

北京周报

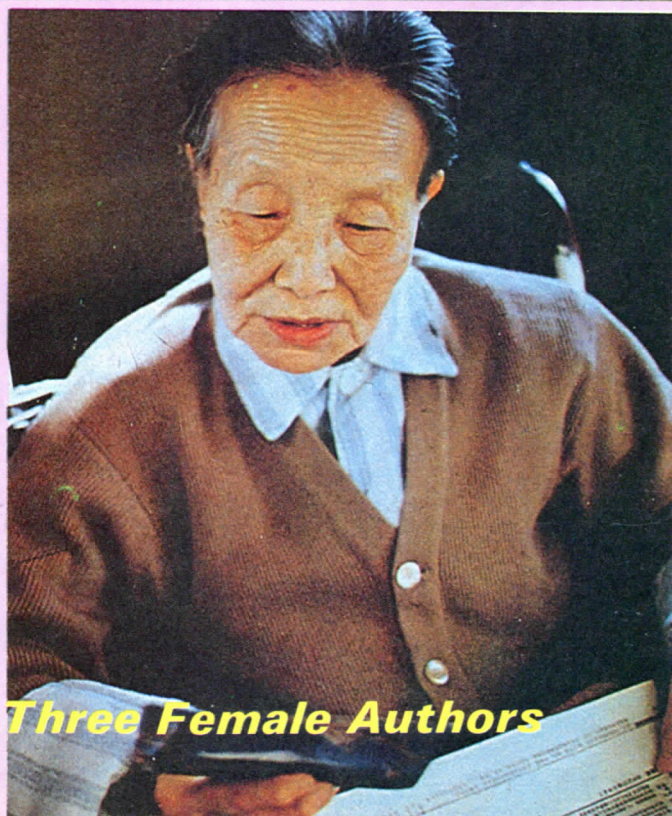
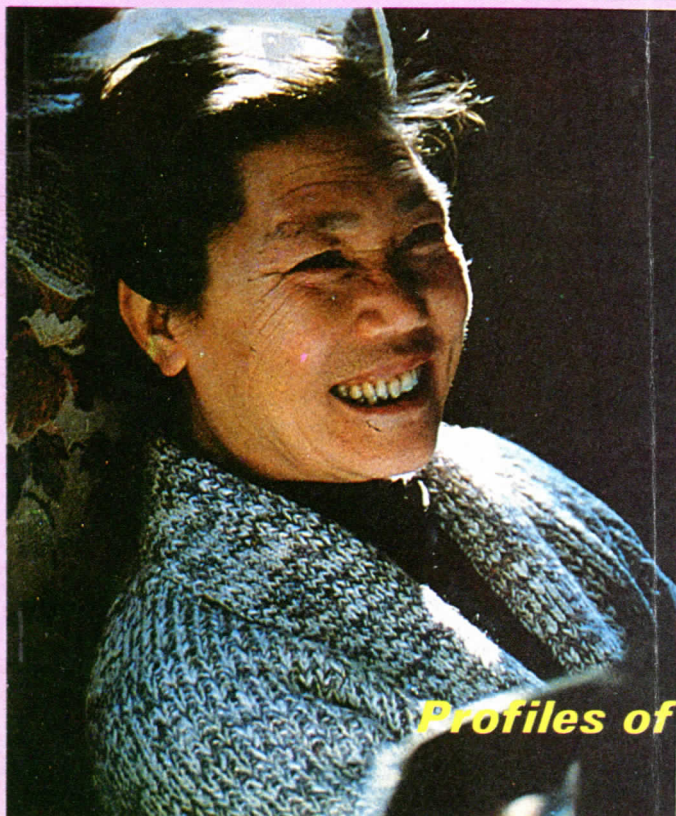
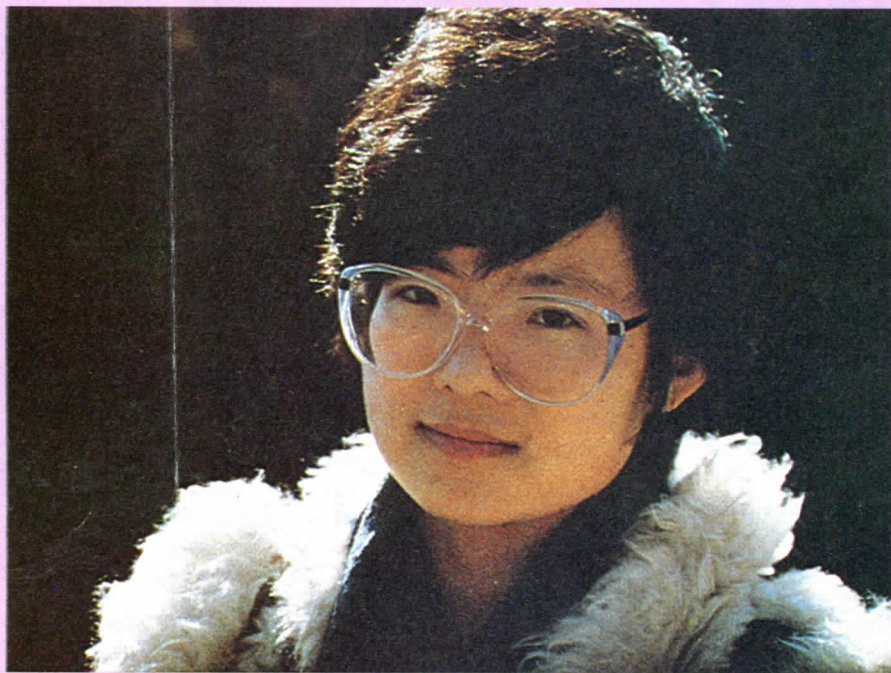
A CHINESE WEEKLY OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Beijing Review

Vol. 29, No. 9

March 3, 1986

WOMEN IN CHINA
**ADVANCE
AMIDST
PITFALLS**



Profiles of Three Female Authors



SPOTLIGHT

WUHAN

Since the implementation of the urban economic reform, Wuhan has invigorated its enterprises and improved its economic results. In light of local conditions, it has boosted its industrial development by unclogging its circulation channels and improving its communication facilities.

Photos by Yu Chengjian

Since the implementation of the system under which the factory director assumes full responsibility, many outstanding people have taken over leading position. Zhu Sijiu (first from left), the director of the Wuhan No.2 Printing and Dyeing Mill, examining the quality of the mill's products.

Since opening to the outside world, the handling capacity of Wuhan Harbour has increased rapidly.

The Wuhan Duplicator Factory, since importing modern equipment, manufactures many new products.





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COVER: Famous Chinese women writers of three generations—Zhang Xinxin (top), Ru Zhijuan (lower left) and Bing Xin (lower right).	
Zhang Wei	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Battle for Women's Liberation Goes on

Three decades of advances notwithstanding, Chinese women do not share equal rights with men in all fields of endeavour. Why this is so is the topic for discussion in this issue of *Beijing Review*, dedicated to International Women's day on March 8 (p. 4).

Jiangxi Appoints Female Party Secretary

Wan Shaofen recently became the first woman ever to hold the position of Party secretary at the provincial level—just one notable result of the current drive to promote more women to higher posts. A well-known women's rights activist in Jiangxi Province, she brings new blood and much talent to a demanding job (p. 14).

Different Generations, Different Themes

In a special feature, our correspondent profiles women writers of three generations—Bing Xin, who has been popular since the 1920s, Ru Zhijuan, who rose to stardom after the founding of New China in 1949, and Zhang Xinxin, representing the younger generation who focus on topical themes and China's changing society (p. 18).

Shanghai Rape Case Shocks Public

Three were executed and another three were given long prison sentences after a notorious gang-rape case came to trial recently in Shanghai. The fact that all convicts were children of cadres highlights China's determination to terminate crime among top officials and their children by sticking to the principle that all must answer to the law (p. 5).

Polish Party Programme Review Socialism

The recent draft programme of the United Workers' Party stresses the need to follow a socialist road in consonance with Poland's domestic situation. This realistic turn will have a significant impact on the country's future development (p. 11).

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Do Women Hold Up "Half the Sky"?

by Qi Huizhi

Women hold up half the sky," is a famous adage of the late Chairman Mao Zedong. When I discussed the question with women colleagues, a young woman in her early 20s spoke up, "In my opinion," she declared, "women hold up more than half the sky. Some women do no less work than men in office, while at home they have to take care of most of the household chores." A 30-year-old woman correspondent complained that her mother-in-law, though a veteran of the revolution, had accomplished little, being tied down by household duties; while some of the men who joined the revolution at about the same time had become generals and others ministers.

Of course, what they have said involves only one facet of the problem.

In the early 1950s, New China's first Constitution stipulated that women be given equal rights in politics, economics, culture, society and family life. Over the past 30 years and more, the improvement of women's status is obvious to all.

Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, there were only 600,000 women employed across the country, accounting for only 7.5 percent of the total work force. Today, the nation has 43.24 million working women, representing 36.4 percent of the nation's total work force, or 71 times more than 36 years ago. At the same time, a large number of women have become respected professionals. As scientists, engineers, teachers and educators, doctors, writers, athletes, pilots and, finally, government ministers, they have become the pride of New China.

However, we must not rest on our laurels. Although socialism has opened up new vistas for

Chinese women, the problem of allowing women to share equal rights and status with their male counterparts in all fields is far from being resolved. The more a society is made up of separate strata, the less chance for the women to achieve equal status.

Take the science and technology ranks, for example. The ratio between China's men and women in science and technology is 2.1:1; while the ratio between those men and women who have acquired the title equivalent to an engineer is 4.4:1, and that between those men and women who have acquired the title equivalent to senior engineers is 7.6:1. Similar cases exist in other fields.

The primary reason for this state of affairs is that throughout China's history, women had a lower social status and, in most cases, a lower level of education. The influence of the obsolete feudal ideology is also an important factor that has impeded the enhancement of the status of Chinese women.

For more than 2,000 years, China had been bogged down in a feudal society, and along with Confucian philosophy, the concept of male superiority was very serious. The whole set of ethic notions, such as the "inability in women is a virtue," and "dependence on father before marriage, on husband after marriage, and on sons after the death of husband," were deeply rooted. Although feudalism was subject to criticism after the democratic revolution and later the socialist revolution, the idea of men standing superior to women still lingers on and news about infringements on women's rights and interests is still frequent.

For example, in certain schools and factories, there are discriminatory standards used against women when it comes to

enrolment of students and employment of workers. Although the cry about shortage of intellectuals can be heard throughout China, women college graduates are not as welcomed as their male counterparts. Many employers use the excuse that women are weighed down by chores, that they will get married and pregnant and take maternity leaves.

Feudal practices have an even greater influence in the rural areas. Among the 800 million people living in the countryside, more than 200 million are illiterate or semi-literate, 70 percent of whom are women.

Some fortunate women have the chance to receive higher education; but they, too, are often troubled by something else. Sociologists specializing in marriage and family problems have discovered that in choosing spouses, girls with a senior middle school education find it easier to get boyfriends than those with a college education, and women postgraduates face even greater difficulties than undergraduates. Sociologists have also found that men do not set high demands on their prospective spouses in terms of education; rather, they prefer women to be young, beautiful and capable of doing household work. On the other hand, most female intellectuals hope their prospective husbands will at least have the same level of intellect as themselves. All these speak volumes for the influence of feudal ideas.

What is even more disconcerting is that some women lack the spirit of enterprise. A social survey shows 20 percent of all women in China would prefer to go back home to work. A current saying going around town is: sacrifice one in exchange for two guarantees. This means that if a wife sacrifices her own career, she guarantees the



work and study of her husband and only child.

How, then, can China make sexual equality a reality so that women and men enjoy equal rights and position in all fields? According to Marxism, the degree of women's emancipation is restricted by both the material and spiritual conditions at a given historical stage of social development, and is in conformity with the degree of social development. Such being the case, the most basic way to ensure women's liberation is to speed up social progress. Today in China this means speeding up material construction, as well as the development of socialist culture and ethics. Unremitting struggle against traditional feudal practices is an important aspect of the construction of socialist culture and ethics.

Chinese women today are shouldering heavy responsibilities. They have to battle the spiritual legacy handed down from the ancient feudal society, and at the same time are faced with a myriad of challenges in our new epoch. Nevertheless, women must maintain their sense of dignity and self-respect by striving to improve their abilities and status.

Furthermore, society must do more for the emancipation of women, such as opening more nurseries, kindergartens and canteens, developing the production of instant foods and promoting the socialization of household chores so as to lighten the burden of the Chinese women.

EVENTS/TRENDS

Shanghai Executes Rapists

Influential parents held no clout when sons pleaded guilty. The case shows all must answer to the law.

The scoop came last October from a prisoner's haphazard remark, that a young woman had been gang-raped while attending a party in a nondescript neighbourhood. Shanghai's police then took off on what at first appeared to be a wild-goose chase for the rapists. Since the jigsaw puzzle recently fell into place, the public has been shocked to learn of the outrages committed by the racket of six sons of cadres who in the four years from 1981 through 1984 committed 48 counts of rape and molestation and three attempted rapes.

