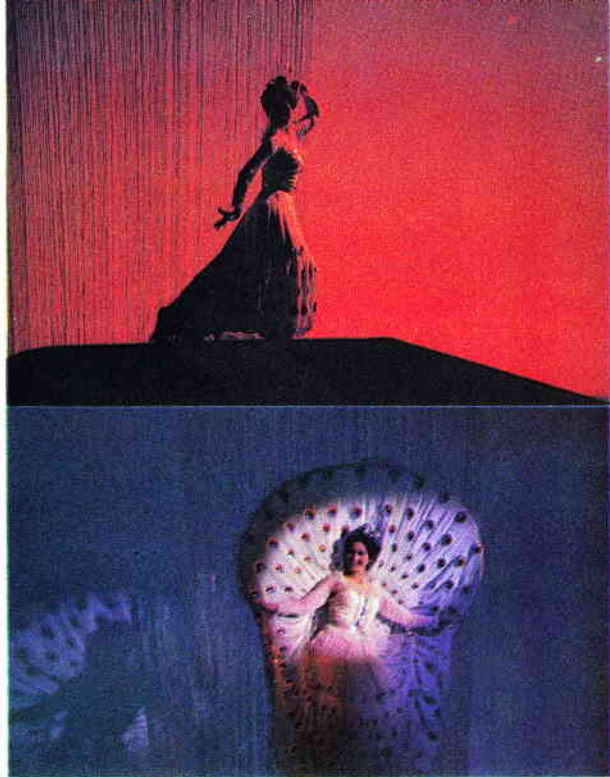
PART of the credit for the solo performance belongs to Li Renshun, a choreographer of Korean nationality who designed five of the dances. Cui and Li have worked together many times, and it is a fruitful partnership; each brings out the best in the other.

In the years since the restoration of cultural activities disrupted by the "cultural revolution," Cui, Li and colleagues of the Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble have worked furiously to make up for lost time. A number of new dances have been prepared and new and old favorites performed, to the delight of Chinese audiences. Just two of the many new dances are *Spring Comes Early* to the Changbai Mountains and *Harvest Song*, both of which won awards at a 1979 performing festival sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and at the national solo and *pas de deux* dance contest held in 1980. □



Long-drum dance. *Liu Chen*





Peacock dance. *Liu Chen*

Sinuous grace reproduces look of dancers on ancient murals.  
*Huo Jianying*



Harvest dance. *Liu Chen*

A girl waits for her soldier lover. *Huo Jianying*





# GUANGDONG TEA

广东茶叶

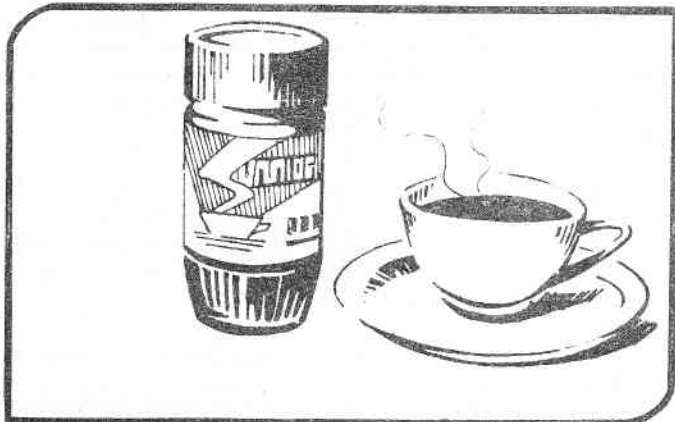
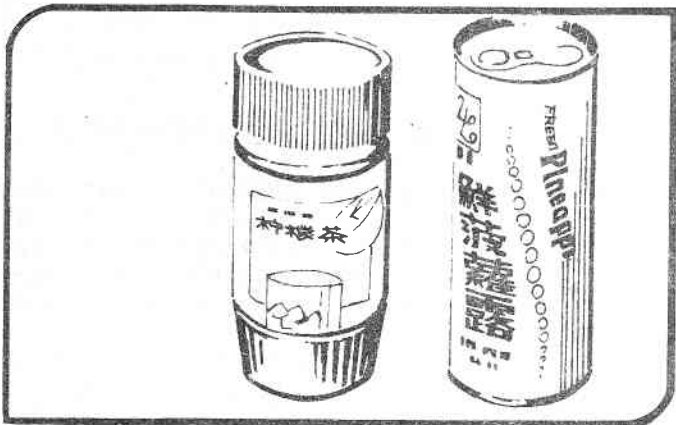
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# HAINAN, the Treasure Island (II)

WU TONG and ZHI EXIANG

**H**AIKOU is a bustling port city set amid tropical greenery. It is the capital of the Hainan administrative district of Guangdong province and the economic, cultural and communications center of the island. The built-up area of the city has expanded three-fold since pre-liberation days and its population has grown from less than 100,000 to almost 250,000.

Before liberation there was hardly any industry in the city. Today there are 136 enterprises of various sizes — rubber, machinery, canned foods, electronics, ship-building, automotive repair, chemical and building materials. The city's gross industrial output value has reached 214 million yuan, 20 times the figure for the early post-liberation years. The new Hainan University, now in the planning stage here, will open its doors to students in 1983. It will specialize in practical courses related to the exploitation of Hainan's tropical crops and other resources.

Much of the bustle in Haikou today reflects the general upsurge in Hainan's economy. Overseas Chinese and businessmen from Hongkong, Macao, Japan, the U.S., Britain, Canada and Australia are in and out of town all the time, discussing plans and business arrangements covering a wide range of activities.

## Coconuts

Coconuts have been cultivated for some 2,000 years on Hainan. Wenchang county on the east coast of the island was the first area to introduce the plant, and today it accounts for half the island's coconut-growing area and coconut output. Coconuts are of enormous economic value and one of Hainan's readiest sources of income. Their major importance is as a food product, but they are also the raw material for the



Haikou.

Chen Jing

island's centuries-old handicraft products carved from coconuts. Hainan's five carving factories had a 1980 output value of 400,000 yuan, and their products were shipped to Southeast Asia, western Europe and North America.

Despite its obvious importance to the livelihood of the local people, coconut cultivation came under attack during the "cultural revolution" as an example of "stressing sideline occupations too much and ignoring agriculture," and "putting too much stress on income and too little on grain." As a result, the South China Tropical Crops Research Institute's experimental station in Wenchang was disbanded, and some two-thirds of the area's 30 million coconut trees were felled. Only in the last few years has the situation been turned around. New trees are rapidly being planted and coconut production is on the rise again.

## Respect for Education

Wenchang township, the county seat, is situated on a mountain slope. Among the innumerable old houses are a fair number of new ones. Small bridges over rippling water in which coconut trees are reflected give the town a tone of elegance and simplicity. The town houses the county's oldest

building, the Wen Temple (also known as the Sacred Palace), which was built in the 11th century, during the Song dynasty. After renovation with funds allocated by the government, the temple has now become the county's cultural center, with a library and other facilities, theatrical groups and the cultural bureau located there.

Long noted as one of the "towns of culture" of Guangdong province, Wenchang has a long history of interest in and respect for scholarship. When a child enters middle school, the tradition is for a parent to accompany him or her to school the first day, setting off a whole string of firecrackers along the way — thus impressing on the child's mind that education is a joyful and important undertaking. When a child enrolls in college, the whole village kills a pig and celebrates with a feast. Often whole villages pool money to send to college a promising young person whose family has financial difficulties.

Wenchang is one of the two counties on Hainan that have wiped out illiteracy. Over 90 percent of the county's population are primary school graduates. Before liberation there were only 10 middle schools in the county. Now there are 31, including one in each

WU TONG and ZHI EXIANG are staff reporters for China Reconstructs.





Zhou Quangen lovingly tends pepper plants.  
*Liu Guoliang*



Girls' volleyball team at Wenchang Middle School.

*Lin Ling*

of the 26 communes, with a total enrollment of 28,000. Since 1977 Wenchang has sent more qualified students to college than any other county on Hainan. The county middle school, with a history of 72 years and a current enrollment of 2,000, has a well-earned reputation for excellence, and many of its graduates have gone on to take up responsible positions all over the country.

The development of education in Wenchang owes a lot to the generous support of overseas Chinese, who have since liberation shown increasing concern for the welfare of their ancestral places. The Wenchang Overseas Chinese Middle School, established in 1957, was built with donations from overseas Chinese. Just in the past two years, such donations for educational purposes has amounted to 1.2 million yuan.

### Bai Yan Commune

Out of a population of 25,000 (5,800 households) at Bai Yan commune, some 18,000 (3,200 households) are returned overseas Chinese or their dependents. Over 85 percent of the commune's households have overseas Chinese connections. According to rough estimates, some 22,000 people na-

tive to this place are now living in foreign countries or in Hongkong or Macao.

The commune's agricultural output has increased greatly since liberation, and especially in the last 10 years; it is now known as the "granary" of Wenchang county. A 500-hectare stretch of lowland just south of the commune once suffered alternately from waterlogging and drought nearly every year, and the grain yield was consequently low. Since this tract constituted 22 percent of the commune's arable land, its condition greatly affected overall agricultural output.

A water conservancy project begun in 1973 has solved this problem. The completed project includes a 3,500-meter long water channel with a bottom width of 40-60 meters, a sluice gate, and dikes and dams totaling 5.7 kilometers. Total 1979 grain output was 9,000 tons, twice as much as the period before the project was built.

In the past two years, as government policies concerning overseas Chinese have been better implemented, a great many of them have come back to visit Wenchang. People abroad write their relatives and send them money. Lin Riwei is a 68-year-old returned overseas

Chinese from Malaysia and chairman of the commune's Overseas Chinese Association, which was re-established in December 1979. According to him the Association, besides managing all aspects of work concerning overseas Chinese, has set up various collective enterprises. Funds are accumulated and accounting carried out independently, and the Association assumes sole responsibility for its profits or losses. It gives priority to recruiting the offspring of overseas Chinese to work in its ice-making, wood-cutting, coconut-processing and other enterprises.

Typical of the residences of returned overseas Chinese is that of Lin Zhenxi, a spry 88-year-old who moved here from Malaysia. His comfortable house is situated amid garden-like surroundings in a secluded forested area. Friends and neighbors are sure of a warm welcome in his home, and he likes to brag about the peaceful and happy life he enjoys in his old age.

### County Town Reborn

Jiaji township in Qinghai county has had an eventful existence in the past 50 years. During the democratic revolutionary period, it was the home of the famed "Red Detachment of Women." In 1973 it

was devastated by a typhoon. Some 28,000 sq. meters of housing were destroyed, and only six buildings of reinforced concrete survived. In the six communes along the coast outside of town, some 80 percent of the housing was leveled, trees were uprooted and fields were covered with debris.

The people of Qinghai county immediately organized a 5,000-person emergency work brigade to start recovery efforts. Other counties sent an aid team of 3,000 people. Today Jiaji township is a totally new place. By the end of 1980 some 236,000 sq. meters of housing, commercial and other buildings had been built. The town's bustling streets are a scene of peace and prosperity.

The reconstruction work went far beyond simply rebuilding what had been destroyed in the typhoon. A giant hydropower project on the Wanquan River begun in 1974 now controls the floods that once occurred nearly every year and provides water for irrigation and electric power. The project's six turbine generating units have an installed capacity of 750 kilowatts. An even larger hydropower station is now under construction on the upper reaches of the river.

### A County Vice-Head

The story of Huang Kaiji is interesting for the light it sheds on the experiences and attitudes of an overseas Chinese. Huang is now 77 and vice-head of Qionghai county. He lives at Lehui commune. His father went to work on a rubber plantation in Malaysia, and he himself was first a tailor and then a rubber worker there. In 1950, just after liberation, he was inspired with the idea of returning to his native town and helping to "save the country through industry." He went through numerous difficulties before he could sell all his properties abroad and return to Hainan.

