

## Publishing Flourishes

**K**EEPING to the orientation of serving proletarian politics, socialism and the workers, peasants and soldiers, China's publishing departments have scored tremendous achievements in the ten years since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began in 1966.

In the past decade, 4,800 million copies of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao have been distributed, eight times the total in the 17 years before the Great Cultural Revolution started. In 1975 alone, Peking sold more than 400,000 sets of the *Selected Works of Marx and Engels* and the *Selected Works of Lenin*. Since the mass movement to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat got underway, nearly 200 titles of reference books for studying works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works have been published in various parts of the country. To help promote the movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius, the People's Publishing House in 1974 brought out four pamphlets, including *Lu Hsun On Confucius*, with a total of 280 million copies. Since the struggle to beat back the Right deviationist attempt at reversing correct verdicts was carried out early this year, professional writers and publishers have gone to factories, army units and rural people's communes where they joined efforts with the worker-peasant-soldier masses to produce a number of literary and art works and books with themes on criticizing Teng Hsiao-ping's revisionist line.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has put an end to the situation in which bourgeois intellectuals dominated the publishing departments. Today, editors from many publishing houses often go to factories, rural people's communes and P.L.A. units to take part in collective productive labour and at the same time organize the workers, peasants and soldiers and revolutionary cadres to write or compile books. The worker-peasant-soldier masses, on their part, have selected and sent their outstanding representatives to publishing houses to participate in editing books and join the leading bodies there. This new system of "running publishing houses in an open-door way" has demonstrated its great vitality. Of the 129 titles of books on the social sciences published in 1974 and 1975 by the People's Publishing House in Peking, 70 were written or compiled mainly by the workers, peasants and soldiers. In the past ten years, with the participation of the workers, peasants and soldiers, new novels have been written and published in all of China's provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (not including Taiwan Province). A total of 47 novels and novelettes were published last year, which is more than in the peak

year before the Cultural Revolution. The People's Literature Publishing House in Peking has a contingent of 1,700 contributing worker-peasant-soldier writers and 775 of them have had their works published. All this was something inconceivable before the Cultural Revolution.

Part of the 24 works by Lu Hsun — a great revolutionary, thinker and man of letters of China — have been published in pamphlet form, with annotations by workers, peasants and soldiers working in conjunction with specialists in the study of Lu Hsun's works. On the basis of this, the work of annotating the *Collected Works of Lu Hsun* is now underway.

Similarly, a series of books containing quotations from Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin have been brought out; they were mainly compiled by workers. In addition, worker-peasant-soldier students of the foreign languages departments in 18 universities and colleges are translating Marxist-Leninist classics.

Apart from taking an active part in writing and compiling books, the workers, peasants and soldiers, under the Party's centralized leadership, have participated in examining the manuscripts, so as to ensure that all the publications have a correct political orientation and suit the demands of the masses. In this respect, the two novels *On the Eve*, which depicts the two-line struggle on the educational front, and *The Bright Road*, which reflects the struggle between the two roads in the rural areas, are good examples. Before the manuscripts were finalized, the authors attended several to over 20 meetings at which workers, peasants and soldiers gave their comments and suggestions for improvement. Some other works were finalized after several hundred people had given their opinions and comments.

In line with Chairman Mao's principle "Make the past serve the present and foreign things serve China," publishing departments have since 1974 put out a number of works by representatives of the Legalist school in ancient times. This has been of help to the people of the whole country in reviewing the struggle between the Confucianists and the Legalists and the class struggle in Chinese history and in criticizing Liu Shao-chi, Lin Biao and Teng Hsiao-ping for their attempts at restoration and retrogression.

*The Dream of the Red Chamber*, a famous political and historical novel depicting the class struggle in China's feudal society, has been published in different editions and translated into Uighur, one of China's minority languages.

*The Twenty-Four Histories*, which totals 3,200 volumes running to 40 million words, consists of 24 history books in the form of biographies written by historians from the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) to the early Ching Dynasty (1644-1911). Together they cover 4,000 years of Chinese history from the period of the legendary Huangti to the last years of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). During the Cultural Revolution, the Chunghua Bookstore organized over 100 famous historians and middle-aged and young people specialized

in the study of history to complete the work of checking the previous editions, punctuating them and writing a publisher's note to each of the 24 books, using the Marxist-Leninist viewpoint of classes and class struggle. Twenty-one volumes of this new edition of *The Twenty-Four Histories* have already come off the press. The other three — *The History of the Five Dynasties* (907-960), *The History of the Sung Dynasty* (960-1279) and *The History of the Yuan Dynasty* (1271-1368) — are now being printed.