Three of the rapists were sentenced and executed to death, according to a Shanghai court verdict on February 19. They were Chen Xiaomeng, Hu Xiaoyang and Ge Zhiwen, all spoiled sons of ranking Shanghai officials. The other three were given three to 20 years in prison.

The gang's trick was to lure prospective victims—workers, government employees, teachers, nurses, actresses and university students—into their homes, where provocative dancing parties were thrown, during or after which the rapes would be conducted either individually or in a group. Another tactic was to promise young women they would use their parents' high government clout to help with their job transfers or other personal difficulties. Sometimes, they would approach victims under the pretext of discussing literature or helping them with their homework. They often swapped "girlfriends," or went wild in orgies.

The irony was perhaps that Chen Xiaomeng, the chief culprit, was known to the public as a staunch proponent of the socialist

law whose series of interviews with leading officials were carried in the Shanghai journal *Democracy and Legal System* and had been widely read and quoted. He had been made the journal's chief of correspondents shortly before his arrest in November 1984.

For Shanghai's law-enforcement departments, bringing the gang to bars was a hard-won victory. In nine months, they questioned more than 240 witnesses or acquaintances of the six men, and conducted extensive investigations in seven provinces and two municipalities.

But for all the twists in the Shanghai gang-rape case, it was relatively simple compared to a similar one in Beian, a city in the northeast Chinese province of Heilongjiang. Since 1979, that city had been terrorized by a pack of 36 underworld mobsters, 24 them being children of local officials. In four years these racketeers sexually assaulted 139 women and were responsible for a series of crimes ranging from street fights to blackmail.

After the criminals were rounded up in 1983, local court officials found themselves up against opposition from those who thought they could help their law-breaking sons get off scot-free by using their influence. A flurry of scheming and counter-scheming took place, dragging the case into an endless tug-of-war. It was not until the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection stepped in by having the provincial Party committee send in a group of investigators that the case began to come to a close. After 16 months of hard work, breaking through one obstruction after another by influential

parents, the investigators gathered enough evidence to bring the perpetrators to justice. The underworld wound up with five members executed, four condemned to death with their sentences suspended for one year, and the rest put behind bars for varying terms. Those parents and relatives who tried to intervene by breaching Party discipline also paid a price: several were expelled from the Party and dismissed from office, including a vice-chairman of the city's People's Congress and the chairman of the city branch of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Eventually, it was the law that triumphed over presumed power.

If the Beian case served to unveil a large-scale crackdown on crime, power abuse and other unhealthy goings-on, the Shanghai trial once again reiterated the nation's determination to terminate all illegal activities, especially among Party and government functionaries and their children. Both cases exemplified the principle that "all are equal before the law."

In socialist China, the notion is that no citizen is allowed the privilege of being above the law. But in places where the Party conduct is unsound, the law tends to be weak, allowing some bad people to have their way for a while. With the nation tightening up its legal system, it can be expected that the dignity of the law will be better upheld. A *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) commentator said of the trio executed in Shanghai, "Those who attempt to tramp on the law, bully the people and engage in crimes that jeopardize the interests of the state and people, just because they have a strong backing, are bound to reap what they have sown."

While the Shanghai case has become the talk of the town throughout China, with many people writing to the press hailing the executions, the fact that all six perpetrators were children of government officials has caused much alarm. Though their gang

was small, their influence was widespread, and if they had not been brought to justice in good time, they would have damaged the Party's reputation more than anything else.

A question that has come to mind in the last week is if parents should have been answerable for their children's crime. The *Renmin Ribao* commentator argued that parents should certainly be investigated and their responsibility fixed if they are truly involved in the crime. If they are not involved, he continued, no charge should be brought against them. But a Shanghai women leader observed the issue in a somewhat sweeping way, believing that parents should be blamed if their children have committed crime. "At least they should be blamed for failing to keep them on the right track," she said.

Shenyang Tries Bankruptcy Law

The city authorities in Shenyang, northeast China, are writing a new chapter in the textbook of socialist economics by breaking the taboo that no socialist enterprise, even one running at a loss, can be declared bankrupt.

State leaders and top economists are still mulling over the draft of China's first bankruptcy law in Beijing. But Shenyang has already mapped out detailed bankruptcy regulations to deal with all the debt-ridden collectively owned industrial enterprises in the city, one of China's biggest industrial bases.

The city embarked on the daring programme last August when it issued bankruptcy warnings against three plants, plus a package of bankruptcy regulations to alert other poorly managed factories to the results of bad economic performance, according to an *Economic Daily* article.

The three plants were ordered to clear up their performance within one year or risk being shut down.

Two are recovering, but one is doomed for bankruptcy, the article said. The plant will have to auction its assets to pay off creditors, and workers will be listed as "waiting for employment."

According to the city's bankruptcy regulations, if the deficit of an enterprise has reached more than 80 percent of the net value of its fixed assets within two years, the enterprise will be considered for bankruptcy.

The effect of the bankruptcy moves has been exactly what the city officials and economists had planned. The article said the fear of closure has sparked heated discussions among factory directors and workers on how to turn losses into profits. The results are best seen in the total volume of profits and taxes handed over to the state by collectively owned enterprises. In 1984, the taxes were a little more than 600 million yuan (about US\$200 million). By the end of last year, they had climbed to 900 million yuan. Over 4,000 collectively owned enterprises cleared their debts, according to the newspaper.

An opinion poll on two of the plants that were issued warning notices showed 82 percent of the workers agreed it was wrong for the state to foot the bill for losses incurred by the factories.

According to statistics, the percentage of collectively owned factories that run at a loss is lower than that of state-owned enterprises. Last year more than 20 percent of the state-owned enterprises were operating at a loss, and the total loss increased more than 7 percent since 1984.

The problem of enterprises in the red was apparently a national one. The city of Shenyang has provided valuable experience and information to central government officials and top economists still working on the country's first bankruptcy law.

China's first bankruptcy law will be delivered to the National People's Congress for approval

this year, said Professor Sun Yaming, adviser to the Research Centre of Economic Legislation of the State Council. It will have a "dramatic effect" on Chinese management system, he said. Other economists agreed the law would be a key move in forcing enterprises to shoulder economic responsibility, and reduce the number of debt-ridden factories draining state funds.

Finding Older Love Second Time Around

On a gloomy day a 85-year-old widower entered the civil affairs office in Changchun, Jilin Province, with a 75-year-old woman. He told the staff he wanted to marry the woman whom he loved, despite protests by his children and peers. "I feel depressed and bored with life since the death of my wife and I want to have a new mate to share my remaining years with," said the old man.

"Such tales are not uncommon," reported the *China Women's News*, a semiweekly newspaper. According to a survey conducted by match-making services in Guangzhou, the capital of southern China's Guangdong Province, only five percent of those old people who have registered with the services have succeeded to tie the knot.

"The major obstacle has been the interference of children," the newspaper said.

Since the city's workers' federation began helping people older than 35 find potential spouses in June 1984, 6,400 have sought help from the service, and about 200 of those were older than 50. At the same time, the service has received more than 1,000 letters from hopeful singles in other provinces.

This often does not please the children, many of whom still hold the outdated belief that single parents who want to remarry are a

humiliation to the family. As a result many single elderly have given up the idea of a second marriage because of the opposition of their children.

With the improvement of financial conditions, which helped reduce parents' involvement in their children's lives, the article in *China Women's News* said, a growing number of lonesome old people were looking to remarry. They prefer to be independent from their married children, since there is more emphasis nowadays on the nuclear rather than extended family.

Official figures show that only 50 percent of old people want to live with their married children, down from 61.1 percent in 1983, and that 58 percent of old people want to be independent from their married children.

One 72-year-old man said that although his children looked after him carefully, he did not want to trouble them. "Loneliness and the need for companionship have driven me to the service and I hope I can find a new spouse so we can look after each other," he said.

In Tianjin, more than 2,000 old folks have registered with the six services since they were set up in January 1985. Among those registered, 30 couples have already got married, and about 200 have begun dating.

The old people's standards for a new spouse are somewhat different from when they were young, according to the article. Although they take social status, income and housing into consideration they attach greater importance to ethics and morals.

Respect and care for and faith in each other is the key to a happy married life, the older people say. A woman teacher with a college education chose a widower with a junior middle school education and a lower income. She said she liked him because of his kindness, sincerity and honesty.

The widower had carefully looked after his bed-ridden wife for two years before she died, said

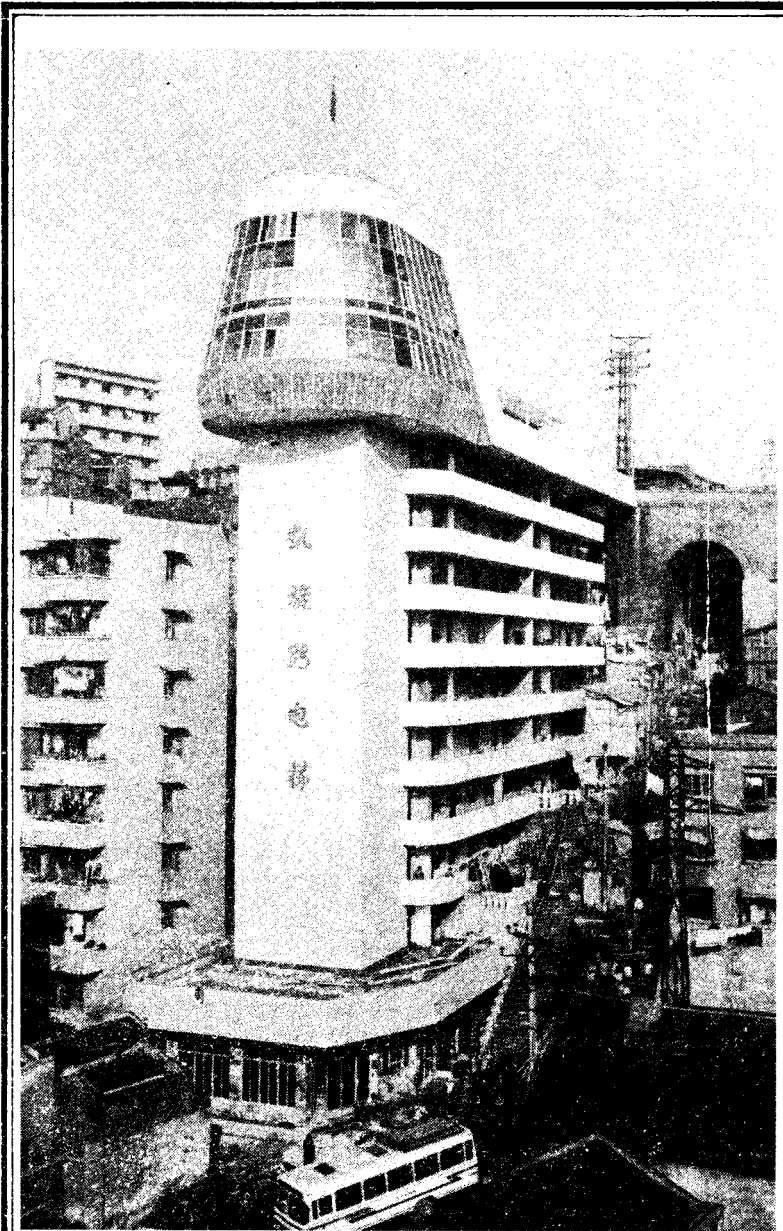
China & the World

Mauritanian Head of State Visits China. Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, Chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state of Mauritania, arrived in Beijing on February 20 for a week-long state visit to China. Premier Zhao Ziyang on February 21 held talks with the Mauritanian head of state, right after a welcoming ceremony presided over by President Li Xiannian at Tian An Men square.

China to Try Soviet Hijacker. China will try the Soviet co-pilot who hijacked a Soviet civilian aircraft into China last December, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman. "The judicial organs of China have, upon investigation and interrogation, found that Alimuradov Shamil Gadji Ogly, the co-pilot of the aircraft, had committed the crime of unlawful seizure of civilian aircraft," the spokesman said. The forthcoming trial was "in compliance with Chinese law and the relevant international conventions prohibiting unlawful seizure of aircraft," he pointed out.

Bank 'Buying ADB Stock.' The People's Bank of China is buying capital stocks and undergoing the other formalities necessary for China to become a full member of the Asian Development Bank.

The ADB board of directors accepted China's membership application in January and the board of governors voted their approval February 17 by correspondence.



LIU QIANGANG

Elevator Whisks 10,000 Daily

China's first high-speed electric passenger elevator ever to be used for city mass transit was recently commissioned in the mountain city of Chongqing in Sichuan Province. The two-car elevator stands 43 metres high and is capable of whisking 10,000 passengers every day to and from the terminals of a multi-layered cableway system.

the woman, a divorcee. "He is in such sharp contrast with my former short-tempered husband, who had a higher status and income," she said.