The island was then engaged in a large-scale effort to reclaim land for rubber plantations. Huang managed to import 15,000 rubber seedlings from abroad and together with a friend founded

the county's first rubber plantation, the Wanhe Rubber Plantation (now renamed Lixin Farm), on 200 hectares of wasteland. During the turbulent years of the "cultural revolution," Huang was denounced as a capitalist and his holdings seized. But with the restoration of lawful authority and correct policies after the fall of the gang of four, Huang was compensated by the government not only for the value of the rubber plantation, but also for the interest on that sum accumulated over the years.

In addition to his county office, Huang is now a member of the All-China Overseas Chinese Association; deputy to the provincial People's Congress; vice-chairman of the Hainan Overseas Chinese Association; and vice-chairman of the Political Consultative Conference of Qionghai county. In the 30 years since his return to Hainan, besides his contributions to the economy through his rubber plantation, he has helped build an overseas Chinese hospital and seven schools, and has contributed sums toward the building of roads, bridges and power stations. His total donations amount to some 300,000 yuan.

He very much approves of the new policies of diversifying Hainan's economy and specializing in local tropical products. "If only the right policies are implemented," he says, "and people are encouraged to use their initiative, not only will we attract financial support from overseas Chinese, but also we Hainanese will put a whole new face on our island in less than ten years."

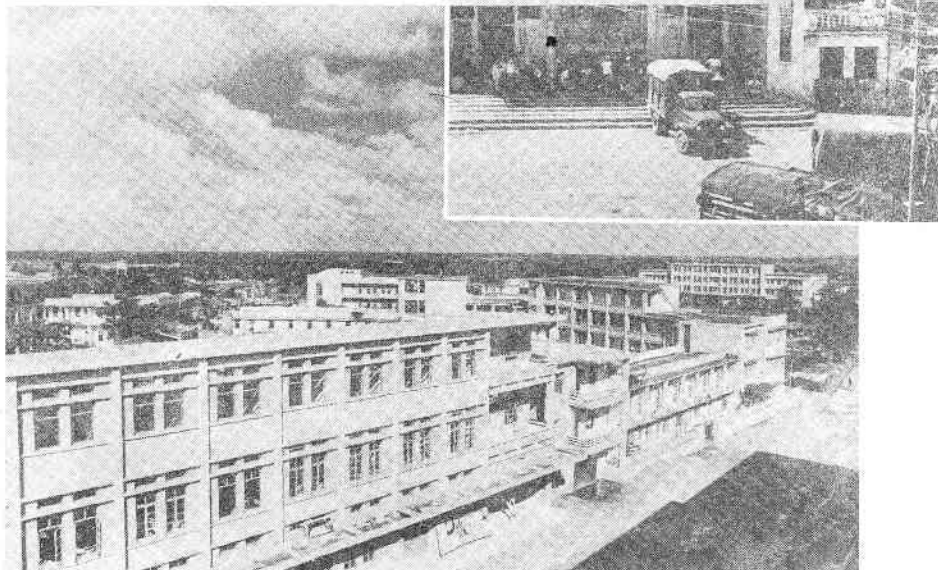
### Overseas Chinese Farm

Xinglong Farm on the Taiyang River in Wanning county is one of five overseas Chinese state farms. It was founded in 1952 to facilitate the settling-in process of returned overseas Chinese, and today some 18,000 returnees (70 percent of the total staff) from 20 countries and regions live on the farm. Over 30 years it has planted more than 10,000 hectares of land in tropical crops and submitted a profit to the state of 47 million yuan.

Xinglong was the first farm established with such a large proportion of overseas Chinese as its staff and with cash crops as its

1973: Aftermath of a typhoon at Jiaji township.  
*Lin Sunxing*

Today: Jiaji township has been reborn.  
*Chen Jing*



main products. Well-known because of its outstanding achievements, it nevertheless suffered serious disruptions during the period of ultra-Leftist influence. Looking at the farm today—its flourishing groves of rubber, coconut and fruit trees, its neat fields of green peppers and coffee bushes—it is difficult to believe that such damage ever occurred.

Rubber is the main cash crop, covering some 3,000 hectares; total 1980 output was almost 2,000 tons, despite 20 days of excessive rain that delayed the tapping process. This was an increase of 3.25 percent over 1979 and 18 percent over 1978. Another 240 hectares have been planted with new rubber trees. The 1980 pepper and coffee output showed an increase of 47 percent over 1978. Increased attention is now also being given to rice, peanut and rapeseed production.

The farm has also set up a dozen small factories and workshops for agricultural machinery, automotive repair, grain and oil processing, agricultural byproducts processing and rubber products. Brick kilns and a small hydropower station have been built, and a larger hydropower station is now under construction on the upper reaches of the Taiyang River to supply electricity needed for the

farm's production and domestic use.

Rubber technician Hu Hanbin was a rubber worker in Thailand since he was a boy. He returned to Hainan in 1957 and settled down at Xinglong Farm. He is now 44, with a family of four. His wife, a returned overseas Chinese from Malaysia, works at the farm's rubber collecting station, and the family monthly income is over 200 yuan—a middling income by Xinglong standards.

The average annual income of the farm's workers and staff members in 1980 was 599.57 yuan, an increase of 57.04 yuan over 1979; taking into account the yearly bonus of 30-40 yuan, the actual gross increase amounted to just over 90 yuan. A popular type of savings account in China is one in which small sums are deposited every month and earn interest, but the total cannot be withdrawn until a certain sum has been reached or a certain period of time has passed. Some 8,000 of the 13,000 farm workers who earn regular monthly salaries at Xinglong have such accounts, and their total savings amount to 520,000 yuan.

One of the farm's latest projects is a hot-springs resort, open throughout the year, where visitors can, for pleasure or health

reasons, bathe in natural hot spring water at 50-60°C.

### Earth's Remotest Corner

*Tian Ya Hai Jiao* ("the remotest corner on earth") is a beautiful beach resort in the southernmost part of Hainan. A visitor standing near one of the oddly-shaped rocks on the beach, the slopes of Five-Finger Mountains at his back and the broad sea stretching in front of him might well imagine he had reached the ends of the earth. A four-meter tall rock on the beach is inscribed with the characters *Tian Ya* ("the edge of the sky"); nearby, a horizontal rock bears the inscription *Hai Jiao* ("brim of the sea"). For centuries poets and other lovers of natural beauty have been visiting this spot. Song dynasty poet Su Dongpo wrote:

*No mountain is comparable,  
Lying by the roadside  
Are rocks left from mending  
the sky.*

During a 1971 visit, noted contemporary poet Guo Moruo wrote:

*Blue waves and broad sea  
horizon,  
White sand piled up; a garden  
of rocks.*

Near this resort is Sanya township, the county seat of Yanxian county. Sanya has a number of special facilities for tourists, including a coral market where good coral is available at reasonable prices.

Hainan Island's 1,700-kilometer coastline has more than 60 big and small gulfs and beautiful sandy beaches, such as Xiao Donghai, where the famous Luhuitou ("deer turning its head") hostel caters to tourists, or the beaches around the neighboring Da Donghai Gulf, whose calm waters make it a natural swimming center. Hainan's year-round warm climate and beautiful scenery make ideal tourist attractions, and part of the island's overall economic development in the years to come will undoubtedly involve the planning and construction of appropriate new tourist facilities. □

A famous scenic spot — Tian Ya Hai Jiao ('the remotest corner on earth') Xinhua





# Studying Tibet's Weather

CHUN YU

**B**EFORE liberation Tibet had only one small weather observation post in Lhasa. Today the autonomous region has six observatories, 33 meteorological stations and a staff of nearly 1,000 people.

The first stations were set up at Qamdo and Nagqu in the early 50s by People's Liberation Army scientists who entered Tibet from neighboring Sichuan province, carrying the necessary equipment on their shoulders and on yaks in a trek that took nearly half a year. Later, as air links were established with Lhasa, the transport of equipment became easier and a dozen more stations were set up, such as that at Damxung. During the late 70s, still more were built.

Tibet's installations serve local agriculture and stock raising but also fit into China's national meteorological work. The addition of modern equipment has continually expanded area coverage. The main observatory now receives large-scale cloud photos and all stations in the Lhasa and Nagqu areas use rain-detecting radar. During the wet seasons other weather observations are also done by radar.

About one-fourth of the region's meteorological workers are Tibetans, as are the leaders of all observatories and stations. More are being trained by the Central Meteorological Bureau at the Lanzhou Meteorology School. Tibetans are also studying weather forecasting, scientific research and meteorological engineering in institutes at Nanjing and Chengdu.

Meteorologists in Tibet face the special problems of rarefied air at high elevations. Thirteen of the

stations are more than 4,000 meters above sea level, seventeen are above 3,500 meters. In many places in the north the average annual temperature is  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and seven-degree winds blow about half the year. Station conditions, however, are improving. Most have brick and tile buildings. Jeeps and trucks have solved fuel and transport problems. The Central Meteorological Bureau is developing wind and solar-powered generator systems and designing lightweight materials that conserve heat.

**T**HE geographical position of the Tibet Plateau and its vital role in global atmospheric circulation make its weather important for both Chinese and foreign meteorologists. Some 20 countries have started theoretical and practical research on Tibet's climatic conditions. For the region itself, the accuracy of weather forecasting is constantly improving. A great number of effective measures have been worked out for long, medium and short-term forecasts. Special attention is paid to Tibet's tendency to sudden and disastrous weather changes, such as summer drought, a too-early rainy season, heavy snow and strong winds in winter and spring.

Observation and forecasting by 12 of the region's observatories and stations that took part in a recent global information exchange proved satisfactory to the world meteorological organization. Neighboring and inland provinces also benefit from Tibet's meteorological work, since their own weather is so closely affected by the plateau's. A number of national and provincial meteorological research organizations study plateau conditions.

Tibet's own meteorologists have won both regional and national recognition. They have published scientific papers. *Meteorology of Tibetan Plateau* and *Selected Papers on Meteorology of the Tibetan Plateau*, for example, summarize the characteristics of Tibet's weather and the forecasting measures used. □

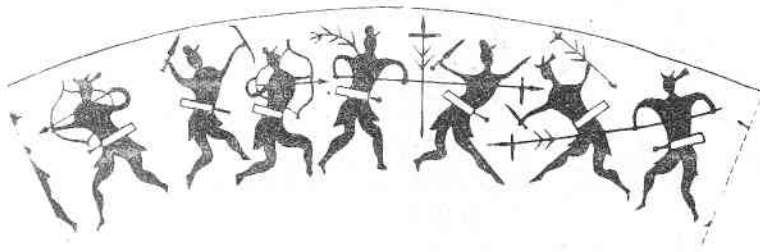
Tibetan weatherwoman Ming Ma.



Radar survey station in Lhasa.



CHUN YU is a leader in the Central Meteorological Bureau.



# China's Ancient Weapons

YANG HONG

**I**N 1974 one of the great archaeological finds of all times was made near Xian, Shaanxi province—a whole army of life-size pottery warriors of the Qin dynasty (221-206 B.C.). These realistic replicas of the troops of Qin Shihuang, first emperor of the dynasty, were fitted out with real weapons of the period—bronze spears and swords, cross-bows and longbows—which have added greatly to our knowledge of ancient warfare.

This discovery is only one of many that have cast light on the development of ancient weaponry from the simplest stone implements to steel weapons evidencing the most sophisticated metal-working techniques. The pottery army itself dates from a period just at the end of China's Bronze Age, when the iron and steel weapons which would soon replace bronze on a large scale were already beginning to appear. Of all the arms found near Xian, most are of bronze; the cache included only a few iron arrowheads.