Another widower with his own business said although his monthly income was 1,000 yuan, about 10 times the average, so far there were no women his age showing an interest in him.

However, the Tianjin match-making services noticed that old women only account for 10 percent of those registered with the services. This indicates the traditional concept that a virtuous woman never remarries still rings true in their minds.

Tianjin officials are encouraging everyone to care for the well-being of the elderly and support the marriage of single parents. Local authorities intend to draw up regulations to protect the legal rights of older people, including the freedom to marry.

"To make them live happily in sound body and mind in their remaining years would benefit both the old people and society," one official said.

Tangshan Rises From Quake Debris

The city of Tangshan, which was flattened by a major earthquake in July 1976, has risen from the debris after nine years of reconstruction.

The new city, comprising three districts, covers 73.2 square kilometres, two-fifths larger than the old city.

Over the past nine years, the city has constructed buildings covering 17.7 million square meters in floor space, including 11.3 million square meters of residential quarters. Today, 95 percent of the residents have moved into new houses.

There are now 91 residential areas separated from the industrial areas by a buffer zone to free them from pollution. These residential areas are complete with

China Welcomes New Philippine Government

In a statement issued on February 26, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China and the Philippines are friendly neighbours, and that the Chinese Government welcomes the new government of the Republic of the Philippines formed by Mrs. Aquino. "We hope that the friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries and the traditional friendship between the two peoples will continue to develop," he said.

electricity, water and gas supply systems and service facilities including department stores, schools, banks, post offices, hospitals, cinemas, theatres, parks, gymnasiums, restaurants and hotels.

The last group of housing is now under construction and the remaining 5 percent of the residents are expected to move into their new houses before the end of July.

In just two years after the quake, which struck the city on July 28, 1976, production was restored to the pre-quake level, and large-scale reconstruction followed from the latter part of 1979. The city's industrial output value in 1985 reached 3.8 billion yuan, 70 percent more than in 1975.

China to Develop Building Materials

The development of China's building materials industry this year is to focus on quality, energy consumption and variety, a senior official said during a national meeting on this industry.

Lin Hanxiong, director of the State Administration of Building Materials, said that the construction of large and medium-sized cement works is the priority for developing building materials. According to him, China will turn out cement-processing equipment with a daily capacity of 1,000-2,000 tons and plans to co-operate with foreign countries in making

similar equipment with a daily capacity of 4,000 tons.

By 1990, he said, China will produce 100 million tons of high-quality cement, accounting for 60 percent of the total cement production.

On plate glass production, the director also revealed that a float process production line with a daily capacity of 700 tons is planned to be built in collaboration with foreign enterprises. Once completed, it can turn out nearly 20 million cases of float-processed plate glass of a quality equal to the advanced international level by 1990, he added.

Meanwhile, sources from the administration said that about 400 officials and experts participating in the meeting are discussing a series of technological policies governing the production of building materials, including how to develop new-type materials and ceramics.

With a construction boom now unfolding in urban and rural areas, the market demand for building materials is increasing rapidly. Some specialists estimate that for new-type materials alone, the potential marketing volume could be over several hundred million yuan worth.

Last year's total output value of building materials reached 34 billion yuan, an 18.5 percent increase over 1984's 28.7 billion yuan. And production of major types of materials overfulfilled the targets set for the period, with the output of cement reaching 142 million tons and plate glass, 56 million cases.

News in Brief

China will invest more than 30 billion yuan (US\$10 billion) on railway construction during the 1986-1990 period, according to Minister of Railways Ding Guangen.

In the five-year period, 11,000 km of new railway lines, including electrified sections, will be completed. Meanwhile, technical transformation will center on 16,000 km of busy lines in northeast and coastal provinces, which have half of China's total population and account for 70 percent of the country's industrial and agricultural output value, the minister said.

* * *

A nationwide TV educational channel will be launched in July through a hired international communications satellite. The new channel, backed by the State Education Commission, will transmit broadcasts of teacher-training courses during the day, and adult and vocational education courses in the evening.

* * *

A recently conducted nationwide survey of 500,000 people showed that the smoking rate in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China was the lowest in the country. One-third of the 4 million people in Ningxia are Muslim, who are supposed to abstain from both tobacco and alcohol in compliance with Islamic doctrine.

PORTUGAL

Civilian President Put in Place

Mario Soares of the Socialist Party is the first civilian president in 60 years. Now that a civilian rule is in place, the Portuguese people are waiting anxiously for the new government's solutions to the economic and social difficulties hanging over their heads.

After two rounds of intense campaigning, Mario Soares, former general secretary of the Socialist Party, was elected Portugal's president on February 16. He will be sworn in on March 16.

The 61-year-old president-elect, who served three terms as Portugal's prime minister, got 51.3 percent of the votes, compared to 48.7 percent by his opponent, former Christian Democrat leader, Diogo Freitas do Amaral.

Since the autocratic rule was overthrown in 1974, many political parties have sprung up in Portugal. Prominent among them are the Socialist Democratic Party, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and the Centre Democratic Party (PCD). The new Democratic Renewal Party (PRD), supported by Portuguese President Antonio dos Santos Eanes, which was set up last July, became yet another major force in the parliament.

It was not easy for Soares to win the day. In early 1985, one year before the elections, the parties had already nominated their candidates, considering the elections an important battle that would deeply affect the political situation in the coming decade. Soares was the prime minister of the Social-Democratic government from June 1983 to October 1985, during which time he adopted a series of controversial retrenchment policies. Members of the Socialist Democratic Party who became dissatisfied with these guidelines dropped out from the

government in July 1985. Later Soares had to resign and the coalition government collapsed.

Out of the government, the Social Democrats became a strong adversary of the Socialist Party. In last October's parliamentary elections, the Socialist Democratic Party won enough seats to organize its own government. Meanwhile, it declared it would not support Soares in his presidential bid, and later joined the Centre Democrats to put forward do Amaral as their candidate.

In the first round of elections on January 16, do Amaral was in the lead, taking 46 percent of the

votes, while Soares only got 25 percent. But according to Portuguese law, another round of elections had to be held since neither candidate had a majority vote of more than 50 percent.

In the second round of elections, Soares turned defeat into victory, not only because of his high-speed campaigning, but due to his relatively high profile. He was once imprisoned and exiled because he had opposed Antonio Salazar, the Portuguese dictator. He therefore remains a banner among democrats. Furthermore, when he was in power, he actively negotiated for Portugal's participation in the European Economic Community (EEC).

Do Amaral, on the other hand, is a representative of the right-wing forces. According to Portuguese observers, voters were worried that if the right forces came back into power, new civil unrest might break out. It can be said that during the first round of the elections, the electorate did not vote for Soares because of his policies but in the second round they changed their mind. Soares

President-elect Mario Soares on election day in Portugal on February 16.



also received added support when the Communist Party and the PRD joined forces to help him win the elections the second time around.

The West European countries appear to support the new president. The member nations of the EEC made joint efforts to end the negotiations for Portugal's participation in the EEC as scheduled. This served as "political capital" for Soares. After the first round of elections, 15 socialist and labour parties in Western Europe sent letters of support which were publicized in Soares' run for the presidency.

The new government's top priority is to revive the national economy. The retrenchment policies adopted by Soares dur-

ing his premiership cut down Portugal's astronomical trade deficits and foreign debt, which led the country into better times. But the inflation rate of Portugal is still as high as 20 percent and the unemployment rate has reached 10 percent. Because of the skyrocketing prices, the standard of living has gone down. There are repeated strikes and the society on the whole seems to be up in arms. During the elections, Soares promised he would improve the economy and render the political situation stable. The Portuguese are expecting the new president to draw up long-term economic policies and rid the country of social upheaval.

by Zheng Yuanyuan

POLAND

Party Draft Programme Reviews Socialism

The draft programme of the Polish United Workers' Party now under discussion which defines Poland as being in a "prolonged transition period" of socialist development, has important theoretical and political implications.

The draft of a new programme for Poland's ruling party, now under discussion before being submitted for approval to the National Congress in June, may reveal the present leadership's new direction: that Poland should follow the road to socialism according to its specific domestic conditions. If this is the case, it would be in sharp contrast to the programmatic documents adopted at the Party's Seventh Congress 10 years ago.

The idea of drafting a programme was first proposed at the Party's Ninth Extraordinary Congress in 1981. At that time, the congress stressed in its resolutions the need to formulate a long-term Party programme, as the previous congresses had only adopted

programmatic documents, instead of Party programmes, which would formulate its guidelines. In October 1981, a drafting committee was established.

The draft programme was discussed in detail at a national theoretical meeting last November before it was published earlier this month for public debate.

At the Party's Seventh Congress in December 1975, Edward Gierek, former First Secretary of the Party who took over for Wladyslaw Gomulka after the labour unrest of the late 1970s, delivered a report from the decision-making politburo. That report and a resolution passed by the congress were seen as the Party's action programme during the second half of the decade.

Several major differences can be found between the newly published draft programme and the 1975 documents, which suggest a significant change in the way the Party views necessary steps to be taken for socialist development.

The most striking difference deals with the new development underway in Poland today. In the 1975 documents, Poland was described as a nation "of total socialist character." It had entered a new and more advanced stage of building on socialism, according to the documents. While the draft programme now defines Poland as being in a "prolonged transition period," in which the foundation of socialism is still being laid in all fields.

At November's theoretical meeting, Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish Party, spoke of the "transition period." Poland was still a class society full of contradictions, he said. The Polish magazine, *Ideologies and Politics*, put it more unequivocally when it said that the conclusions in the 1975 documents and those of the Eighth Congress (1980) were "premature" and a more developed stage of socialism would have to be the next step.

Another major difference between the 1975 documents and the draft programme lies in the Party's guiding ideology. The 1975 documents emphasize the universality of Marxism and the common experiences of socialist countries, particularly that of the Soviet Union, when running the country. The draft programme, on the other hand, stresses the integration of Marxism with each country's realistic conditions and social practices. The programme goes on to say Marxism itself is in need of continual enrichment.

Jaruzelski warned against underestimating or denying the importance of national characteristics when building a socialist society, a tendency he said hinders and distorts socialist development and, in turn, pushes the working people away from socialism.

The two versions also differ on economic policy. The 1975 documents focus on greater centralism and tighter discipline in production. The draft programme pledges to carry out economic reforms and to grant more decision-making power to enterprises, while maintaining and strengthening the strategic role of the central planning system.

Jaruzelski said that in the long-run, reform, instead of being a stop-gap measure, would be a bridge leading to a more advanced stage of socialist transformation.

While the 1975 documents provided for an accelerated social transformation in Poland's rural areas, the draft programme favours an "evolutional transformation" in agriculture, which it says could be carried out through freedom of choice by farmers to manage their own systems. The programme also mentions the "supplementary role" of privately owned businesses in the national economy.

Compared with the 1975 documents, Poland's foreign policies discussed in the draft programme are much more oriented to serving the country's domestic development and safeguarding national interests.

by Wen Youren and Shan Xi



PARIS

Francophone Nations Band Together

The first summit of French-speaking nations centred on expanding cultural and scientific co-operation to develop North-South aid and communication.

The first summit of the heads of state and government from the French-speaking world closed in Paris on February 19 after adopting a number of resolutions concerning the French language in technology and science, as well as political ones. The general impression coming out of the conference was that these countries and regions were using their common language to boost North-South dialogue and co-operation in an effort to maintain political and economic identity.

Delegates from 40 of the world's 45 French-speaking nations and regions, representing a total population of 120 million, attended the three-day summit.

They adopted a statement on February 17 denouncing South Africa for its apartheid policy of racial segregation. They urged the Pretoria regime to abolish apartheid legislation, lift the ban on the African National Congress (ANC), begin dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the black population, and implement United Nations resolution 435 on Namibian independence.

After the summit, French President Francois Mitterrand said the Francophone world was "awakening from a long sleep" and that a "renaissance has come."

The idea of calling for a global Francophone conference was raised by former Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor and former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba 20 years ago. The participants were apparently

seeking a common language politically and economically for all the French-speaking nations. To make the summit a success, the participants consciously avoided discussion on explosive political issues, such as the civil war in Chad and the exile of former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier. The focus on language and culture brought about a host of concrete results.

The state of affairs for the French language is far from satisfactory. According to French government figures, 98 percent of the television news videotapes are captioned in English and provided by Anglo-Saxon companies as a result of the post-war developments in audiovisual technology. Only 7 percent of the world's scientific essays are written in French. In the field of information technology, American and Japanese-made English software has dominated the world market. What is more, the United States and Japan will be able to translate all their English software into French in three to four years.

Since language and information technology have combined to form a "language industry," the cultural problem has now become a question of economics, industry and marketing. Facing what the French described as "the aggression of English," the summit participants discussed ways to strengthen its co-operation in the economic, scientific and technological fields and expand the influence of the French language.