## Stone Arrowheads

Humanity's earliest implements were of stone, horn or bone. Generally speaking, Stone Age weapons were hardly differentiated from hunting and harvesting tools. As in other civilizations, one of the earliest Chinese weapons was the bow and arrow (which was of course far more widely used for hunting than for warfare). The first stone arrow-

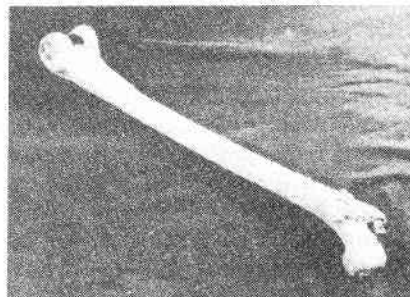
heads probably appeared toward the end of the Old Stone Age. The earliest so far discovered, made of chipped stone and 28 mm long, was found at a site in Shanxi province; carbon 14 dating places the age of the site at over 28,000 years.

The earliest proof of the bow and arrow being used as a weapon was found in a New Stone Age tomb uncovered at Dadunzi in Peixian county, Jiangsu province. The tomb's occupant had a stone arrowhead embedded in his thigh-bone, where it had obviously been shot by an enemy. Another site in Yunnan province yielded the skeletons of a number of men and women who had been shot by arrows. Some still had stone arrowheads embedded in a cheekbone or vertebra. Carbon-dating showed that this ancient violence took place some 3,200 years ago. By that time, China's Central Plains region had already entered the Bronze Age.

## Bronze

The earliest bronze weapons so far discovered are from the Erlitou

**Human bone with stone arrowhead embedded in it, from a neolithic tomb at Dadunzi, Jiangsu province.**



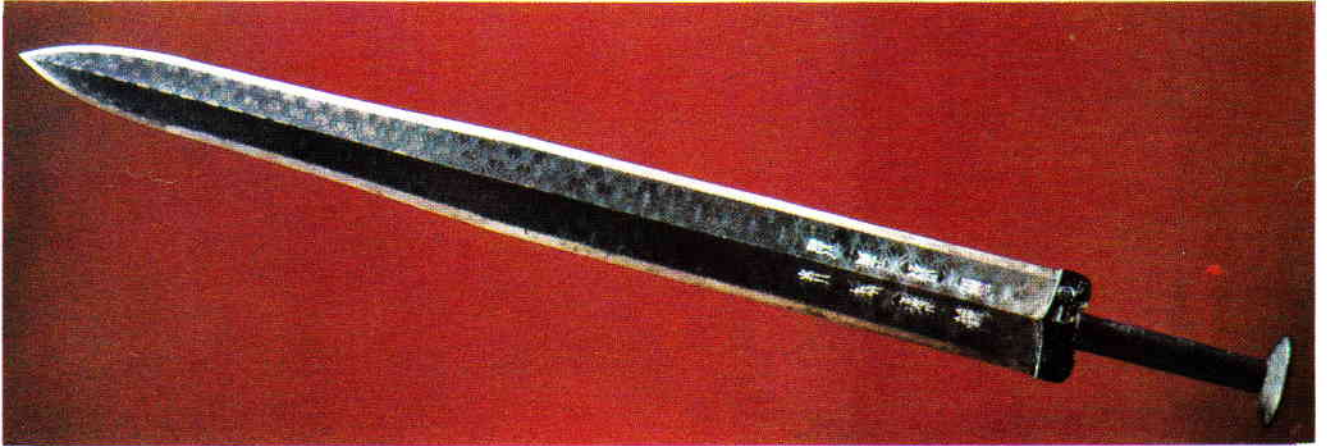
site in Henan province. They date back at least 3,500 years, to the Shang dynasty or even earlier. Some people believe this site to be the remains of the legendary Xia Culture. The array of weaponry found includes arrowheads and the *ge* (dagger-axe) and *qi* (battle-axe) used in hand-to-hand fighting. The *ge* was the chief close-combat weapon throughout the Bronze Age, and a great number were recovered from the site of a later Shang dynasty capital near Anyang, Henan province. The *mao* (pike) was often used in conjunction with the *ge*, and these two, along with bow and arrow, short sword and dagger formed a set of warrior's weapons.

Mobile troops mounted in chariots were a major force in Shang dynasty armies, and many such vehicles were found at Anyang, some with quivers of arrows still in place as well as *ge* and *mao*. The latter had longer handles than usual to suit chariot warfare. To defend themselves against these weapons, contemporary soldiers wore *zhou* (helmets) of cast bronze and leather body armor. Helmets were frequently decorated with raised designs of the heads of beasts such as tigers with enormous eyes and maws or bulls with up-curved horns.

Along with the *qi*, a type of battle-axe called the *yue* was also characteristic of the Shang period. Those for practical use were relatively small and bore simple designs. More massive and elaborate *yue* have been found in the tombs of high-ranking nobles. One of the graves unearthed at Anyang in 1976 was that of the wife of Wuding, king of Yin. She had something of a reputation as a general, and among the 130 weapons found in her tomb were a pair of large bronze *yue*, both more than 39 cm long and weighing 9 and 8.5 kg respectively. The heavier one is decorated with a fearful design consisting of two tigers gnawing on a human head.

Such heavy battle-axes would have been too unwieldy to use in battle, and these *yue* undoubtedly served as symbols of authority on

**YANG HONG** is a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Archaeology.



Bronze sword of Goujian, king of Yue during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.).



Qin dynasty kneeling archer unearthed near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang.



Western Han dynasty spearhead with hanging figures from Jinning, Yunnan province.

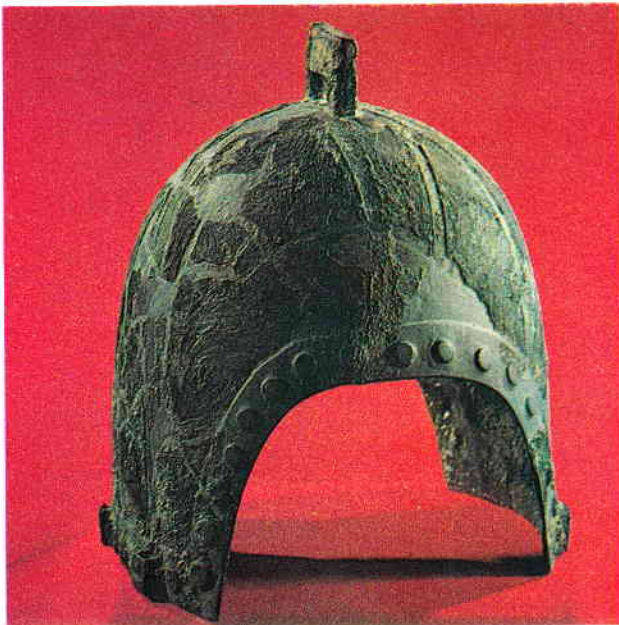




Large battleaxe of the Shang dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.)



Heavenly king in gilded and painted pottery, Tang dynasty (618-907), unearthed at Xi'an.



Bronze helmet, Spring and Autumn Period (770-475 B.C.), unearthed at Ningcheng, Liaoning province.



Western Han dynasty arrow unearthed at site of a beacon tower at Juyan.



Three-pronged halberd of the Warring States Period.



ceremonial occasions rather than working weapons. Another such pair of axes was recovered from a large Shang dynasty tomb at Sufutun in Yidu county, Shandong province. They resemble the larger of the Anyang axes in form and size and are decorated with an openwork design of human faces.

The sword came into its own during the Western Zhou period (11th century-771 B.C.), and by the Eastern Zhou period (770-256 B.C.) a finely-wrought bronze sword represented the highest achievement of the armorer's craft. The most valuable and highly prized were those made in the states of Wu, Yue and Chu during the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 B.C.). A truly fine example of the craftsmanship of the time is the sword of Goujian, king of Yue, found at a Chu tomb at Mt. Jialingwang in Hubei province. Inscribed in gold with the name of the king, it is chased with an elegant rhombus design and when found was as bright and sharp as if newly made.

### Iron and Steel

Even as the craft of bronze-working reached its peak, harder and more durable iron and steel weapons were beginning to appear. A *yue* uncovered at a Shang site in Gaocheng county, Hebei province in 1972 provides important evidence on the history of metallurgy in China. Though the weapon is made of bronze, it has an iron cutting edge which analysis showed had been forged out of natural meteoric iron. A similar *yue* was found in a Shang tomb at Liujiahe in Pinggu county, Beijing municipality. These discoveries indicate that even at this early date the special properties of iron were recognized and some iron-working techniques had been developed.

The earliest all-steel sword so far discovered was found in Tomb No. 65 at Yangjiashan near Changsha, Hunan province. It is only 38.4 cm long and was manufactured toward the end of the Spring and Autumn period, when iron and steel weapons were just coming into use. With the spread

of metallurgical knowledge in many parts of China, such weapons rapidly became more common.

A considerable number of iron and steel weapons dating from the Warring States period (475-221 B.C.) have been recovered from the sites of the ancient states of Chu and Yan. An outstanding example is the No. 44 mass grave found at the capital of Yan in today's Yixian county, Hebei province. Several dozen officers and soldiers killed in battle were buried with their weapons, including 51 made of iron: swords, spears, *ji* (halberds), daggers, and a helmet of iron armor plates. Of bronze weapons, only one *ge*, one sword and some arrowheads were found. Most of the bronze arrowheads had iron sockets, and bronze crossbow mechanisms had some iron parts. Moreover, some of the objects had been made by hammering the iron while it was hot, cooling it suddenly, and impregnating it with carbon—all relatively advanced techniques.

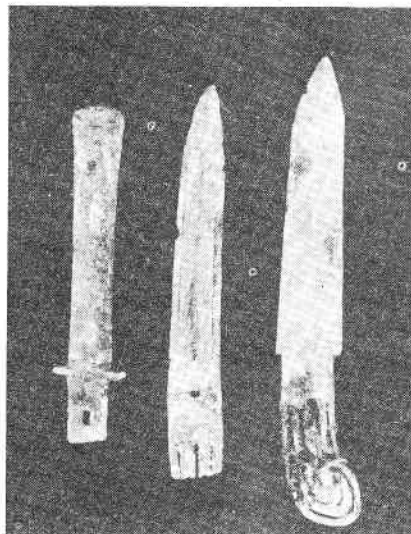
However, iron weapons did not evolve simultaneously throughout China. After the state of Qin conquered its six neighboring states, the Qin emperor is said to have collected all the weapons of his new subjects and melted them down to make twelve huge bronze

statues. This would indicate that at least the greater part of the weapons were made of this metal. And, as we have seen, the great majority of the actual weapons found buried with the Qin pottery soldiers were of bronze.

By the end of the Western Han period (206 B.C.-A.D. 24) iron weapons predominated. At Chang'an, capital of the dynasty, a large arsenal started in the 8th year of the reign of Emperor Gaozu (206-195 B.C.) and used until the end of the dynasty was excavated beginning in 1975. The weapons recovered include iron halberds, spears, swords, daggers and fragments of iron suits of armor. Bronze arrow tips accounted for only about a tenth of the total number, and most had iron sockets.

The tomb of Liu Sheng, king of the state of Zhongshan who died in 113 B.C., was discovered at Mancheng, Hebei province, in 1968. Of the 371 arrowheads found in the tomb, only 70 were made of bronze. The steel swords and halberds recovered are of excellent workmanship, among the best specimens extant of Western Han dynasty manufacture. Some of the iron daggers and broadswords and steel swords are embellished with patterns of inlaid jade and are objects of art as well as of the metal-worker's craft.

The earliest bronze weapons so far discovered: *ge* from the Erlitou site, Henan province.



Bronze mao (spearhead) in the shape of a frog, discovered at Mt. Shizhai, Yunnan province.