However, this was not the only intention of the French. At a press conference after the summit,

Mitterrand said he advocated "active unity and co-operation" between the rich and poor nations. "North-South relations are the number one problem," he said, and the discrepancy between industrialized and developing nations was "more explosive than an atomic bomb." He said that future Francophone conferences should continue so as to make the concept of a Francophone community a reality.

Among the 28 resolutions adopted at the summit, one established an audiovisual foundation for image production, for television in particular. The

participants also agreed to exchange field work studies in agronomic institutes, energy studies for Africa, and to set up connecting French-language data banks.

Participants in the Franco-phone summit, to be convened every two years, expect it to become a flexible international organization. The second Franco-phone summit will be held in autumn 1987. Canada had proposed another such summit in Quebec city, possibly in two years' time.

by Wu Baozhang

CHAD

Civil Conflict on the Rise

The one-year period of peace after two decades of civil war was destroyed when the recent gunfire by Chad's anti-government forces woke the entire country and put the rest of Africa on alert.

After about one year of peace, civil war broke out again in Chad on February 12 when the country's anti-government forces launched offensives in Koro Toro, north of the nation's capital, N'Djamena. The heavy counterattacks of government troops under President Hissene Habre succeeded in regaining all strongholds.

The recent eruption of Chad's domestic conflicts has aroused immediate concern in Paris. French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said France was always ready to keep its promise to Chad by aiding against any outside or rebel attacks. Although France withdrew its troops in 1984 from Chad, its former colony, under a truce, it said it would send them back if the rebels crossed a line dividing the rebel-held north from the government-held south.

Following a trip to the central African country by President Francois Mitterrand's special councillor for African affairs, Tguy Penne, French Defence Minister Paul Quiles flew to N'Djamena on February 13 for talks with Habre on the country's current situation. President Habre has officially asked for France's military assistance and involvement.

On February 15, Mitterrand met with two officials back from N'Djamena and came up with French strategies. France would be cautious, said Quiles, and divided its current Chad policies into three steps. First, it would provide military aid to the Chadian government to improve its military forces in offensive capability. If this aid was not enough, French warplanes would join in to give air support. If the

second step still failed, French airborne forces stationed in Central Africa would return to the war-torn country as the last resort.

At the request of the Habre government, French military jets bombed a rebel-controlled airstrip at Ouadi Doum in northern Chad on February 16. In retaliation, a Soviet-made jet raided the airfield in the capital the next day, consequently drawing six French jets into Chad. So far, 500 French soldiers have been flown to Chad and a 1,200-man force in the neighbouring Central African Republic are prepared to set off at any call.

Since France and Libya reached an agreement on military withdrawal in September 1984, many African countries, Gabon in particular, have contributed much to Chad's national harmony. Three anti-government forces have signed reconciliation accords with Habre government, the single legitimate one in Chad, since last November, and the fourth rebel force came under Habre's control three days after the current war broke out, with a peace agreement signed in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. Gabon President Omar Bongo called on Chad's rebel forces to lay down their arms and engage in dialogue aimed at national reconciliation.

According to the report on February 19, the military situation is calm throughout Chad and no fighting has been heard. However, the rebel forces in the north are strengthening their positions. Up to now, 12 French combat jets remain in Chad.

The breakout of the civil strife adds to the suffering of the Chadian people, who have just come out of a 20-year civil war ending in September 1984. The growing tension in N'Djamena also has caused concern among the other African countries. It is generally believed that national harmony among all factions in Chad is the salve for war wounds and reconstruction.

by Zhang Zhuji

Jiangxi Appoints Woman Party Secretary



by our correspondent Wu Naitao

The name of Wan Shaofen, a long-time women's rights activist, has appeared frequently in the press over the past few years. Last year, at the age of 53, she became the first woman ever to hold the post of Party Secretary at the provincial level when she was selected to assume that office in Jiangxi Province. Subsequently, Wan was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party at the national Party conference held in Beijing last September.

Wan's precedent-breaking advances are only the most recent of her many accomplishments. Aside from previously having held such important positions as Secretary of the Communist Youth League of Nanchang, Jiangxi, deputy director of the Jiangxi Provincial Labour Department and director of the Organizational Department of the Jiangxi Provincial Party Committee, Wan has been

particularly well-known for her progressive work during her tenure as president of the Jiangxi provincial branch of the All-China Women's Federation.

In 1983, under Wan's leadership, the Jiangxi women's organization launched a vigorous publicity campaign which included, among other activities, a large-scale social investigation into the status of women in the province. Their survey made front-page news when it uncovered shocking evidence of widespread occurrences of coercion into arranged marriages and the outright purchase of brides. Also reported were scattered incidents of rape, prostitution, child brides, and other reoccurrences of exploitation and oppression of women typical of pre-liberation China.

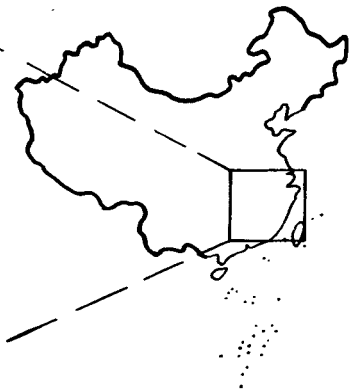
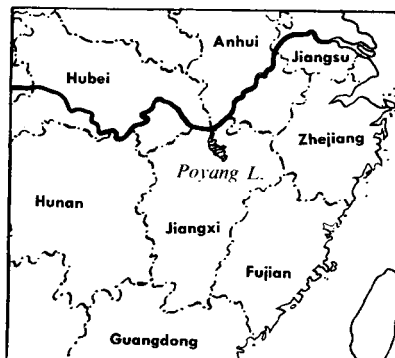
The expose by the campaign of extensive mistreatment of women resulted in the public sentencing of altogether 1,347 persons guilty of serious abuses, and a strict warning to thousands of persons guilty of lesser offences. Many local work units were induced to end on-the-job discrimination against women workers and provide them with better working conditions and social welfare. Wan's energetic and persevering efforts were cited as being the major factor behind the success of the campaign.

Not content to rest on her

laurels, Wan in 1984 led the Jiangxi chapter in initiating another drive aimed at raising women's self-reliance and self-respect. During the course of the drive, 960 special meetings were convened at which women workers from all walks of life who had made important contributions to their work talked of their struggle to a total audience of more than 1.3 million. One of the many positive effects of the campaign was that it helped to reassert the legitimate rights and interests of Jiangxi's working women. And Wan was publicly praised for her exemplary role by the Beijing leaders of the national women's organization.

Wan brings many talents to her work. A university graduate in economics, she later went on to study law on her own and became a certified lawyer in October 1984. With her expertise in legal matters, she has encouraged the establishment of legal counseling offices specifically to assist women in legal affairs.

In her new position as Party Secretary of Jiangxi Province, Wan is directly responsible for the revitalization of the province's economy. Jiangxi, located in southeast China, has a population of 34 million and an area of 166,000 square kilometres. Although the area has suffered



from a relatively backward economy, the province has a solid base of natural resources on which to develop industry and agriculture. With the inception of China's open economic policy in 1979, and Jiangxi's establishment of contacts with Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and other countries and

regions, the province's economic potential seems greater than ever before.

However, much effort will be required before Jiangxi can realize this enormous potential. Communications are poorly developed in the province and many regions remain unserved by railways or all-weather roads. Development is

further handicapped by insufficient capital, energy-generating facilities and technical expertise.

The duties of Party Secretary will most certainly require all Wan's talents and experience. If her past performance is any indication, people can expect her to make significant contributions to Jiangxi's economic advances.

Economic Co-operation Expanded Abroad

by Wulan Mulun

With the enforcement of the open policies to the world that got underway in 1979, China has pioneered many new projects abroad through its contracting companies and their foreign counterparts. These efforts on the part of the Chinese actually are an integral part of "South-South Co-operation" between the underdeveloped countries. In the last seven years, under the principles of honouring contracts, ensuring quality, seeking small profits and attaching importance to friendship, China has made much headway. All told, China has secured US\$5.1 billion worth of contracts.

Joint Ventures

So far China has set up 181 joint ventures or Chinese-financed enterprises in 45 countries and regions. They involve a Chinese investment of more than US\$160 million. This year, China plans to start up several new joint ventures abroad.

These enterprises specialize in energy development, service, industry and engineering. Some of the completed projects are generating tangible results welcomed

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by local governments and communities.

A good example of this are China's contracts on co-operation in deep-sea fishing with Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and the United States. The first fleet of 14 Chinese fishing boats have been sent off and are now making hauls in the waters of these countries. This marks China's first efforts at organized deep-sea fishing abroad.

The China National Aquatic Products Joint Corporation has joined hands with Senegalese private businesses to set up 12 fishing companies. The Chinese corporation also has set up a fishing products sales company in the Canary Islands, a Spanish colony. There are altogether 12 Chinese fishing vessels and a refrigeration and processing boat plying the waters of Guinea Bissau Senegal and Sierra Leone in West Africa. By the end of 1985 they brought in a total of 3,000 tons of fish; 1 million kilos were shipped back for sale in Beijing.

China has also opened restaurants abroad so that foreigners can have a taste of authentic Chinese cuisine. Besides, it has established timber processing enterprises and is involved in the sylvite and phosphate mine exploration.

Through these joint ventures with other countries, China has promoted economic development in China and the countries involved.

Foreign Contract Business

By the end of last December, China had signed 1,636 contracts involving engineering projects in 85 countries and regions, which are valued at US\$4.2 billion. So far, projects worth US\$1.79 billion have been completed. This progress has been widely hailed as the inevitable result of China's quality work and represents the stable development of the Chinese foreign contract business.

There are today 65 contracting companies in China that have undertaken foreign business. Projects underway by these companies abroad include construction of schools, apartment and other buildings, expressways, bridges, the sinking of wells and the building of other public facilities. These companies have provided sets of metallurgical equipment, power generating equipment, power lines, large water conservation works, oil and gas pipeline projects, navigation dredging and other industrial facilities.

Strictly adhering to the contracts, Chinese companies have

won high praise from foreign governments. In 1984, six Chinese companies, including the China National Construction Engineering Corporation, the China National Highway and Bridge Engineering Corporation and the China National Metallurgical Construction Corporation, were awarded international prizes for their high-quality work abroad. And the China National Construction Engineering Corporation was listed as one of the 250 major international contracting companies in the world by the *American Engineering News-Record* in 1984, ranked 21st in terms of contract value.

In October 1985, a Jordanian newspaper quoted the chairman of the Jordanian Housing Corporation as saying that the Abrusel housing project, undertaken by the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation and the China Zhongyuan Engineering Co., was of excellent standards. "Rooms are cozy and the location is perfect. And compared with the other commercial houses, its prices are the lowest."

The China Sichuan International Economic and Technological Co-operation Co. was contracted to undertake a 200-kilometre highway renovation project in Somali. The project was completed satisfactorily and quickly. Speaking of the quality of the Chinese company, Somali

President Mohamed Siad Barre said last November at the ceremonies marking the opening of the highway, "I am very glad to announce the highway is now open to traffic! Ten years ago, we spent a lot of money to build the highway. As the company that undertook the project was aimed at neither building up its own image through quality work nor providing convenience with the Somalian people, the highway commissioned for our use was soon closed because of its defects. Now the road is rebuilt with high quality. Please allow me to once more express my sincere gratitude for the Chinese company, the Chinese engineers and the (Somalian) Engineering Department."

The current international engineering contracting market is highly competitive. As bidding with capital investment and payment in kind are becoming the vogue, the Chinese contracting companies are, as are their colleagues abroad, confronted with financial shortages when they come to the bidding. But the managers of these Chinese companies are confident that they will learn the advanced management expertise from their foreign counterparts and in the future these financial difficulties will be solved by furthering their co-operation with industrial enterprises and financial circles both at home and abroad.

Co-operation in Labour Service

By the end of December 1985, Chinese contracting companies signed 1,250 contracts worth US\$ 900 million on provision of labour abroad, which involved 27,000 employees. If the 31,000 people involved in the foreign contracting business were included, China would have altogether 59,000 people working abroad. Over the past few years, China has sent 170,000 people abroad in the international economic and technological co-operation work.

China's provision of labour service abroad covers a wide range of fields. Therefore, people are required to specialize in various skills, including carpentry, general construction, welding and machinery operation. Workers specialized in the textile and furniture industries and other factory work are also in great demand in some countries. Doctors, chefs, seamen, sports coaches and technical advisers have also been sent abroad.

Chinese workers sent abroad are required to serve as envoys of the Chinese people, observing local laws and respecting local customs and habits. When they have completed their work, they are required to return home immediately. The workers have shown such competence and respect for their work that many countries have asked the Chinese companies to enter into contract in other fields.

China, Japan Extend Co-operative Ties

by Liu Yongxiang

The Chinese and Japanese governments progressed in depth and breadth in 1985 in terms of scientific and technological co-operation.

Joint Research

In 1985 the two governments brought their strengths into full

play and reinforced their co-operative research on an increasing number of mutually rewarding scientific and technological projects. The number of co-operative items agreed on at the third session of the Sino-Japanese Scientific and Technological Co-operation Mixed Committee held last April in Beijing outstripped

the combined total of the previous years.

According to the agreements concluded at the session, the Chinese and Japanese scientists

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have conducted joint research on nearly 30 subjects in about a dozen fields. Together the two succeeded in extracting niobium (Nb) from molten iron, and are now applying for a patent on the process and are preparing for the industrial test. This new technique is expected not only to facilitate the comprehensive utilization of China's complex minerals, but also to be profitable as well.

Scientists from China and Japan also scored a significant progress in their research into antibiotics for both agricultural and medical use. From a soil sample provided by the Chinese, the team discovered a new set of antibiotics. The experiments and studies showed that one of these new antibiotics may be used to produce a new kind of insecticide that will be more effective, safe and less toxic than others used for grey mycosis of cucumber, anthracnose, tomato and rice blights. Another three may be effective against leukaemia and other cancers and tumours. The patent rights for these new antibiotics are being applied for jointly by the two sides.

Technical Co-operation

Technical co-operation here means the transfer of Japanese technologies to China. In 1985 Japanese companies with the help of their government provided China with equipment and a set of grants worth 45 million yuan (US\$14 million).

In 1985, the Chinese government sent more than 200 scientists, technicians, economists and managerial personnel to Japan for training. China also invited more than 100 Japanese specialists from various fields to lecture or give technical guidance to their counterparts in China. At present, the two sides are co-operating in

the construction of research bases and personnel training centres in China. The centres will focus on the areas of meat, fish and timber production, irrigation and water conservation projects, climatic control, medicine, family planning, business management and the management of post and telecommunications. When opened, these centres will contribute to the development of Chinese research in these fields, while improving the capabilities of Chinese personnel.

Japanese and Chinese experts have made feasibility surveys of some of China's key construction projects, which include harbours, railways, water conservation projects, mining, expressways, subways and environmental protection projects. Chinese and Japanese scientists have also studied the possibilities of technically upgrading some of China's small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, the Japanese have provided some Chinese institutions with scientific research and medical equipment. The two governments also agreed to promote co-operative activities between their youths. Starting in 1986, young Japanese technicians will travel to China to help with its scientific, technological and educational development.

As the above indicates, co-operation between the two sides has now expanded into various fields and is of vital significance to the scientific and economic development of both countries.

Mutual Visits

Apart from co-operative agreements, 1985 also saw frequent mutual visits between government leaders, scientists and technicians.

In the spring of 1985, a Chinese delegation headed by State Councillor Fang Yi attended the

China Day activities of the Tsukuba International Science and Technology Exhibition, which opened on March 17. At the same time, the Chinese government also sent out 800 additional representatives to the exhibition. While there, the group made contact with Japanese people from all walks of life.

The ministers of the two governments in charge of science and technology participated together in the Fourth Sino-Japanese Government Members Conference in Tokyo, held July 30-31 and during which the two signed a co-operation agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The agreement opened a new area for scientific and technological co-operation between the two countries and showed that co-operation has become integral to Sino-Japanese friendly relations.

Takeuchi Reichi, Japan's former state minister for science and technology, visited China at the invitation of Song Jian, minister in charge of the State Science and Technology Commission. Reichi's visit to China was the first for a Japanese minister in charge of scientific and technological work. The two sides had beneficial talks on scientific and technological co-operation and exchanges and decided to strengthen their ties in a variety of areas including exchanges between the decision-making departments of science and technology.

The recent developments demonstrate that great potential exists for Sino-Japanese scientific and technological co-operation. In 1986 it is hoped that the two countries will make the most of their advantages and expand the number of their co-operative projects. Only such co-operation can measure up to the developing friendly relations between China and Japan and fulfil the wish of the people of both countries, particularly those working in scientific and technological fields.

Women Writers Through Three Generations

Three of China's more renowned women writers — Bing Xin, Ru Zhijuan and Zhang Xinxin — each represents not only divergent styles and qualities of writing, but separate generation as well. They also encapsulate much of the growth and wanderings of women's literature in 20th century China.

by Our Correspondent Zhang Wei

In line with the growing role women play in modern Chinese life, the numbers and contributions of China's female authors are ever-rising. Of the 1,000 members of the Chinese Writers' Association, 235 are women, and in its more than 200-

member council, over 20 are female. Here are profiles of three women writers, born in 1900, 1926 and 1953 respectively whose varied style and different life and writing experience provide a glimpse of the kaleidoscope of the more conscious and vocal of modern Chinese women.

tional Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, vice-president of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, and a council member of the Chinese Writers' Association.

As a youth Bing Xin was bright, dignified and enthusiastic. Though advanced in age, Bing Xin today still retains on her lined cheeks traces of her young beauty.

Bing Xin, which is the pen name of Xie Wanying, spent her childhood in Yantai, a coastal city in Shandong Province. The vast and ever-changing sea contributed to her rich imagination, a necessity for any writer.

"When I was 4 years old," Bing Xin recalled, "my mother, an enlightened woman, taught me to read Chinese characters and told me legends, like *The Cowboy and the Weaver Girl* and the tragic love story of *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai* (also known as *Butterfly Lovers*.) My uncle also accounted tales for me. One in particular — *Uncle Tom's Cabin* — made a deep impression. Uncle Tom's life is so sad that after hearing it, I spent the night crying into my pillow."

At the age of 7, Bing Xin began reading such classics as the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Strange Tales of a Chinese Studio* and *Journey to the West* about the Monkey King. When she was 11, Bing Xin was admitted to the preparatory programme of the Fuzhou Women Teachers' College. Upon receiving the news of her admittance, her grandfather, who himself was also a teacher then, reminded her: "You are the first girl in our family to attend school regularly. You must work hard."

Bing Xin: First Lady of Letters

Days ago when this correspondent went to see her, Bing Xin came into the sitting-room with the help of a safety-walker and looked at her visitor in her usual kindness for a short while. "Oh, it is you, my little friend. How are things," she said.

"Little friend" is the endeared term the octogenarian writer always uses to greet young people, upon whom she has long doted and to whom much of her work has been devoted.

Born in 1900 into a navy officer's family Bing Xin began her literary career at the age of 19. She has since written and translated more than 2 million words. As an outstanding word-smith for 60 years, Bing Xin is one of the most prolific members of China's literary elite.

Bing Xin's career has been a smooth one and her ascendancy to the top of China's literati can be best described as "meteoric." She began constructing a name for herself at a time when most Chinese women were still living at the bottom rung of the social ladder, and only a few such as Lu Yin, Xiao Hong and Ding Ling (Ting Ling) had access to the literary world. However, these ill-

fated women were not as fortunate as Bing Xin. Lu Yin committed suicide before attaining any real fame. Xiao Hong, hard pressed by financial difficulties, died in deep sorrow in Hongkong. Ding Ling, though a success, travelled a more circuitous route and was thrown from her writing career by her politics, which launched her into virtual obscurity for two decades.

Bing Xin has written a number of noted works, such as her anthologies of poems *Numerous Stars* and *Spring Water*, her collection of short stories in *Superman* and her collection of prose *Letters to My Young Readers*. Her short story *Empty Nest* won the state short story award early in the 1980s.

Many of Bing Xin's works have been translated into English, Japanese, German and French, and several American and West German scholars have conducted research into her literary contributions.

Bing Xin has been conferred a number of important titles because of her achievements. In addition to serving as a deputy to the Fifth National People's Congress, she is also a Standing Committee member of the Na-

In old China, women were denied formal educations. Bing Xin said she remembered feeling extremely frustrated when she learnt that her four grandaunts were deprived of books simply because of their sex. Bing Xin was lucky, however, for when she grew up the status of women in China had improved somewhat; though a girl, she was allowed to visit her grandfather's study, where she could read whatever she liked. Lin Shu's translation of *La Dame aux Camelias* and *David Copperfield* offered her the first opportunity to taste Western literature.

When she turned 13, Bing Xin's family moved to Beijing, and the next year she entered a missionary school and then the preparatory course of the Peking Union Medical College.

"I never dreamt I would be a writer," she said. "At that time, it was hard for educated women to get jobs other than as physicians or teachers. I was inspired to choose medicine because of my mother's poor health."

On May 4, 1919, the anti-imperialist and anti-feudalist patriotic movement erupted in China. As a young woman with radical democratic ideas, Bing Xin plunged into the struggle. "It was the lightning and thunder of the May 4th Movement that brought me to my writing career," Bing Xin recalled in her memoirs.

"When the movement was at its

height," Bing Xin wrote, "I took to the streets with other ardent youth to protest imperialist aggression and the authoritarian dictatorship of the warlord government. It was at this time that we began using the vernacular in writing."

Bing Xin has a unique style which combines the grace and ingenuity seen in Chinese classics with the clarity and ease of Western literature.

"One of my cousins, Liu Fangyuan, was then an editor of *Chen Bao* (Morning News) in Beijing. Liu not only published our articles, he also encouraged me to write novels about the democratic movement and certain social problems."

"At the time, newspapers and magazines were popping up throughout the country and published articles written by students inspired me to try my pen. Others were writing, why not me?"

On September 18, 1919, Bing Xin had her first work, *Two Families*, a short story with anti-feudalist sentiment, printed in the

Morning News.

Two Families was soon followed by several other pieces advocating democracy and science. Immensely popular, Bing Xin's stories stirred up a hue and cry and were seen by her critics as "problematic."

Bing Xin's "problematic" writings can be divided into three categories: dissatisfaction with feudalism, exposing the atrocities of the warlords, and a kind of humanistic sympathy for the working people.

Bing Xin also wrote several poems during this period. *Numerous Stars* and *Spring Water*, for example, gained considerable fame among her contemporaries for their restraint and graceful presentation, and many aspiring poets attempted to emulate the "spring water" style.

Bing Xin was criticized by some for concentrating on exposing the aimlessness of the petty bourgeois intellectuals, who, as one of her critics said, "had just struggled out of the womb of feudalism but had not yet found out where to go." "She used her affectionate and childish heart to fill young people's hollow souls," the critic said.

Yet because of their portrayals of social reality and of the people's daily lives, Bing Xin's writings evoked strong response and catapulted her in 1921 to full membership in the Literary Research Society, a democratic literary organization co-sponsored by Mao Dun, Su Dishan and Yie Shaojun aimed at promoting "literature for the good of human beings." Her membership in this influential body also marked Bing Xin's entrance into China's literary elite as the nation's first successful female author.

Bing Xin has since become increasingly influential with her unique style which combines the gracefulness and ingenuity seen in Chinese classics with the clarity and ease of Western literature.

After completing her education in China in 1923, Bing Xin went to the United States to study at Wellesley College. But unfortunately she fell ill after she was there

Bing Xin at a meeting of the short story awards evaluation committee.

ZHANG WEI





Bing Xin (lower middle) at a gathering of Young Pioneers in Beijing.

for only nine weeks. It was during her convalescence that she wrote most of her *Letters to My Young Readers*. She resumed her study in 1924 and got her M.A. in 1926.

Upon returning to China she taught at Yenjing University (today's Beijing University). In 1946, she accompanied her husband to Japan and later became the first woman professor at Tokyo University. Because of her comfortable life, her writing lacked the sharpness often found among many of her contemporaries. This sparked further comment of Bing Xin as a less than serious "chamber author."

Bing Xin stands out in the literary world today, however, not only for her fiction and poetry, but more prominently, for her children's books.

As early as 1923, Bing Xin encouraged the *Morning News* to start a "Children's World" column, in which Bing Xin's American travelogue, "Letters to My Young Readers," appeared in instalments. Ba Jin, one of China's famous writers, said: "We were then all as it were children, lonely and helpless, and we received great warmth and comfort from Bing Xin's writings. In reading her affectionate and beautiful stories, we regained the motherly love we

had been without for so long." Between 1926 and 1935, her travelogue was reprinted every six months.

"I shall write as much as possible and use my pen to nourish our young souls."

Many of her young readers, most now in their 60s, still have a clear memory of the column.

Ru Zhijuan: From Orphan to Author

As one of the most influential women writers since the founding of the People's Republic, Ru Zhijuan, 60, is also a member of the presidium of the Chinese Writers' Association, the Shanghai PEN Centre and vice-president of the Shanghai branch of the Chinese Writers' Association. In a recent interview with

Nationally known writer Qin Mu said at an occasion marking Bing Xin's 60th anniversary as a writer: "Fifty years ago when I was still a child, I was enchanted by 'Letters to My Young Readers.'"

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, Bing Xin wrote articles under the title of "More Letters to My Young Readers." This time, however, it was filled not with effete and sentimental articles, nor just with happy tales, but instead, with descriptions of real socialist life.