By the time of the Eastern Han dynasty (25-220), sophisticated methods of forging steel had been worked out. A technique which produces extremely sharp, durable swords involves heating, hammering and tempering a piece of steel, then folding it in half and starting all over again. The procedure is repeated many times. The process itself is highly exacting, and calls for the skills and knowledge of a master craftsman. A "30 refinings" steel broadsword dating back to A.D. 112 discovered at Cangshan, Shandong province, was examined under a powerful microscope and showed evidence of being tempered 31 separate times. A "50 refinings" sword dating from A.D. 77 was found at Tongshan county, Jiangsu province, and apparently swords of up to "100 refinings" were not unknown in this period. Although styles in arms and armor changed over the centuries, the basic technology of iron and steel weapons developed in this period was characteristic of Chinese armaments to the end of the feudal era.

### Weapons from Border Regions

Many ancient peoples living in China's border regions evolved their own styles of weaponry. Notable examples from the 5th century B.C. to A.D. 2nd century include various types of short bronze swords in use in northern and northeastern regions, the bronze *yue* of the southeastern seaboard with cutting edges curved at the tip, and the willow-leaf-shaped bronze swords of the Ba people in the southwest. All are distinctively designed and decorated.

One of the most striking so far discovered is a bronze spearhead used by the Dian people and unearthed at Dianchi in eastern Yunnan province. Two naked figures (probably prisoners of war), their wrists twisted behind their backs, hang suspended from each side of the spear's blade by fine chains — testimony both to the artistry of the maker and to the cruelty of those ancient times. □

## 'Flying Dragon' Is Good to Eat

HE ZHONGYUN

**T**HE *Feilong* ("Flying Dragon") is a kind of grouse once considered such a delicacy that it could only be served to the emperor. Nowadays it is enjoyed by discriminating diners both in China and abroad. The bird looks something like a pheasant, with plumaged crest and flat back, but weighs only half a *jin* (1/4 kilo). The fleshy part of its chest makes up one-third of its weight, thus making it one of the more tender and succulent of game fowl.

Simmered in a pot, the bird produces a broth that is clear and a little sweet, so it is an ideal ingredient for chafing dishes. Deep-fried in oil, it goes perfectly with certain wines. For centuries the Chinese have considered it not just delicious but nourishing. Ming dynasty pharmacist Li Shizhen (1518-1593) took particular note of it in his *Bencao Gangmu* (*Compendium of Materia Medica*).

*Feilong* live in the thickly forested Greater Hinggan Range in northeast China. In summer they dwell in the tops of trees; in winter their spacious nests are to be found under snow-covered branches. The birds mate both in spring and fall, and the female can lay up to a dozen eggs. Incubation takes about 25 days. The young can walk as soon as the fetal feathers are dry, find food on their own in a few days, and fly in about three weeks.

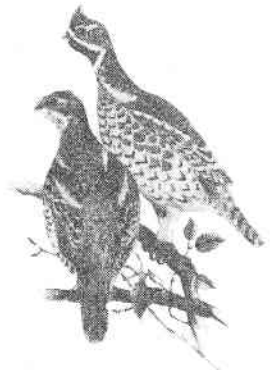
**T**HEIR diet includes tender grasses, insects and berries of various kinds — the latter having a great deal to do with the sweet taste of their flesh. They drink clear water and peck at tiny pebbles to help digestion. In winter, when temperatures can drop to 40°C below zero, the birds sleep until noon and then go foraging for food, so local people know that

winter afternoons are good hunting times.

In ancient times it is said to have been much larger, with wings as big as sails. Millions of years of evolution have produced the present-day small species. A feudal emperor is said to have given the bird its name many hundreds of years ago, when he sampled some sent to him in tribute by local officials. He liked the taste so much that he named it *fei* ("fly", for bird) and *long* ("dragon", the emperor's symbol), indicating that the bird could only be eaten by the emperor.

*Feilong* reproduce quickly. They mate regularly and lay many eggs at a time which incubate rapidly. Nevertheless, measures have been taken in recent years regulating the hunting of the bird. They and other birds cannot now be hunted during the egg-laying and incubation seasons, and female and immature birds cannot be hunted at all.

The result has been a significant increase in the bird population of the Greater Hinggan Range. The quota for hunters in Huma, Aihui and Nenjiang counties is now 20,000 *feilong* a year, whereas it used to be only 2-3,000; the quotas insure a good supply for export and domestic consumption without in any way endangering the survival of the species. Chinese zoologists have also been exploring the possibility of breeding the bird domestically. □



HE ZHONGYUN is with a scientific commission based in the Greater Hinggan Range, Heilongjiang province.



# Dalian Seamen's Club

BAO WENQING

THE port of Dalian in north China is visited by more than 25,000 foreign seamen every year. The late Premier Zhou Enlai once said that because sailors live a lonely life on board ship, they should be made to feel at home when they arrive in China.

The Dalian Seamen's Club was opened in September 1976. It is the largest in China. It has hotel accommodations, a souvenir shop, an antiques store, table-tennis room, shooting range, billiard room, reading room, various recreation rooms and a theater that seats 1,000. Its staff is over 200. In the lobby stands a large clock, gift of seamen on the *New Sulu* of Hong-kong when the club opened.

The club also handles sightseeing trips, outside activities of many kinds and sailors' personal needs and demands.

In 1980, for instance, over 900 ships and 25,000 sailors came to Dalian. The club arranged tours of the city, 231 visits to factories and communes, 54 ball games and 318 film shows. Sixteen discussion meetings were held on scientific, cultural and art subjects. The comment of a Swiss ship's engineer was, "I have visited many ports in the world but seldom found such a well-equipped club for seamen." A Greek captain who has been calling at Chinese ports since 1952 said that China almost seemed like his second home.

The *Stella Lykes*, arriving at Dalian on July 30, 1979, was the first American ship to visit a Chinese port since liberation in 1949. During its eight-day stay the Americans visited an aircraft and embroidery factory, a museum of natural history, a shell factory, a seaside park, and attended an

evening party and theater performance. Moved by such hospitality, the captain promised to write an article about the experience.

The third mate said, "I have touched ports in 81 countries but we American seamen have seldom been treated so warmly". The first mate spoke of the hospitality of the Chinese people, who treated them like their own. American cargo and passenger ships are now a common sight in Dalian.

Ten Pakistani seamen working on the Greek ship *Trade Light* were worried whether they would be able to attend a mosque in China. When they arrived at Dalian, their first question was whether there was a mosque. They were promptly taken to meet Bai Yunxing and other leaders of the Dalian Mosque, where they were welcomed as brother Muslims.

Since diplomatic relations were reestablished between China and Japan, the Japanese passenger ship

*Nippon Maru*, under Captain Yoshinori Yumiba, has visited Dalian eight times. When the ship left Japan for China in July 1979, she carried 300 passengers, members of the Japanese Youth Delegation from Toyama. The captain gave a cocktail party for the delegates and wished them a successful visit. At the party, however, some excited young people raised him into the air and strained his back. The ship's doctor had to be called to stop the pain.

When the ship docked at Dalian, the bed-ridden captain was very depressed, feeling that this would be his last trip to China. The head of the seamen's club immediately brought an orthopedics professor at the Shenyang Medical College on board. To the captain's surprise, acupuncture enabled him to get out of bed after the first treatment. "I heard of acupuncture long ago," he said, "but this was my first experience. It works like a miracle."

The captain was moved to a spacious room in the club for continued treatment. After a week he could walk to the club's theater. He expressed the wish that his daughter could come to study Chinese traditional medicine after graduating from a medical school in Japan.

Seizi Kamiyama, a urologist at Osaka Medical School and a

Foreign seamen visiting the Chinese countryside.

Luo Shimin



BAO WENQING is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.

specialist in artificial kidneys, came to China with the youth delegation. He wanted to know more about acupuncture. The club arranged a meeting at which medical specialists were invited to speak. A doctor from the Dalian People's Hospital No. 2 gave a talk on the history of acupuncture and its basic principles, while Dr. Kamiyama spoke on the use of artificial kidneys in Japan. After his return to Japan, he sent the Dalian hospital the latest technical information on artificial kidneys and two hemodialytic instruments. Through the club the hospital in return sent him literature on acupuncture.

The club constantly arranges such activities for cultural exchange. For example, it has invited seamen from Europe, North and South America and Japan to the Dalian Foreign Languages Institute for lectures, discussions and get-togethers with the students.

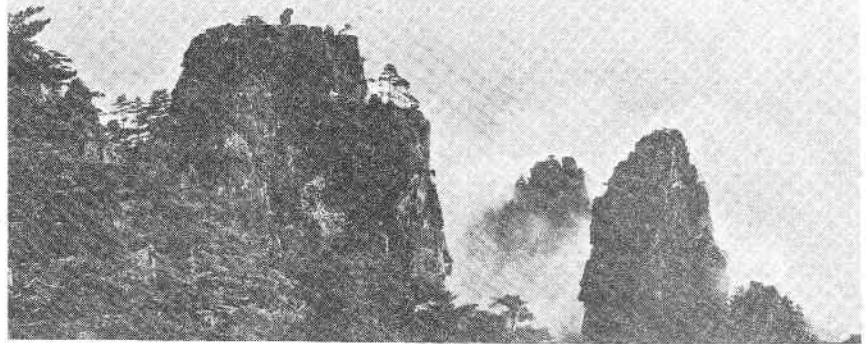
**L**AST year the Singapore freighter *Kota Timur* caught fire at sea due to oil leakage. It docked at Dalian for repairs. It was mid-winter. A shortage of fresh water on board made life difficult for the seamen. The club brought some of them to live in the club, and regularly sent food and water to the ship's repair crew.

The club also arranges reunions of seamen who have relatives in China. This includes making contacts for them, meeting and seeing them off at railway stations, booking tickets and arranging for food and lodging. With such help a seaman on the *Jupiter* from Hongkong met his wife at Dalian. Unexpectedly the woman suddenly fell ill just as her husband was ready to sail. He was very upset and did not know what to do. The club sent for a doctor and volunteered to take good care of her. After her recovery, the club put her on a passenger ship for Shanghai and from there escorted her safely to her home in Fuzhou in Fujian province.

In the interests of friendship and a better life for seamen while in Chinese ports, such clubs are being expanded. □

# Beautiful Huangshan

PENG XIANCHU



**T**HE Huangshan Mountains in southern Anhui province, 460 kilometers west of Shanghai, contain some of China's best scenery — breathtaking peaks, picturesque pines and oceans of ever-changing clouds. Famous for centuries, nevertheless it was only recently that improved roads, trails and accommodations have made things easier for the traveler. Today some half-million people visit the lovely Huangshan every year.

## Getting There

Summer is the peak season. Tourists usually start from Tangkou at the foot of a mountain for a five-kilometer drive up a winding gravel road, past some hot-springs at 630 meters elevation and on to Yungu (Cloud Valley) Temple at 890 meters. Here one is likely to meet Zhang Genmin, 58, a lowly sedan chair carrier in the old days, now a veteran guide. Such travel for officials and the rich before liberation was the only way to reach Tangkou. Today, communications have improved. Before 1979 only five long-distance buses made daily trips from nearby cities and counties. Now, there are seventeen lines running from Shanghai, Hefei (the provincial capital), Nanjing, Hangzhou and eight other cities in the province,

not including chartered tour buses and those of local units. The area can also be reached by air, ten flights every week from Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hefei to Tunxi, where it is two hours to the Huangshan by bus. The flight from Shanghai is 90 minutes and from Hangzhou 55 minutes.

## Staying There

Arriving at the Huangshan, most tourists stay a night at the hot-springs above Tangkou where the Huangshan Administration Bureau office is located. Here, they get guides, reserve accommodations and buy tourist maps and souvenirs. Everyone goes to see the nearby waterfalls, a water-curtain cave and Peach Blossom Peak. The hot-springs (42° C. or 108° F.) can be enjoyed in a pool or individual facilities.

Guest houses and hotels are located across a bridge and in a forest of pines — the Huangshan Hotel built in the 50s, the Guanpu (Watching Waterfalls) Hotel and the Taoyuan Hotel completed in 1980. The entire Huangshan area has seven good hotels and eleven hostels.

Among the most interesting accommodations are 60 bamboo houses scattered here and there in the woodland. Small, secluded and comfortable, each has its own style. Enclosed by pine and cypress forest, they are favorites of

PENG XIANCHU is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.

honeymooners. In fact, they are called "mandarin duck houses" because this duck in China is a symbol of love. Chinese couples pay only five yuan per night for these retreats.

### Rest Stops

From the Yungu Temple one climbs stone steps up the mountainside, fifty, a hundred. . . until they seem to stretch right into the blue sky and white clouds. Sometimes it appears that the steps have ended, when a hidden turn suddenly reveals endless more steps ahead. When muscles grow tired, the usefulness of a bamboo cane one has bought at the foot of the mountain for a few cents becomes clear.

One passes a dark pine shaped like a menacing tiger's head. On a turn to the right, "The Lovers' Pine" appears — two entwined trees with common roots.

At the top is Shixin (Seeing Is Believing) Peak, and here one is really convinced of the incredible beauty of the awesome, majestic mountains that spear the sky to the far horizon.

Coming down again, one is liable to see two women under a pine tree by the trail, one selling tea, milk and cooked eggs, the other arranging accommodations for visitors. On a stone bench in

the shade, rest and a cup of tea make cares disappear. The Huangshan has many such tea stops.

### Safety

Visitors who climb Guangming (Brightness) Peak at 1,800 meters pass a huge rock called "Turtle's Back" because it looks like a turtle with its back above the water. Through "Turtle's Cave" they come to an area of dangerous cliffs and steep, narrow gorges full of jagged rocks. Here, the "hundred steps", almost ladder-like, seem to hang from the first cliff.

People already climbing it look like a moving, colored ribbon in the mist and clouds. Moving upward, the cliff on one side reassures. Chains and steel railings on the other complete the feeling of safety in spite of the terrible drop below. Today in the Huangshan, some 50 kilometers of such steps have been made safe with wide stone slabs and safety railings. The result is magnificent beauty with peace of mind.

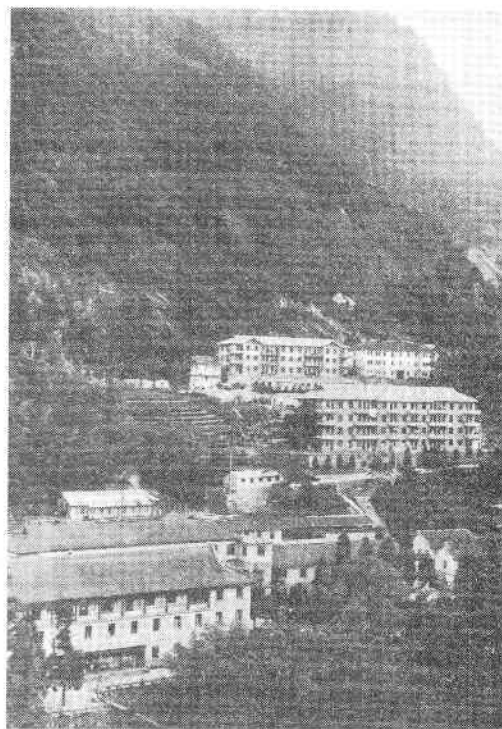
On the left side of Yu Ping Lou (Jade Screen Pavilion) is a thousand-year-old pine growing out of a cliff — the "Guest-Welcoming Pine", so called because its boughs reach out to greet its visitors. This is the subject of a large display in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. So that people can enjoy

the unparalleled view of deep valleys, soaring mountains and the ever-shifting sea of clouds, a level area around the pine has been built and enclosed with steel railings.

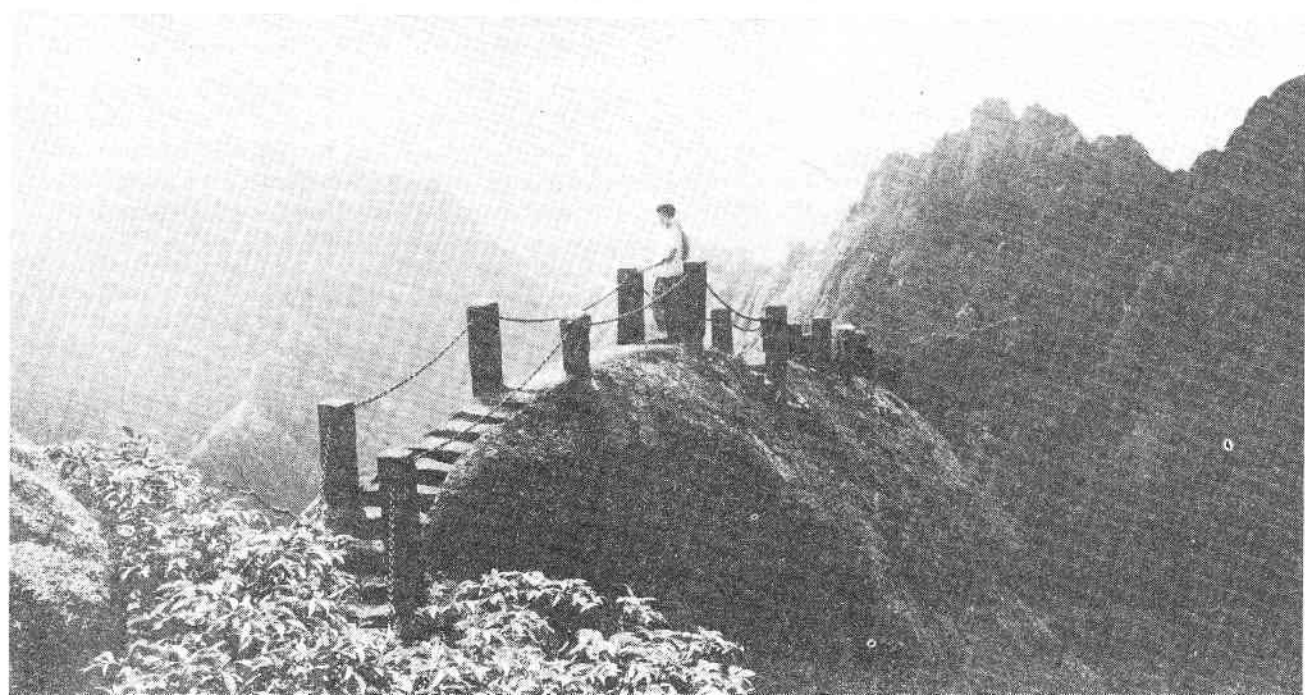
The Huangshan Mountains are undoubtedly one of the world's most beautiful places. □

Huangshan Hotel.

Peng Xianchu



Tiandu Peak — one of the three main peaks in the Huangshan Mountains.

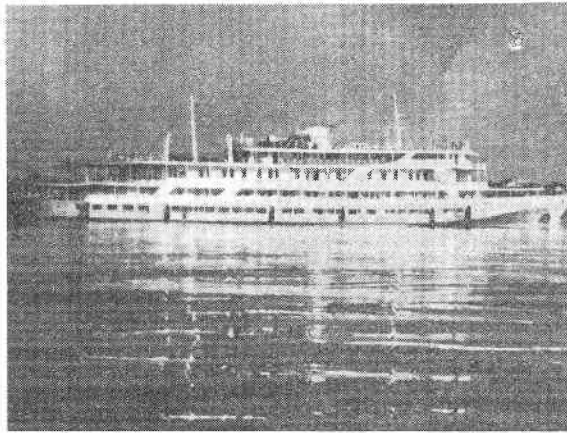






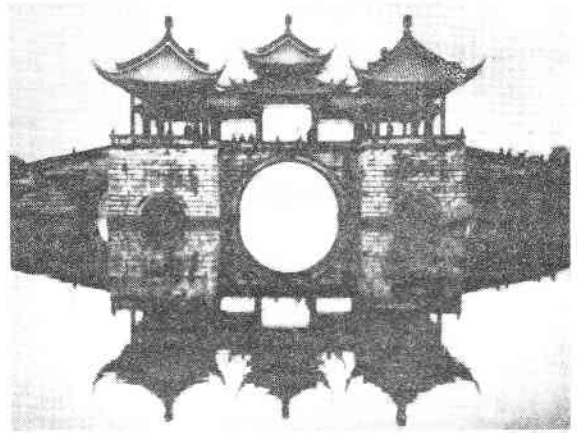
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# The Fashion Scene in Beijing

YOU YUWEN

JUST a few years ago a foreigner visiting China would find it difficult to believe that the words "fashion" and "Beijing" could have anything to do with one another. In those days most foreigners came away with a single impression: all Chinese dressed the same. And that styles owed much more to utility than to fashion. Men and women alike wore loose-fitting — sometimes downright baggy — jackets and pants in virtually the same design and in dark shades of blue, gray or green. Almost invariably flat black shoes and white shirts for hot weather completed the costume.

A stroll down any Beijing street this past scorching summer was enough to show how things have changed. There were still plenty of dark pants and white shirts, but there was so much more: skirts, even some rather short skirts, particularly on young women; shirtwaist dresses with belts; shoes with mid-high heels; bell-bottom trousers and close-fitting shirts; and everywhere a rainbow

of light and bright colors, and prints that ranged from delicate to bold.

Noticing the change, some foreigners have applauded what they see as the "liberation" of China's young people. Others see it as a sign of a lessening of revolutionary spirit. Indeed, not all Chinese people agree on the meaning of the change, or whether it is good or bad. But to understand it at all one must know something about China's historical background for, as in every country, clothing reflects not just fads and individual preferences, but also the nation's history, economics and social practice.

## From Rags to Bell-Bottoms

In the old China most of the population — the great masses of workers and poor peasants — counted themselves lucky to possess much-patched warm clothes. For many, clothing was little more than rags and scraps. Loose-fitting simply made dark tunics or jackets and pants fitted the lifestyle of men and women who

did physical labor and had few economic resources. The long gowns and rich fabrics traditionally worn by feudal landlords and officials signified both their wealth and the fact that they considered physical labor and other activities beneath their dignity.

Ideology can influence clothing styles. What many foreigners call the "Mao jacket" should really be called the "Sun Yat-sen jacket," for it was he who popularized it in China. A simple tunic-like jacket with a military air, it became a "revolutionary" style not just because it was practical but because it was closer to the dress of workers and peasants and a rejection of the long gowns worn by feudal aristocrats and of blind imitations of Western style in some quarters. For revolutionary women, the rejection of dresses and skirts in favor of pants helped symbolize their equality with men in leading active, productive lives.

In the early years after liberation, China's overall economic condition did not allow for much emphasis on fashion or style. The textile industry had all it could do just to provide warm, decent clothing for a growing population. And revolutionary styles were "in". Beginning in the last half of the 1950s, economic conditions improved enough so that people began to pay more attention to style and variety in clothes.

But the ultra-Left ideology of the "cultural revolution" (1966-76) equated any interest in fashion with a "bourgeois lifestyle" and many people put away their brighter, more fashionable clothes lest they be accused of some more serious error.

After the fall of the gang of four, and particularly with the "open door" policies in many fields beginning in 1978, young

Does it fit?



YOU YUWEN is a staff reporter for China Reconstructs.



Even the youngest are becoming fashion conscious.

Photos by Zhou Youma and Huo Jianying

people in Beijing and elsewhere began to break away from the old conformity. Bell-bottom trousers and form-fitting clothes became a fad with some. Others adapted the old style a bit and wore more varied colors and patterns. At first some of the trend-setters were labelled "hoodlums and hooligans," and treated coldly. By now, however, even more modish styles have been adopted by young people, and fashionable clothes have gained greater acceptance.

### Variety Adds Spice

This summer in Beijing a number of trends could be discerned in the fashion scene. And even the most conservative elders could see that the clothes worn by Beijing young people were no more outlandish than those worn by foreign tourists and overseas Chinese. Cotton knit shirts with the Chinese characters for "Shanghai," "Beijing" or "Hangzhou" worn by young foreigners have inspired their Chinese peers to wear shirts with the names of foreign places in foreign languages.