Bing Xin once said: "I always love children. The more advanced in age, the more I have to talk with my little friends." Unfortunately, age and infirmity have deprived her of the chance to meet young people often in person. However, she continues to rendezvous with her little friends with the help of her pen. "I shall write as much as possible and try my hardest to use my pen to nourish those young souls," she said.

As affectionately as she feels towards children, Bing Xin also takes a genuine interest in young women writers. She has written prefaces for works by many women writers, such as Zhang Jie, Tie Ning and Zhu Lin. In return, these authors hold Bing Xin in high esteem, a forerunner of the women's literary world.

Bing Xin is now working on two more novels, *My Childhood* and *My Hometown*. Pointing to the manuscripts scattered on her desk, she said: "These are the gifts I would like to present to my young friends in 1986."

her in her apartment at a quiet lane in Shanghai, I found her energetic, frank and looking more like a housewife than a famous author.

Ru's childhood was miserable. Born in Shanghai, she became an orphan when she was three years old after her mother died and her father deserted his family. Though relatives came to take her three

brothers to live with them. Ru was left with her grandmother, who supported the child by making matchboxes and working as a maid. When Ru was 13 her grandmother died and a relative sent her to a missionary orphanage.

"Life there was terrible," Ru reminisced. "We had only gruel for meals. We studied in the morning, worked in the afternoon and prayed in the evening. The Sisters would not let us go outside the orphanage. I often found myself searching for my grandma in my dreams."

One day when she was still a child, she said, she was flipping through a book and was attracted by the words: "Give me freedom, or give me death." The line impressed Ru so much that she began looking for ways to get away from the orphanage. When she finally succeeded, her brother helped her gain entrance to a school for women, where she studied math, abacus and book-keeping, with the hope of finding a job. In Shanghai, which was a semi-colony then, however, many men were jobless. For a girl like Ru to secure a job was even more difficult. Soon Ru was finding it impossible to pay her limited tuition fee. In despair, she said she contemplated suicide.

"One early morning, I walked aimlessly up and down along the Huangpu River. Suddenly I noticed a red sun rising above the river. It was so beautiful that I found I was once again filled with hope."

She said she picked herself up, returned to her hard life and later found a job as a primary school teacher. She taught in the day and studied at a night school. In 1943, when she was 18, Ru published her first story in a local newspaper. That same year she went with her brother to join the New 4th Army, an anti-Japanese unit led by the Communist Party. Enlisting, she said, marked a turning point in her life. She was assigned to the army's literary and art work corps, where she gave performances, nursed wounded soldiers and guarded prisoners. She noted that it was in

the army that she first tasted equality. The flames of war tempered her and made her into a soldier. Battles also stimulated her desire to write and provided her with rich source materials.

"During an interval between battles against the Kuomintang army in the liberation war," she recalled, my art troupe performed the opera *The White-Haired Girl*, a story about the landlords' exploitation of the peasants. Our soldiers were so touched by the tale that many cried. Some, who got very excited, even tried to jump on the stage so as to aim their guns at the landlord in the play.

"Literature and art have the potential of making heroes weep and fight for greater victories."

"After the performance there was another battle, which we won, due at least in part to our high morale. From this, I realized how powerful literature and art are. They have the potential to make heroes cry and fight for greater

victories as well. Thus, I took up my pen and embarked on the road of literary creation."

"The road to becoming a real writer," Ru said, "is, however, long and tortuous. It was more difficult for me because I never went to college. I started by writing poems and lyrics for songs, because I thought they would be simpler."

In 1947, Ru was commended by her army unit for her lyrics to a song that became very popular in the army. She joined the Chinese Communist Party that same year.

After the founding of the People's Republic, particularly after she became an editor of a literary magazine in Shanghai, Ru devoted herself to writing short stories. Unfortunately none of her stories won acclaim from her contemporaries.

In 1958, she wrote a 6,000-word short story—*Lilies*. The story, which is set in the period of the War of Liberation, tells of a young soldier who goes to a village to borrow quilts for his wounded comrades. A young bride was rather reluctant to lend him any. Later when the soldier was killed in a battle, the woman used her precious quilt—one embroidered with white lilies, her only dowery—to cover his body.

Ru sent the story to three magazines one after another. All

Ru Zhijuan and her daughter Wang Anyi in the United States.





Ru Zhijuan (left) and Zhang Jie — both short story prize winners.

ZHANG WEI

returned her manuscript. After more refusals, the story was finally published by *Yanhe*, a literary magazine. It soon drew the attention of Mao Dun, one of China's most renowned contemporary writers. He wrote a review for the story, saying it was one of the best in recent years. He also called Ru's style fresh and elegant. Shortly thereafter the story was picked up by *Renmin Wenxue* (People's Literature) — an authoritative national literary magazine.

With the backing of Mao Dun, Ru quickly rose to stardom in the literary arena, and suddenly, she said, her past works were being reconsidered, and her writing style was being discussed and applauded by critics around the nation.

"Mao Dun's role in my career as a writer was fundamental and decisive," Ru said.

"At that time I was but an ordinary young intellectual, a neophyte bucking for entrance into the literary world. What I had written before was like a grain of sand washed to shore, not knowing where it would be carried."

In 1957, just prior to Mao Dun's acclaim, Ru suffered a serious setback: Her husband was branded as a Rightist during a

political campaign that year. Like those of other Rightists, Ru's family was politically and economically discriminated against. In addition, Ru had two children to look after. The help of Mao Dun made her plight considerably less burdensome.

Determined to get through the difficult period, Ru worked even harder. As an editor she had to read more than a dozen articles in

"In life there are not only things worth praising but also things that deserve condemnation."

the day. As mother and wife, she cooked, washed and did whatever she could for her husband and children. Everyday she got up at wee hours to write till dawn, and produced one good story after another. In the early 1960s, she was acknowledged by the public as one of the most outstanding women writers in China, and some of her works were translated into foreign languages.

Ru's works at the time, however, were still limited to short stories, which, well structured and succinct, are noted for revealing the beauty of human nature through the portrayal of common people. Without sensational plots, Ru's pieces reflect life through everyday occurrences.

Women are normally the central figures in Ru's stories. The young rural woman in *Ah Shu*, a martyr's mother in *Aunt Guan*, and Aunt Tan, an old nurse in *The Quiet Maternity Hospital*, all are vivid and lifelike women images.

"I use my eyes to observe life and to search for its beauty, purity and honesty," Ru said. Her early works tend to dwell on the happier side of life, through which she hoped to influence people with the noble, pure feelings of her heroes and heroines.

During the "cultural revolution," Ru's works were considered revisionist and useless. The criticism forced Ru to delve deeper into the meaning of life. For 10 years, from 1966 to 1976, she wrote little.

"Yes, I realized that in life there are not only things worth praising but also things that deserve condemnation," Ru said. With such an understanding, she began to write again in the late 1970s.

The tone of the more than a dozen short stories published by Ru since 1978, however, contrasts sharply with that of her earlier works. Some people have called the switch a jump from "smile to meditation."

The Wrongly Edited Story Ru wrote in 1978 is a typical "condemning" piece. The characters Old Gan and Old Shou in the story are veteran Communists and comrades-in-arms. The former was promoted by resorting to deception, while the latter, an honest man, was demoted. This tragedy is of profound realistic significance. *The Trail on the Grassland*, another important work of Ru's, criticizes vulgar utilitarianism in life through the tale of a disastrous love between young people.

In recent years, Ru began writing novels, and has published an autobiographical novel, *She Comes From That Path*.

As a female author, Ru well understands how difficult it is for women writers to attain any degree of success. Therefore, she has shown deep concern for her many young colleagues. Wang Anyi, her daughter, is among

China's most brilliant and promising young writers.

"Today's young women writers are more sensitive, and their styles are more varied," Ru said. "Sometimes their abilities discourage me. Yes, I must admit, my young colleagues are more aggressive. I have to think hard about how to cope with their challenge."

Zhang Xinxin: An Intrepid Love for Life



Zhang Xinxin (centre right) being interviewed by Hongkong Journalists.

Zhang Xinxin was the first Chinese woman to bicycle the length of China's 897-km Grand Canal, which runs from Beijing to Hangzhou. Hearing of her exploits, reporters caught up with the adventurous Zhang in Shandong Province, where the canal marks its halfway point.

"Why are you biking along the Grand Canal?" one reporter asked her. "Do you want to be a heroine?"

"No, I'm not doing it for that. I'm doing it because I love life!" Zhang answered as she peddled along. As her canal travels illustrate, 32-year old Zhang Xinxin is somewhat out of the ordinary. Compared with other woman writers, Zhang leads a comfortable life. She lives with her

parents in a suite of five rooms, located in the southwestern suburbs of Beijing. She admitted she is staying in the unusually spacious apartment only thanks to her father, who is a high-ranking official in the People's Liberation Army.

Divorced soon after getting married, Zhang said she survived the anguish of the failed marriage by writing a number of popular stories. Her works are, according to some critics, more profound than other women's of her age.

Judging from appearances, no one would think of Zhang as somebody who has been through unhappy experiences. She is always energetic, enthusiastic and frank. She said she prefers natural

styles. When speaking with her, one is astonished by Zhang's thoughts; one finds in her a tremendous will.

When mentioning the writer Zhang, readers often speak of her famed novel *On the Same Horizon*, which triggered off controversial comments in China's literary circle.

On the Same Horizon tells of a young talented couple with high aspirations. Like millions of educated youths during the "cultural revolution," the two, then unmarried, were sent to the countryside to settle and work, or as many said "to fritter away their time." After the "gang of four" was ousted, they tried to make up for their lost time. In so doing they began a struggle with one another over their future. The wife reduced her chores to a minimum in an attempt to spend most of her time in preparing for an examination at a film college, while her husband wanted to become an artist and so devoted his time to painting. A series of difficulties brought on by society and by themselves followed. The wife was unwilling to spend all her time to wait upon her husband; and the husband was so busy that he spared no time and energy to show concern for his wife. The mounting conflicts finally separated them. Their love, however, lingered on in their hearts.

The novel succeeds in describing the complicated feelings of a couple as they try to shape their separate lines. The novel also portrays the hopes, aspirations, agonies and conflicts of today's young generation. Through the clashes between husband and wife, Zhang implies that a woman should be equal to a man, whether in a family or in society.

On the Same Horizon evoked strong responses nationwide. Influential Chinese newspapers such as *Guangming Ribao* and *Wen Hui Bao* started columns in which the novel was discussed. Those who liked it and its various messages said the novel reflected the reality of today's young people. Its critics, however, accused the writer of "social

Darwinism," and of distorting reality.

"I am lucky, for I am part of the better times."

Though some found fault with *On the Same Horizon*, nearly every one agreed that Zhang was a talented author. Wang Meng, a famous author, who seldom comments on other writers, praised Zhang Xinxin as a woman of unusual literary talent.

The sharp commentaries on the novel, however, posed a severe challenge to Zhang, a fledgling writer. Undaunted by the flood of criticism, she published a response and defended the novel. Twenty years ago, such a book, which exposed some of society's darker side, would mean an end to the author's career. In the 1950s, some writers were accused of being Rightists for the same reason and were forbidden to write.

Zhang says she realizes her good fortune at not being subjected to such treatment. "I am lucky, for I am part of the better times."

Zhang Xinxin was born in Nanjing but raised in Beijing. During the "cultural revolution" she and millions of other young people were sent to the countryside. Zhang went to Heilongjiang Province, where she worked as a farmer. At 17, she joined the army. One day, a friend suggested she try her skill at writing.

"From that day on, that idea stuck with me. I wondered if I would be a good writer," she said, her eyes winked behind her thick glasses. "I often looked in the mirror and wondered whether an ordinary looking woman like me could write stories, which are meant to be composed in elegant language and full of profound messages.

"After being discharged from active military service, I was assigned to a hospital and served

as a nurse. One day, I found *The Story of Balzac*, and discovered that Balzac, a literary great, was not so handsome either. In that it seems I found encouragement to write." Zhang laughed, then continued, "That was one of my secrets. Now I have told it to you."