More young women than ever were wearing skirts, though mini-skirts were rare. Collarless and sleeveless dresses were beginning to be worn by young and middle-aged alike. More colors were to be seen, necklines were deeper — often with long, pointed collars — and a kind of silky blouse with

ribbons on the front kept selling out of every store as soon as new stocks arrived.

The *qipao* (a close-fitting woman's dress with high neck and slit skirt), abandoned during the "cultural revolution," has made a comeback, and is improving in style and fabric. A traditional blue and white patterned batik cloth has become popular again. Western-style turndown-collar women's blouses in this fabric could be seen this summer not just on Beijing women, but on foreigners as well.

A number of clothes seen on the street are obviously designed and made by Beijing women themselves to suit their individual tastes, and these original creations add variety to the city's summer dress. It was to be noted that a number of handicrafts and clothing designers spent hours at a time near the large department store on Wangfujing Street sketching and photographing the different styles worn by foreigners, overseas Chinese and the more creative Beijing women.

There is one ironic note in the midst of all this originality in dress. Chinese children have always been rather colorfully dressed. Parents who themselves wore drab conventional clothes often lavished on their children bright patterns and stylish designs. Nowadays children's clothes are if anything more dazzling. But this summer also saw the re-

sumption by some middle schools of school uniforms. One school principal commented, "Students not only look more tidy and impressive in a school uniform, but it can also foster their collective spirit."

### Demand for Quality

One reason for the surge in fashion interest is the improvement in the overall economy and higher incomes both in the countryside and the cities. People are demanding better-quality clothes as well as more clothes. This summer a clothing store clerk at a counter selling plain cotton clothes had little to do, while across the aisle people crowded around the counter selling high-quality garments. At another counter shop assistants counted a batch of newly arrived suits of pure wool serge while trying to answer customers' questions about price. An old clerk at another store reported: "Peasants are buying in large quantities, often a dozen at a time, while workers are more particular about style; but both want high-grade materials."

The Ruifuxiang Fabric Store at Qianmen Street used to stock cotton and dacron cloth downstairs and silks and woolens upstairs. They've now moved the wool downstairs and put the best-selling silk on shelves by the entrance. The store's 1980 profit from silk sales was 130,000 yuan, a record up to then. But before the summer of 1981 was over, the store had already earned 310,000 yuan in profit from silk alone. The manager notes that if supplies had not been short, they could have sold twice as much.

A young woman busy selecting fabric stopped to say, "We young people want the real thing" (meaning silk and wool rather than polyester and cotton). Many young workers claim that they don't have to dip into their salaries to buy the more costly materials — their monthly bonuses are enough.

Zhou Yanling, 24, a worker at Beijing's No. 4 Semiconductor Element Factory, recently got married. She spent nearly 500





The qipao (right), a close-fitting traditional dress, has reappeared.

Quiet, elegant dresses for youngsters.



Blouses in blue and white prints were fashionable this summer.







A few hemlines crept upward.

Overseas Chinese tourists or Beijing youth? You Can't tell from their clothes.

In hot weather the doudu, a kind of apron covering the chest and abdomen, is often baby's only garment.







A few young men, though not many, go in for colorful combinations like this one.



Fancy trims are popular.



Women's clothes change, but some styles endure for decades.



At an evening party.

Contrasting styles at Tian An Men Square.







Hawking garments from a street stall.

Girls' uniforms at Beijing No. 35 Middle School.

Display of new styles.



Photos by Zhou Youma and Huo Jianying

yuan on clothes for the wedding — an amount many people would still consider extravagant and unnecessary. But the real point is that ten years ago such spending would have been unthinkable. Zhou and her two younger sisters were in school, her mother was a housewife. On the father's salary of 70 yuan a month, clothes were strictly home-made, and the younger sisters often wore hand-me-downs with patches. Today the three sisters all work, the mother has also found a job, and family income is nearly 400 yuan a month. So Zhou and her sisters now spend far more on clothes.

Some young people complain that stores, garment and textile factories have not kept pace with the new fashions. The institutions involved are quite conscious of the problems. At the Xidan shopping area, a young customer complained that he had looked all over the city for a tan or cream-colored pure wool gabardine suit. The clerk was sympathetic, but explained that the store was being supplied only with darker colors. He added another example of supply problems: some dresses of printed cotton cloth hang unsold for months, even though they are cheap. Young Beijing women call them "awful."

### Catching Up

An expert from a garment research institute has a wider view: "Fabric designers don't take into account the problems of tailors, who in turn fail to consider the people who'll wear the clothes." He joked that many designers were "white-haired grandpas."

But of course this is only a small part of the problem. Young people pursue so many new fads that suppliers are hard put to keep up with their demands. Some tailors are unwilling to try new styles designed by fashion-conscious women. The range of sizes is often not complete. Many young people have thus turned to making their own clothes, and tailoring classes run by factories have attracted large enrollments.

But the fashion trend seems irresistible, and a clothing market of 10 million people cannot be ignored. Last year the Beijing Arts and Handicrafts Institute started a course in clothing design, and plans are underway to set up a special clothing institute. In order to unify clothing sizes nationwide, the Light Industry Ministry conducted a 400,000-person survey of size and bodily forms of different age groups, and in September people flocked enthusiastically to the National New-Size Clothing Exhibition and Sale in Beijing.

### Controversy

Needless to say, the new fashion explosion has generated a lot of controversy. This summer many national and local papers carried debates on aesthetic values and the social meaning of style and fashion. The *China Youth News'* "What is Truly Beautiful" column for September 15 provides a fair cross section of opinion:

A man who had attended college, gone to the countryside, become a worker, and now teaches fine arts at a teachers' college complained that he could not accept some youths who grew their hair long and wore bell-bottom pants.

A young man from a supply and marketing cooperative claimed that some young people, out of envy for other people's lifestyles, grow hair down to their shoulders, dress in close-fitting Western suits and wear imported sunglasses with the brand names carefully displayed. In his view such people don't have any ideals. They lack knowledge and are not serious about their work. He asks, "Are these people really seeking beauty?"

A student studying in Japan thought that young people should be left to decide on their own dress, but that he hoped foreign styles would be introduced selectively. Not all foreigners, he pointed out, wear shoulder-length hair or bell-bottoms that mop the floor. He thought it would be fascinating if all the people work-



An old peasant in traditional dress.

Yang De

ing for modernization could be properly dressed and vigorous.

A parent of two grown children had this to say: "If young people immerse themselves in work for modernization and don't infringe on public interests, why shouldn't they wear what they like, thus combining beauty of mind with a good appearance? We should have faith that they can manage their work and their life. Except for the few decadent and corrupt who need to be disciplined, we should not discriminate against youth so long as they don't wear clothes which really offend Chinese custom and decency."

Many clothing experts feel that the whole fashion scene is still pretty much of a hodgepodge and has yet to be systematized. Deputy Director Bai Congli of the Dyeing and Weaving Department of the Central Arts and Handicrafts Institute takes a balanced view: "We have still to learn the ABCs of aesthetics in clothing. Young people with emancipated minds hope to bring beauty into their lives, but they don't yet know what beauty is. With the influence of the imported stuff, they often mistake anything fresh, strange and eccentric for beautiful. This is where the so-called bizarre and outlandish dress comes from." But, he went on, "We should not interfere too much. Instead, we should help them to understand real beauty in dress." □



# Protecting Our Rare Yangtze Alligators

HUANG CHU-CHIEN

Reedy marshlands and river banks are the natural habitat of Yangtze alligators.

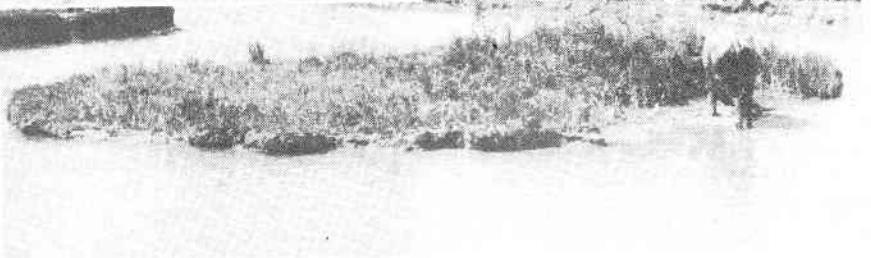


Yangtze alligator suns itself in the shallows near shore.

THE alligator is among the largest of living reptiles, an ugly beast with fearsome teeth and a reputation for ferocity which is somewhat exaggerated. The genus alligator (which is one of some 20 kinds of crocodile located in different parts of the world) can be found in just two places: the Yangtze (Changjiang) River area of southern China and the southern United States. Both the Yangtze and the Mississippi alligator, its American cousin, have been classified as animals in danger of extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the two countries have taken protective measures.

The Yangtze alligator, formally called *tuo* in Chinese, has been around for a long time and is mentioned in a number of ancient manuscripts. In fact the character for *tuo* (鼉) is a pictograph of the animal. *The Book of Songs* from the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 B.C.) and *The Book of Rites* from the Western Han dynasty (B.C. 202-A.D. 24) both note that the alligator's meat was

HUANG CHU-CHIEN is a reptile specialist with the Zoological Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and honorary advisor to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.



edible and that its hide was useful for drumskins. Its usefulness down to the present day partly explains its status as an endangered animal, since it has often been hunted for meat and hides.

THE other major reason for the serious drop in the alligator population is that its natural habitat has become more and more constricted as people convert formerly wild areas to human use. Alligators were once found all over southern China in vast reedy flats near lakes and marshes and along the Yangtze and its tributaries. Today they live mostly in the more secluded river flats overgrown with scrub or grass of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces. The alligator is often described as a swift and dangerous beast in popular folklore and in such ancient manuscripts as *Sacrificing to the Alligator* by a writer named Han Yu (A.D. 768-824). Actually, as long as it is reasonably well fed, it is a rather lazy and sluggish animal which is more likely to retreat than attack when approached by human beings.

Since the Yangtze and Mississippi alligators are so closely related and both are on the endangered list, Chinese and American zoologists are naturally interested in exchanging information and ideas. Last May Dr. Myrna Watanabe of the American Society of Zoologists accompanied our group of Chinese scientists on an 80-day field trip which provided some of the most comprehensive data so far on the distribution and habits of the Yangtze alligator.

Alligators grow up to two meters, with much of that length being taken up by its long flexible tail. At the tip of its snout a pair of nostrils open upward; inside the nostrils is a flexible valve that can be opened and closed at will. Another bony valve opens and shuts its slit-like earhole, and a special muscle separates the mouth cavity from the esophagus. These features allow the animal to spend fairly long periods in and under water — though, as an air breather, it must surface periodically to fill its lungs. It can swim quite fast, but rarely does so. It is more likely to be found floating



in the water with only its nostrils exposed—and looking, with its dark scaly hide, very much like a floating log.

Its major items of diet are snails and clams, as we discovered by examining the contents of a number of stomachs. However, it can also survive for several months without eating anything. It seems to ignore the tortoises which climb all over its back and head as it suns itself on the river bank or on fallen logs. At the approach of human beings, the animals typically crawl away or slide into the water.

Alligators live in burrows, where they hibernate in winter and spend much of their time even in summer. To construct its burrow, an alligator uses its front claws to dig away the hard surface layer of soil mixed with reed and bamboo roots, sweeping away the debris with its tail. Then it rams its hard head repeatedly in and out to enlarge the hole. The completed burrow typically has two entrances, one leading to the water and the other to a sward of grass or bamboo grove on land. The burrows are often quite long, and sometimes equipped with an airhole; in times of flood, when the burrow is filled with water, the alligator can float up to the airhole to breathe. At the bottom of each burrow is a ledge on which the animal hibernates in winter and rests in summer.

Yangtze alligators come out of winter hibernation in April. In June one begins to hear their mating calls. This June, on a quiet moonlit night, we observed two alligators swimming and playing side by side, their snouts occasionally touching. It was the beginning of their mating ritual. Over the next few nights we observed and photographed for the first time the entire mating process.

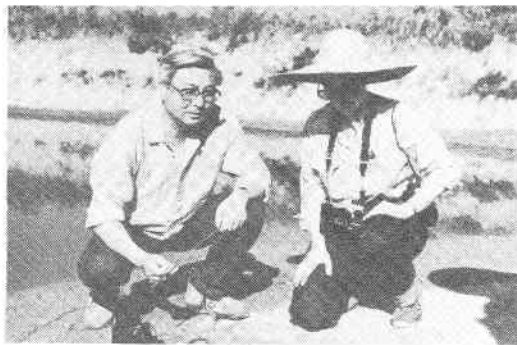
**I**N July we were able to photograph the egg-laying process. The pregnant female, her abdomen swollen with eggs, must move practically on tip-toe to prevent her low-slung body from dragging on the ground. The hind legs also support her rear during egg-laying, when she lays about 20 white hard-shelled eggs at a rate of one every 20 seconds. The eggs are similar in size to ducks' eggs but more symmetrical in shape. Also, the egg will not solidify when boiled.

The eggs are laid in a nest dug out of the ground beforehand and lined with leaves and branches. After the eggs are deposited, the female covers them with dirt and smoothes it over with her tail to disguise the location. At natural temperature and humidity, incubation takes 70 days. Even before the baby alligator emerges from the shell, it utters a kind of hiccup-like cry to attract the attention of the mother. It breaks out of the shell with the help of a special "egg-tooth" which it will

soon lose. The mother often assists at the hatching process and then leads her new brood to the water for their first swimming lesson.

One of the first tests we conducted, incidentally, was to play the recorded cry of a baby American alligator to see how our Yangtze alligators would respond. We found that many of them held their heads up, turned them to one side, or even crawled out of their burrows to find this "baby" whom they couldn't see. To us it was a gratifying confirmation of the close relationship between our Chinese alligators and the American variety.

**W**E Chinese reptile specialists are currently engaged in a number of scholarly exchanges with our counterparts around the world. Particularly valuable in this regard are the annual conference and newsletters of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

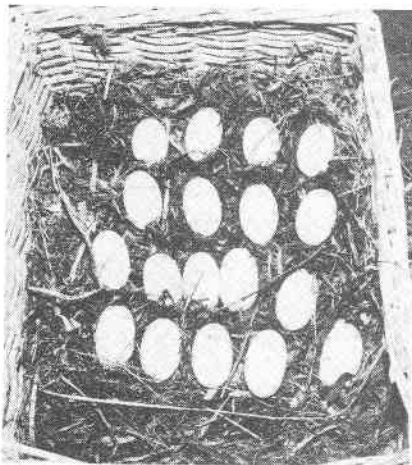


The author of the article and Dr. Myrna Watanabe measure alligator tracks.

A rare photograph of Yangtze alligators mating.



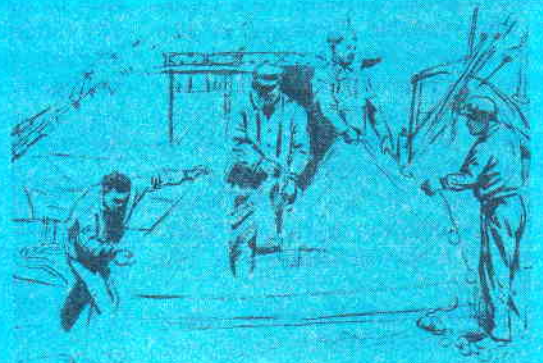
Artificial hatching of Yangtze alligator eggs.



which in turn stimulate a great deal of correspondence and exchange of papers. The American experience in constructing and running a successful alligator preserve and breeding center has been helpful in the development of our breeding centers in Anhui and Zhejiang provinces. The Anhui center, our largest so far, now has over 70 alligators. Because alligators are naturally fairly prolific, we expect that the protected environment of the centers will increase our alligator population and help insure that this interesting animal will never disappear from China. □



Old fisherman.



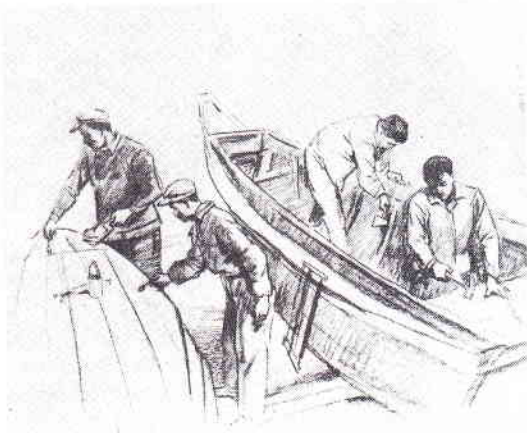
Getting ready to cast off.



Drying kelp.



Selecting shrimp.



The commune shipyard.



Slaughtering a giant shark.

# The Story of Yi Yin

WEI TANG

**YI YIN** is one of those types that recur frequently in Chinese folklore — the wise counselor who gives his monarch honest advice and has the interests of the people at heart. That such figures are made popular culture heroes undoubtedly reflects the fact that most imperial officials over the centuries displayed anything but these virtues.

Legend gives Yi much of the credit for the establishment of the Shang dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.). In his youth, it is said, he became outraged by the misrule and foul practices of the tyrant Jie of Xia. His solution was to help overthrow Jie and to make his own monarch, Prince Tang of Shang, ruler of all China.

Tradition describes Yi as personally unprepossessing — short, swarthy and bearded, his pudgy frame twisted by a hump on his back — and totally uninterested in the clothes he wore. His wit and sagacity, however, seem to have outweighed his looks. One account says that he brought himself to the attention of Tang by first disguising himself as a slave in the household of a noble whose daughter was about to marry Tang. Yi was sent along to court as part of the dowry. He gradually won Tang's respect and was raised to the position of court minister.

In another version, Yi was a peasant who nevertheless had wise things to say on matters of state. Tang heard of him and wanted to make him an advisor. Five times he went to Yi before the latter would consent. Tang's charioteer, a fellow named Peng, was said to be highly incensed: "What airs this peasant puts on! If you want him, just summon him. Why should you go to him time after time?" Whereupon Tang replied,



Yi Yin.

"You don't understand. In going to Yi I'm like a sick man seeking the assistance of a good doctor. And not for myself, but to save the people of the country."

This is all very much in the mode of tales surrounding changes in dynasty. Founders of new dynasties — in this case Yi and Tang — are invariably endowed with every upright virtue, while the last representatives of falling dynasties, such as Jie, are represented as evil tyrants. Tang is said to have asked Yi what he should do to strengthen his rule. Yi's reply: "Cultivate your moral character and resolve to work for the benefit of the people. Enlist in your service men of virtue and ability. Rule your domain with humanity and justice."

**YI** rendered Tang great service in his campaign to conquer Xia. Once Tang, impatient to launch an attack, was persuaded by Yi to hold off while he sounded out Xia's strength. On Yi's advice Tang deliberately withheld tribute payments to Jie of Xia. Jie

promptly flew into a rage and summoned the armies of his vassal dukes and princes. When reports indicated that the troops were duly assembling for a punitive expedition against Tang, Yi told his master: "We can't attack now, while Jie is still powerful. Better wait."

The next year Tang again procrastinated over the tribute, and Jie once more called up his vassals. But this time many were reluctant to obey. "Now's the time," said Yi. "Jie's commands are no longer effective."

**THE** Shang armies gained a series of victories, first conquering a number of Jie's vassal states and then bearing down on the Xia capital. They were only five *li* from the enemy forces when Yi suddenly called a halt. The bewildered Tang asked why, and his advisor calmly replied that the army's morale needed bolstering. "But my army has won every battle it has fought!" protested Tang. "True," replied Yi, "but up to now we have fought smaller states. This time we are dealing with the monarch of a big state, and this battle will decide the fate of a dynasty. We cannot afford to be careless."

So Yi assembled the army and Tang addressed them. He dwelt on the iniquities of Jie and declared that his own rebellion against the tyrant accorded with the will of heaven and the people. This speech, known to history as "Tang's pledge," bolstered the spirits of the troops. In the ensuing battle Jie the tyrant was finally defeated.

Tang went on to found the Shang dynasty and appointed Yi his prime minister. After Tang's death Yi continued to advise his sons and successors, Wai Bing and Zhong Ren. Upon the death of the latter, Tang's grandson Tai Jia ascended the throne, and the aging Yi came to serve his fourth monarch.

One of his first "services" was to send the young Tai Jia into exile. Yi at this time held the high position of Ah Heng, or guardian

(Continued on p. 80)



## Lesson 13

## Address

小宋: 丽娜, 你在看什么书呢?  
Xiǎo Sòng: Lina, nǐ zài kàn shénme shū ne?  
Xiao Song: Lina, you (now) reading what book?

丽娜: 《实用汉语课本》。中文里很多  
Lina: «Shíyòng Hànyǔ kèběn». Zhōngwénlǐ hěnduō  
Lina: «Practical Chinese Textbook». Chinese in very many  
称呼和客套话 我掌握得不  
chēnghuā hé kètāohuà wǒ zhǎngwò de bù  
address and polite expressions I master not  
好。大前天 我在书店,  
hǎo. Dàqiántiān wǒ zài shūdiàn,  
well. Two days before yesterday I at bookshop,  
称售货员“女士”, 她 直  
chēng shòuhuòyuán “nǚshì”, tā zhí  
call salesperson “Miss”, she continuously  
笑我。  
xiào wǒ.  
laugh (at) me.

小宋: 解放以后都不这样称呼了。  
Xiǎo Sòng: Jiěfàng yǐhòu dōu bù zhèyàng chēnghuā le.  
Xiao Song: Liberation after all not this way say address.  
对售货员、售票员、服务员  
Dui shòuhuòyuán, shòupiàoyuán, fúwùyuán  
To salesperson, bus conductor, service personnel  
都称“同志”。“同志”用得  
dōu chēng “tóngzhì”. “Tóngzhì” yòng de  
all address (as) Comrade. “Comrade” (is) used  
很广, 对很多人都可以  
hěn guǎng, duì hěnduō rén dōu kěyǐ  
very widely, to very many people all can  
这样称呼。  
zhèyàng chēnghuā.  
this way address.

丽娜: “先生”、“小姐”都不说了吗?  
Lina: “Xiānsheng,” “xiǎojiě” dōu bù shuō le ma?  
Lina: Mr., Miss, all not say?

小宋: “先生”、“小姐”、“女士”、“夫人”  
Xiǎo Sòng: “Xiānsheng,” “xiǎojiě”, “nǚshì”, “fūren”  
Xiao Song: Mr., Miss, Miss, Mrs.  
还说, 但一般是在外交场合。  
hái shuō, dàn yībān shì zài wàijiāo chǎnghé.  
still say, but generally is at diplomatic occasion.

丽娜: 有时候我觉得人家年纪大,  
Lina: Yǒu shíhòu wǒ juéde rénjiā niánjì dà,  
Lina: Sometimes I feel somebody age great,

应该尊敬他, 也称“同志”吗?  
yīnggāi zūnjìng tā, yě chēng “tóngzhì” ma?  
should respect him, also call Comrade?