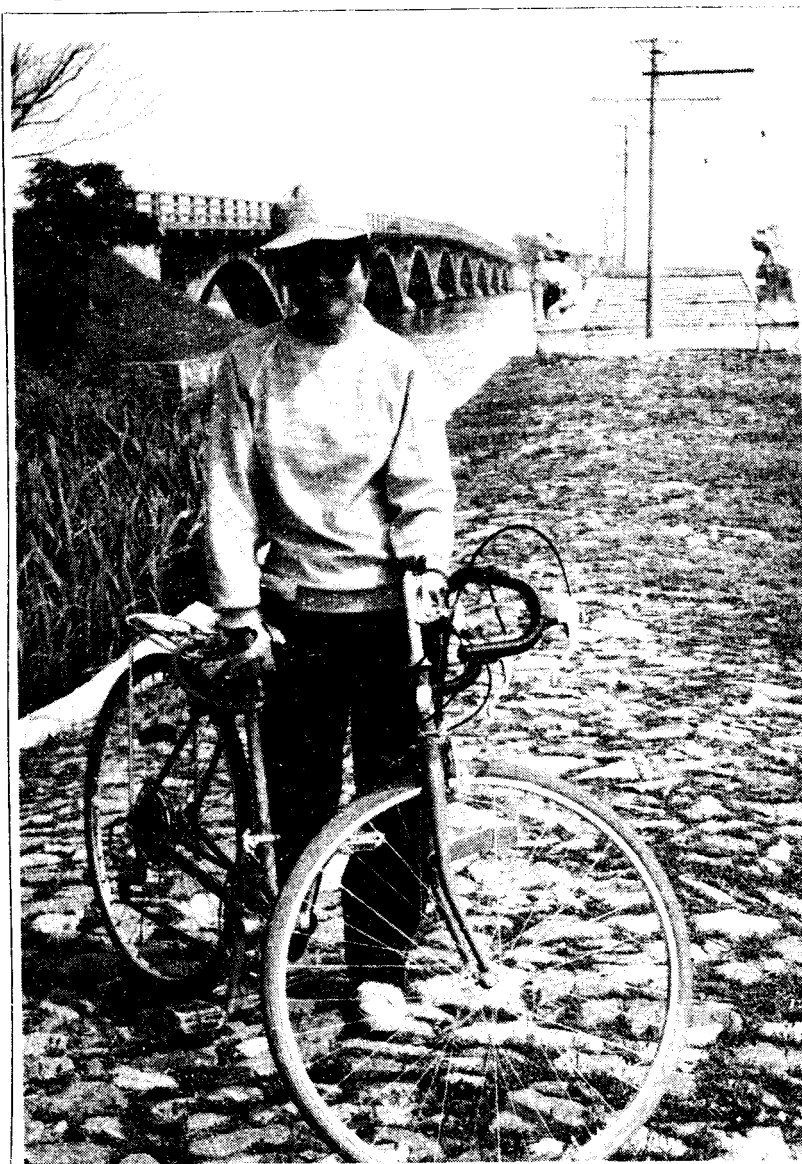
During that period, Zhang married and established her family. In 1979 Zhang enrolled at the Central Theatrical Institute and around then she and her husband divorced. At the theatrical institute, apart from studying

the required courses, Zhang also used her spare time to write a series of novels, including *On the Same Horizon*. Shortly after its appearance, Zhang became a member of the Chinese Writers' Association.

Her earlier writings focused on contemporary urban youth, their thoughts, ideals and problems. Her *Dreams of Those of Our Age* is representative of that theme.

Dreams of Those of Our Age tells the story of a woman typesetter, who lives with her

Zhang Xinxin on her way on a bicycle trip along the Grand Canal in 1985.



family in a room eight square metres in size. After returning from work, the main character often takes her children along while shopping. She occasionally finds it difficult to get along with her neighbours, and her husband is an insipid and unexceptional man. She feels her life is monotonous. But she is a woman filled with dreams and hopes for a beautiful future and often recalls the happy days of her youth. There is, however, a wide gap between her happy memories and her dull life. Later, she discovers that one of her unpleasant neighbours is a man with whom she was in love as a teenager. Disillusioned by the discovery, she returns to her routine and feels drained of her dreams.

"It is, of course, not merely a story of a disappointing marriage," as one critic said. "It bears a profound message—the contradiction between ideals and reality."

As a writer, Zhang has shown special concern for issues confronting contemporary women. In *On the Same Horizon*, for example, Zhang's heroine makes a valiant call for equality between the sexes: "Modern society makes strong demands on women. In their families and society, women bear the same responsibility as men and do even more than men. This forces us to be as strong as men...."

People from all walks of life are brought to life with meaning and clarity, together the pieces make for a kaleidoscopic macrocosm of today's China.

"In the competition of day-to-day life, the slogan 'Lady first' does not find applications.

"In our times, there are too few strong manly men! However, a man does not mean a good

husband.... Living with him, he gives me nothing, but he wants me to give him my love. He does not carry me in his heart, and he never shows concern for me. What does he think is a merry family, to which I must devote all my energy?"

Her heroine's thoughts mirror Zhang's own. Zhang's novels have struck responsive chords among China's young, and the author has consequently received numerous letters from people asking advice.

In the past two years, Zhang's writings have covered a wider range of themes. Her new novels, including *Orchids* and *Stamp Collectors*, describe the lives of workers, cadres, intellectuals and ordinary citizens.

Zhang's *Chinese Profiles*, which was published last year and which won her worldwide acclaim, tells the stories of 100 Chinese people. Written jointly with San Hua, the novel runs to 1 million words and was the result of interviews with "ordinary" Chinese people in different parts of the country.

In these stories the authors record the experiences of their subject from different age groups and occupations, among them workers, peasants, fishermen, women who were driven into the streets to become prostitutes in the old China, government ministers, engineers, and criminals on death row. In short, people from all walks of life are brought to life with meaning and clarity. Together the pieces make for a kaleidoscopic macrocosm of today's China.

Major literary magazines in China competed for the rights to be the first to publish the book. After reading *Chinese Profiles*, readers remarked on the honesty and insight of the reporters and said the book prompted affectionate feelings for all its characters—good and bad.

Chinese Profiles was first published by the Shanghai Art and Literature Publishing House, and some chapters have been translated into English, French and German. Publishers in the United States and Britain also showed interests in the book.

Foreign critics have called the book an epic, and have said it aptly reflects Chinese society.

The success in her new writing style, however, has found her at a loss for an explanation. "Each person's life is practically a whole world, a story, a bit of a stature not in need of further perfection. There is no need for me to write a fictitious story."

Her novels are characterized by their meticulous descriptions of feelings, powerful tone and philosophical profundity. This style of writing is seldom found in other Chinese women writers. She often uses the colloquial language, which produces the effect of lively rhythm. Although she has written numerous works, her themes and styles are seldom repetitive.

Zhang Xinxin engages in writing only in her spare time. She is now a director at the Beijing People's Art Theatre.



Newspapers Reach Wider Audience

"RENMIN RIBAO"

(People's Daily)

China has a total of 1,777 registered newspapers with a combined circulation of 202.08 million, according to the largest press survey ever held since the founding of the People's Republic.

Conducted in March 1985 by the Journalism Institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Beijing Capital Journalism Society, the survey shows the emergence of a multi-tiered and diversified press structure centring around Party-run newspapers. The data, which were computer processed, included 47 items, such as date of first publication, format, circulation and size and makeup of staff.

The survey indicated that the first upsurge in China's press development came in the first 10 years after the founding of New China. Of the country's 1,777 newspapers, 30.7 percent started publication before 1959, while those that were published in the 1960s and 1970s accounted for only 3.7 and 8.9 percent respectively. The 1980s were a golden age. From January 1, 1981 to March 1, 1985, 1,008 newspapers started publication, accounting for 56.7 percent of the total. This means in just five years, one newspaper started publication every other day. The appraisal committee attributed the rapid development in this period to the current reforms and the government's open policy.

The survey showed that there were 368 newspapers run by Party committees above the county level, and that they accounted for 20.7 percent of the total. One-fourth of these started publication

or resumed publication after 1980, showing that Party newspapers now play a dominant role.

At the same time, China's newspapers have become more diversified. Four types of specialized newspapers have increased by a wide margin. For instance, the number of scientific and technological papers reached 160, accounting for 9 percent of the total; those on economic affairs, 112, accounting for 6.3 percent; those on education, 174, accounting for 9.8 percent; and those on law and legal affairs, 61, accounting for 3.4 percent. Their growth is compatible with China's economic development, as well as with the improvement of socialist ethics, democracy and legal system.

Of the total, there were 23 evening papers, 28 papers for children, 22 for youth, two for the elderly, 26 for workers and 25 for farmers. In Guangdong and Fujian provinces, 11 newspapers have started publication for overseas Chinese.

As a multi-ethnic country,

China publishes in many different languages. Of all the nation's newspapers, 95.2 percent were published in the Han language, 4.5 percent in minority languages and the remaining 0.3 percent in English. In total, there were 80 papers published in minority languages, including Mongolian, Tibetan, Uygur, Khalkhas, Xibe, Korean, Yi, Dai, Jingbo and Lisu. These were distributed in 13 provinces and autonomous regions.

The survey also revealed some problems in China's newspaper industry. For instance, although China has 1,777 newspapers, the portion of folio papers was very small, accounting for 8 percent of the total, while the small quarto papers accounted for 86.3 percent. In addition, there were only 98 dailies, accounting for 5.5 percent. These were mainly the newspapers run by the Party committees of the various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, as well as the evening newspapers in major cities. Even when the newspapers published six days a week were added, their number only reached 212, accounting for 11.9 percent of the total, while weeklies accounted for 69 percent. These were, however, periodicals published in the form of newspapers.

10 Major Scientific Achievements

"ZHONGGUO KEJI BAO"

(Science and Technology Review)

China's scientists made a great number of accomplishments in 1985 in the fields of agriculture, industry, space science, nuclear research and public health. The following 10 are considered the most noteworthy by our review based on recommendations by the State Science and Technology

Commission and other science departments:

— The Gezhouba Hydroelectric Project, with a dam 2,561 metres long and 70 metres high, now has a generating capacity of 965,000 kilowatts. When completed by the end of 1986, the project will have a total generating capacity of 2.7 million kilowatts.

— Water-injection technique that has helped the Daqing

Oilfield produce an additional 61 million tons of crude oil in the past five years.

—Research on the natural resources of the North China Plain, where the Huanghe (Yellow), Huaihe and Haihe rivers flow. The data accumulated in that project provided valuable information for the development of the plain.

—A production line consisting of 141 machines which can manufacture 15,000 tons of polyester a year. So far, the line has produced more than 60,000 tons of such fibre, generating 160 million yuan in profits and taxes.

—Equipment for an open-cut mine with an annual capacity of 10 million tons of iron ore.

—The manufacture and launch of a scientific exploration satellite used in large-scale surveys of land resources, and which returned to earth as planned in October.

—A new photocomposition system for Chinese characters that uses computer and laser technology and features automatic alignment and pagination, margin positioning, underlining and editing.

—China's largest controlled nuclear fusion experimental device.

—A new laboratory technology that separates uranium isotopes by using atomic lasers.

—Research on heart endocrine secretion functions.

what to do. Premier Zhou felt Chen was guilty of nothing. He wrote three instructions to the Chinese Academy of Sciences: "First, Chen Mingyuan was right to clear up the situation. The so-called unpublished poems of Chairman Mao should be spread no further. Second, the case is not a political problem, and it is unnecessary to investigate and affix responsibility for spreading these poems. Third, Chen should not be criticized."

The "central cultural revolution group," however, which was then controlled by Lin Biao and Jiang Qing and their cohorts, harassed, beat and finally jailed Chen Mingyuan. Jiang Qing also instructed Qi Bengyu, then a member of their group, never to rehabilitate Chen.

Although he was persecuted, Chen Mingyuan continued to write, and after the death of Marshal Chen Yi, Chen wrote a poem in his memory. Unfortunately, however, that poem, too, was mistaken as one of Chairman Mao's. During the "April 5" movement in 1976, Chen also wrote a popular poem cherishing the memory of Premier Zhou.

Poet's Talent Leads to Trouble

"ZHOU MO"

(Weekend)

During the "cultural revolution," a number of poems mistakenly thought to be the work of Mao Zedong became quite popular. Their real author, however, was not Chairman Mao, but a young university student named Chen Mingyuan.

Chen, now 43, and a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, developed his poetry skills early. When he was only 15 he was once recognized for his talent by Guo Moruo, then president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

During the "cultural revolution," one of Chen's friends sent him an elegant book entitled "Unpublished Poems of Chairman Mao." While thumbing through the book, Chen became suddenly quiet. "Not all these poems are written by Chairman Mao," he told one of his friends. "Many are mine." His friend advised him to report the situation immediately to Premier Zhou

Enlai and to the "central cultural revolution group."

On hearing who was the author of many of the poems thought to be the works of Mao, Premier Zhou and the "central cultural revolution group" differed as to



Where is the trouble?

GENG MENGANG

Technical Introduction Boosts Production



A Sino-British joint glass works under construction.

China's building material industry saw substantial progress in 1985 owing to foreign technology imports and scientific advances. Cement output reached 142 million tons, a 15.8 percent increase over 1984; plate glass output reached 56 million standard crates, a 16 percent increase. These figures were announced at a mid-February press conference by Wang Yanmou, deputy director of the State Bureau of Building Materials Industry (SBBMI).

Wang said technology imports increased greatly last year. Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangdong Province, for instance, imported 140 kinds of advanced technology for cement, glass and other building materials. SBBMI introduced 33 items from abroad and arranged the replacement or updating of 98 technological processes. Among the 17 projects arranged by the Shanghai Building Materials Bureau that will go into production before the end of this year in Shanghai, 15 were introduced in 1985.