小宋: 不同的环境, 称呼也不一样。  
Xiǎo Sòng: Bù tóng de huánjīng, chēnghuā yě bù yíyàng.  
Xiao Song: Different circumstances address also not same.  
在知识分子中可以称“先生”、  
Zài zhīshì fēnzǐ zhōng kěyǐ chēng “xiānsheng,”  
At knowledge elements among can call “Mr.”,  
“老师”。对年纪大的学者、著名  
“lǎoshī”. Duì niánjì dà de xuézhě, zhù míng  
“Teacher”. To age great scholar, famous  
人士常常是姓张的称  
rénshì chángcháng shì xìng Zhāng de chēng  
person often is surname Zhang address (as)  
“张老”, 姓李的称  
“Zhāng Lǎo”, xìng Lǐ de chēng  
“Zhang Elder”, Surname Li address (as)  
“李老”; 在工人中就称  
“Lǐ Lǎo”; zài gōng rén zhōng jiù chēng  
“Li Elder”; at workers among just address  
“师傅”; 在农民和一般  
“shīfu”; zài nóngmín hé yībān  
“Master”; at peasants and ordinary  
市民中常称“大爷”、  
shì mǐn zhōng cháng chēng “dà yē”,  
townspeople among often address “Uncle”,  
“大娘”、“大嫂”、“大姐”。  
“dà niáng”, “dà sǎo”, “dà jiě”.  
“Aunt”, “Sister-in-law”, “Elder Sister”.

丽娜: 对领导怎么称呼?  
Lina: Dui lǐngdǎo zěnmě chēnghuā?  
Lina: To leaders how address?

小宋: 可以称职务, 如“张主任”  
Xiǎo Sòng: Kěyǐ chēng zhíwù, rú “Zhāng zhǔrèn,”  
Xiao Song: Can address position, such as “Zhang Director”,  
“李厂长”, 但是现在不  
“Lǐ chǎngzhǎng”, dànshì xiànzài bù  
“Li Factory Director”, but now not  
提倡这样称呼。对比较熟悉的人,  
tíchàng chēnghuā. Duì bǐjiào shúxī de  
advocate this way address. To relatively familiar  
年长一些的人, 年纪大,  
rén, niánzhǎng yíxiē de chēng  
person, older a bit address

“老张”、“老李”，对年轻一些  
 “Lǎo Zhāng,” “Lǎo Lǐ”, duì niánqīng yìxiē  
 “Old Zhang”, “Old Li”, to young a bit  
 的称“小张”、“小李”，这样  
 de chēng “Xiǎo Zhāng”, “Xiǎo Lǐ”, Zhèyàng  
 address “Little Zhang”, “Little Li”. This way  
 称呼是很亲切的。  
 chēnghu shì hěn qīnqiè de.  
 address is very heartwarming.

丽娜: 我真怕说错, 得好好学习学习。  
 Lina: Wǒ zhēn pà shuōcuò, děi hǎohǎo xuéxuéxí.  
 I really afraid speak wrong, must well learn.

那天我去找人, 找错了  
 Nátīan wǒ qù zhǎo rén, zhǎo cuò le  
 That day I go look for a person, looked into wrong  
 门, 心里想的是说“对不起”,  
 mén, xīnlǐ xiǎng de shì shuō “duìbuqǐ”,  
 door, mind in (What I) is (to) say “Sorry”,  
 一下子说出了“没关系”, 弄得  
 yíxiàzi shuōchūle “méiguānxi”, nòng de  
 suddenly (I) said “It doesn't matter”, made  
 我很不好意思。  
 wǒ hěn bù hǎo yìsi.  
 me very embarrassed.

小宋: 这没什么, 常说就记熟了。  
 Xiǎo Sòng: Zhè méi shénme, cháng shuō jiù jìshú le.  
 Xiao Song: This not anything, often say (will) remember.

### Translation

Xiao Song: Lina, what book are you reading?  
 Lina: “Practical Chinese Textbook”. In Chinese there are many forms of address and polite expressions which I haven't mastered. Three days ago when I called a saleswoman Miss in a bookshop, she could not stop laughing at me.

Xiao Song: Since liberation we don't address people that way. We call salespeople, bus conductors and service personnel Comrade. Comrade is widely used. Many people can be addressed this way.

Lina: Aren't Mr. and Miss used any more?

Xiao Song: Mr., Miss and Mrs. are still used, but generally at diplomatic occasions.

Lina: Sometimes I think someone is old and I should respect him. Should I call him “Comrade”?

Xiao Song: In different situations the form of address also differs. Among educated people one can use Mr. and Teacher. For elder scholars or famous persons Lao is used after the surname, such as Zhang Lao and Li Lao. Among workers Master is used, among peasants and townspeople Uncle, Aunt, Sister-in-law and Elder Sister.

Lina: How do you address your leaders?

Xiao Song: We can address them by their positions, such as “Director Zhang”, “Factory Manager Li”, but now we do not advocate this form of address. Those you know rather well, you can call Lao Zhang or Lao Li if they are older than you, and if younger, Xiao Zhang or Xiao Li. This way of address shows familiarity.

Lina: I'm really afraid I'll say something wrong. I must study it hard. One day I went to look for someone but went to the wrong door. I wanted to say “Sorry”, but suddenly “Never mind” popped out. I was very embarrassed.  
 Xiao Song: It doesn't matter. With more practice you will remember.

### Notes

1. Continuous action shown with *zài ... ne* 在...呢  
 The words “zhèng zài” 正在 or simply zhèng 正 or zài 在 before the verb indicate continuing action in the present. Frequently with zài 在 the word ne 呢 is added at the end of the sentence to emphasize the sense of immediacy. Nǐ zài kàn shénme shū ne 你在看什么书呢 (What book are you reading)? Tā zài chīfàn ne 他在吃饭呢 (He is eating dinner).

2. Duō 多 (much, many) as a predicate adjective.  
 It and most other predicate adjectives can be used without a verb, or rather, with the verb understood. Wǒ de péngyou duō 我的朋友多 (My friends are many). But when 多 modifies a noun next to it, it must be preceded by the character hěn 很 (very). Hěnduō péngyou lái kàn wǒ 很多朋友来看我 (Many friends came to see me).

Other words can be used as predicate adjectives in the same way, for example: Zhè zhǒng huā piàoliang 这种花漂亮 (This kind of flower is beautiful).

3. Yesterday, today, tomorrow.  
 jīntiān 今天 today  
 zuótiān 昨天 yesterday  
 qiántiān 前天 day before yesterday  
 dàqiántiān 大前天 two days before yesterday  
 míngtiān 明天 tomorrow  
 hòutiān 后天 day after tomorrow  
 dàhòutiān 大后天 two days after tomorrow

### Everyday Expressions

- 称呼 chēnghu address  
 称呼他同志 chēnghu tā tóngzhì  
 address him Comrade  
 称呼他先生 chēnghu tā xiānsheng  
 address him Mr.  
 对他这样称呼 duì tā zhèyàng chēnghu  
 address him this way  
 对他那样称呼 duì tā nàyàng chēnghu  
 address him that way
- 称 chēng call  
 称他师傅 chēng tā shifu  
 call him Master

称她大娘 **chēng tā dàniáng**  
call her Aunt

3. 年纪 **niánjì**  
age  
年纪大 **niánjì dà** old  
年纪小 **niánjì xiǎo** young  
年纪轻 **niánjì qīng** young
4. 著名 **zhù míng** famous, well-known  
著名的学者 **zhù míng de xuézhě** famous scholar  
著名的城市 **zhù míng de chéngshì** famous city  
著名的特产 **zhù míng de tèchǎn** well-known special local product
5. 亲切 **qīnqiè** warm familiar  
很亲切 **hěn qīnqiè** very warm  
感到亲切 **gǎndào qīnqiè** feel warm  
亲切地说 ..... **qīnqiè de shuō** ..... say warmly
6. 找 **zhǎo** look for  
找人 **zhǎo rén** look for somebody  
找东西 **zhǎo dōngxi** look for something  
找地方 **zhǎo dìfang** look for a place  
找钱 **zhǎo qián** give change

### Exercises

1. Answer the questions in Chinese:  
(1) How do you address an older person in China?  
(2) What do you answer when someone else says "Sorry" to you?
2. Make sentences with the phrase "Zài...ne":  
(1) 妹妹睡觉  
(2) 我们参加朋友的婚礼  
(3) 孩子们做游戏。
3. Put the following into Chinese:  
(1) Many people 都喜欢花。

(2) 今天我买了 many books.

### 4. Read the following paragraph:

中国解放以前和解放以后,对人的称呼不一样。从前见到男人 (**nánrén men**) 称“先生”,见到女人 (**nǚrén women**) 称“小姐”、“女士”或“太太”,现在一般都不说了,只有在外交场合还说。大家对自己熟悉的人都称“同志”,或者“老×”、“小×”,这样称呼是很亲切的。对年纪大的学者、著名人士称“×老”,这是一种很尊敬的称呼。在工人中不论 (**búlùn no matter**) 年纪大小,也不论男女,都可以称“师傅”。在农民中对年纪大的称“大爷”、“大娘”,对年轻的没有特殊 (**tèshū special**) 的称呼。

环境不同,称呼也不一样,我觉得很有意思,我要好好地学习学习。

### An Error Corrected

The June 1981 issue of *China Reconstructs* carries an article on Talitha Gerlach's 85th birthday, page 49.

The first sentence in paragraph 2 states "She first came in 1926 as a member of the China branch of the U.S. National Young Women's Christian Association." This is a serious error of fact. The statement should read: "She first came in 1926 as a member of the Chinese Young Women's Christian Association."

The Chinese YWCA from its inception was a totally independent organization related to the World's YWCA headquarters in Geneva.

Talitha Gerlach, Shanghai

Thank you for the correction. -Ed.

(Continued from p. 77)

### STORY OF YI YIN

and instructor of the monarch. He was a strict teacher, but Tai Jia was engrossed in his own amusements and showed little concern for affairs of state. Things went from bad to worse, until Yi declared himself regent and sent Tai Jia to a place called Tongguan (southwest of today's Yanshi county, Henan province). Tang's tomb was situated there, and Yi considered it an appropriate spot for the boy to reflect on his wayward behavior.

Yi's motives were of course misunderstood. Court officials whispered among themselves that Yi intended to usurp the throne. Yi disregarded their suspicions in the firm conviction that he was acting in the public interest.

Back at Tongguan, Tai Jia was overcome with shame at his past behavior and decided to turn over a new leaf. After three years Yi was satisfied that the young king had really mended his ways, so on a propitious day he himself went to Tongguan with the royal crown

and robes. Tai Jia was returned to the throne and became an able and enlightened ruler. The story of the whole incident is known as "Yi Yin Exiles Tai Jia." So pleased was Yi with his monarch's reformation that he wrote an article entitled "The Exemplary Conduct of Tai Jia."

Yi Yin lived to a venerable old age. Tai Jia himself having died, his son Wo Ding buried the old prime minister with the rites usually reserved for an emperor. □





Baby with pigeons

by Jiang Zhaohu







Centenary of the Birth of Lu Xun



Edible Mushrooms



# CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

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## STAMPS OF NEW CHINA

### Centenary of the Birth of Lu Xun

Lu Xun (1881-1936) was a great writer, thinker and revolutionary who made tremendous contributions to 20th century Chinese culture. A set of two commemoratives entitled "Centenary of the Birth of Lu Xun" was released on September 25, 1981.

Stamp 1, Lu Xun in his youth, 8 *fen*.

Stamp 2, Lu Xun in his latter days, 20 *fen*.

Both stamps measure 30 × 40 mm. *Perf.* 11.5. Color photogravured. Serial numbers: J. 67 (2-1) to (2-2).

### Edible Mushrooms

Edible mushrooms are a gourmet's delight. Some varieties have medicinal value. China is rich in wild edible mushrooms; the history of their use goes back 1,400 years. A set of 6 special stamps entitled "Edible Mushrooms" was released on August 6, 1981.

Stamp 1, *Tremella fuciformis*, 4 *fen*.

Stamp 2, *Dictyophora phalloidea*, 8 *fen*.

Stamp 3, *Hericium erinaceus*, 8 *fen*.

Stamp 4, *Russula rubra*, 8 *fen*.

Stamp 5, *Lentinus edodes*, 10 *fen*.

Stamp 6, *Agaricus Bisporus*, 70 *fen*.

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