Last year, China's various provinces, municipalities and

autonomous regions bought 120 items worth US\$150 million from abroad for quarrying and processing granite, marble and other types of stone, and 200 production lines worth US\$32 million for manufacturing plastic tubing, wall paper, and doors and windows.

Wang expressed his confidence that all these projects will greatly boost China's building materials

industry; especially the production of new material.

China Exports More Medicine

According to statistics released by the head office of the China Medicine and Health Protection Articles Import & Export Corp., China's 1985 exports of traditional Chinese tonics, medicinal herbs and Western pharmaceuticals amounted to US\$514 million.

In recent years, Hongkong, Macao and Southeast Asia have been flooded by medicinal herbs exported from China through illegal channels.

To treat the problem, the Chinese government set up the corporation in 1984 to control administration of the Chinese medicine export license system and to open up overseas markets in the United States and Western Europe. China's 1985 sales of traditional Chinese health tonics in these countries came to US\$300 million, which was 60 percent of its total export and 11.3 percent more than 1984, and 70 percent of its exported Western pharmaceuticals were sold on the US and West European markets. Sales of

Technicians check products at the Balyunshan Pharmaceutical Plant, Guangzhou.



tetracycline, lincomycin, chloromycetin and heparin sodium amounted to over US\$10 million. Eighty percent of tonics exports went to the United States and Western Europe. One product, chrysanthemum crystals, won a gold medal at the 1985 Paris Fair.

Liaoning Ports Raise Exports

During the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85), seaports in northeastern Liaoning Province exported commodities worth US\$22.5 billion, an amount representing one-fifth of the country's total and up 118.2 percent over that of the Fifth Five-Year Plan period (1976-80).

There are 70 export commodity firms in Liaoning trading in cereals and oil, food, light industrial products, textiles, animal by-products, metals, minerals, petro-chemicals, and coal. Supply of commodities is ensured by more than 1,000 firms and companies.

During that same period, import-export companies under the provincial government invited 10,000 business people for business talks and sent 320 groups abroad on fact-finding business trips. In addition, some 20 business symposiums and sales exhibitions to promote Liaoning products were held inside and outside of China.

Last year, the volume of exports handled by Liaoning ports reached US\$5 billion, a 1 percent increase over the previous year.

Sino-British Aero-Tech Co.

An aero-technology joint venture by the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corp. and the British

Lucas Company has recently been established in Hongkong, with each side providing 50 percent of the investment.

Capitalizing on the experience of the parent companies in manufacturing and servicing, the aero-tech company deals in China-made aircraft and equipment, engines, ground facilities and spare parts. Additional services include the training of pilots and ground personnel, and the furnishing of technical data printed in English.

Shanghai to Open Trade Symposium

Shanghai's 4th Foreign Trade Symposium will begin on March 1, under the sponsorship of the Shanghai Foreign Trade Company.

Priority on the agenda will be given to discussions on import-export trade, especially export trade. Talks will also be held on reciprocal trade, compensation trade, co-operative production, joint management and technology transfer.

Taking part will be more than 50 Shanghai units representing the textile, garment, light industry, machine building, electronics, transport and consulting and banking sectors as well as the cereals, oils, processed food and local produce industries.

The symposium will feature an exhibition of a variety of new products. For example, during the past year the Shanghai Knitwear Company has produced 460 new varieties and styles, of which a majority will be on display at the symposium.

Invitations have been sent to customers worldwide.

News in Brief

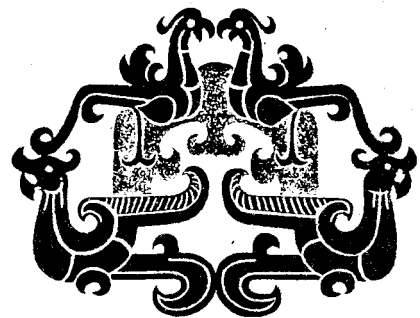
According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the following

were the top 10 Chinese export firms in 1985:

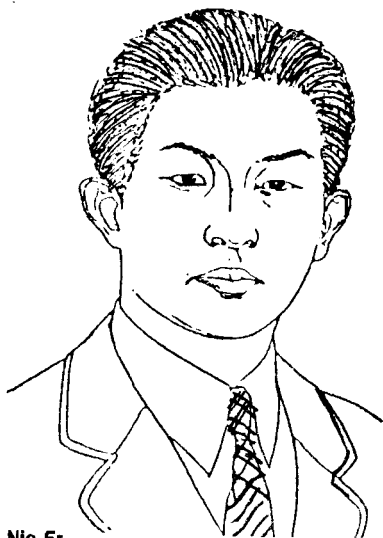
Export value
(in US\$1 million)

- 1) China National Chemicals Import & Export Corporation 7,482
- 2) China National Textiles Import & Export Corporation 4,241
- 3) China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import & Export Corporation 3,295
- 4) China National Produce and Animal Byproducts Import & Export Corporation 2,622
- 5) China National Light Industrial Products Import & Export Corporation 1,330
- 6) China National Arts and Crafts Import & Export Corporation 1,058
- 7) China National Silk Corporation 957
- 8) China National Metals and Minerals Import & Export Corporation 903
- 9) China Medicine & Health Protection Articles Import & Export Corporation 514
- 10) China National Coal Import & Export Corporation 312

Statistics provided by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade reveal that by the end of 1985 there were 155 branch offices established in 10 Chinese cities by 83 banks from 23 countries and regions. Among these offices, 58 are from Japan, 20 from France, 15 from Hongkong, 14 from the United States, 8 from Britain, and 4 from the Federal Republic of Germany.



Commemorating Top Two Composers



Nie Er.

Nie Er and Xian Xinghai, both of whom are considered the most outstanding contemporary composers in Chinese musical history, captured the spirit and love of the Chinese people for nearly 50 years during the period of wars and socialist construction. Both artists, the creators of China's national anthem and first symphony, maintained music composition was for the people and the revolution, a principle that was to have great influence on other Chinese composers of their day and from then on.

Last year commemorated the 50th and 40th anniversaries of the deaths of Nie Er (1912-35) and Xian Xinghai (1905-45). Throughout the year, concerts and various activities were held in their honour.

Nie Er, born into a poor family in Kunming, Yunnan Province, displayed his musical talent from an early age. Although the songwriter's career was short-lived — at the age of 23 he drowned at a beach in Japan — he composed more than 30 pieces that were to become the most famous works in modern Chinese music. His most prominent composition was the

March of the Volunteers, composed in 1934, which later became the national anthem after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The patriotic words are known by all Chinese: "Arise, all you who refuse to be slaves. With our flesh and blood, let us build our new Great Wall..." It became exceptionally popular because of its simple rhythm and melody, and came at a time to inspire the Chinese to stand firm in their struggle against the Japanese. In 1941 Paul Robeson, a popular black American singer recorded this song on one of his albums, *Arise*, and donated all the proceeds to China's cause in the anti-Japanese war (1937-1945). Since the United Nations was established in 1945, the *March of the Volunteers* was once chosen as one of the member states' songs to be played at the United Nations.

Nie Er's other successful compositions include *Song of Big Road*, *Pathbreakers* and *The Dockers' Song*, the first Chinese compositions to depict the character and image of Chinese workers. *New Women*, *Down-trodden Singer* and *The Village Girl Beyond the Great Wall* were about oppressed Chinese women.

Moreover, several children's songs, such as *Newsboy*, *The Shepherdess*, *Flying Snowflakes* and *The Little Wild Cat*, gave Nie Er an even wider range of content and colour.

The young songwriter also composed several instrumental pieces, the most remarkable of which was the orchestral piece, *Golden Snake Dances Wildly*, with its origins from traditional Chinese folk music.

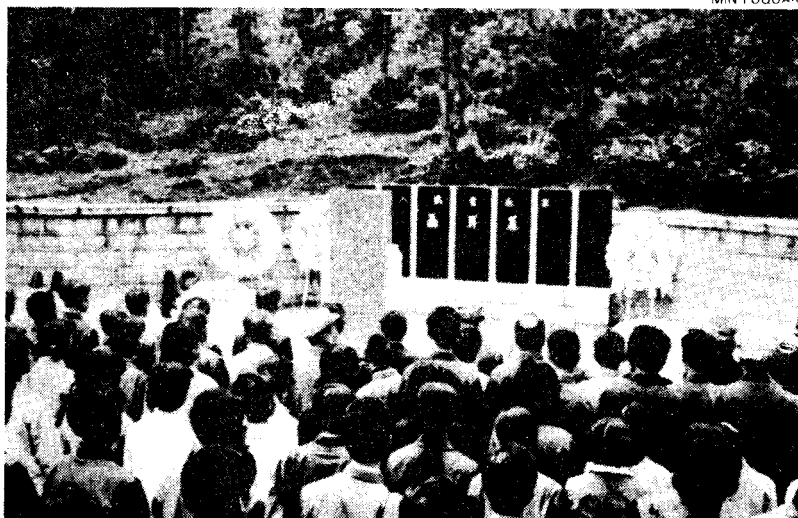
Nie Er has been credited with introducing an entirely new genre of music that represented the plight and delight of the common man.

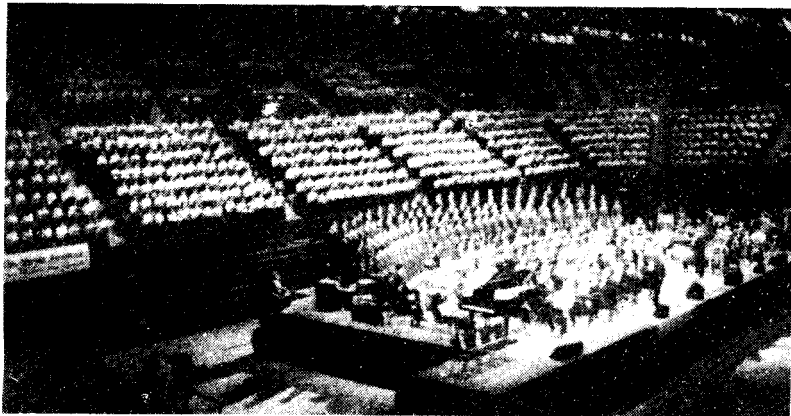
Last October, the *Collected Works of Nie Er* was jointly published by the Culture and Arts Publishing House and the People's Music Publishing House.

The other composer who was to have a great impact on the style and quality of contemporary Chinese music, Xian Xinghai, shared Nie Er's philosophy that music should express not only the feelings of the composer, but the ideas of the public as well. The songwriter, born in Guangdong Province in 1905, claimed music should meet both the demands of personal entertainment and raise

A memorial service being held in front of Nie Er's tomb in Kunming's Xishan Park, sponsored by the Yunnan branch of the Chinese Musicians' Association.

MIN FUQUAN





DENG GUANPING

Xian Xinghai's famous "Yellow River Cantata" being performed at the Yellow River Music Festival held in Hongkong last August.

people's consciousness to fight for freedom.

Xian appreciated the combination of Chinese and Western music. He emphasized the notion that music came from the folk and therefore was for the folk. During his 10-year career, he composed more than 250 songs, operas, symphonies and musical scores for films and plays. He also wrote some pieces for piano and violin, the most significant and influential being the *Yellow River Cantata*, composed in Yanan in 1939. With the Yellow River—considered the "cradle" of Chinese civilization—as its backdrop, the cantata eulogizes the

Xian Xinghai.



long history of the Chinese nationality and presents the sorrow brought by the Japanese invasion, yet expresses the confidence the Chinese felt in their struggle for victory over the Japanese. This piece is a blend of the Western choral tradition with China's own traditional style.

At the recent commemorative concerts, the *Yellow River Cantata* provoked deafening applause from both foreign and domestic audiences. So much so that the orchestra was asked to repeat one of the movements, *Defend the Yellow River*. Sixty-two-year-old Yan Liangkun, a conductor from the Central Conservatory of Music, said he had been conducting this cantata since he was 17 years old, but each time he performed the piece, he felt it as fresh and beautiful as if it were being played for the first time.

Symphony No. 1, National Emancipation, which Xian drafted in Yanan in 1935 and finished in the Soviet Union in 1941, was played for the first time at the recent concert. It was China's first symphony and also the first piece of music to describe the liberation of China from the Japanese. The piece is characterized by its varied and distinguished tones. Each movement is independent of the next, yet the work is balanced and unified—a technique reminiscent of traditional Chinese painting.

As the symphony was com-

posed during the war years, it was not a perfect piece. The composer himself never even had a chance to hear it performed before he died of tuberculosis at the age of 40. Nevertheless, it is considered a priceless historical piece, along with his *Symphony No. 2, The Sacred Battle*, which was composed and dedicated to the Soviets during World War II.

Yu Hedeng

Soprano Charms Beijing Audiences

Beijing audiences were deeply impressed by the two extraordinary concerts given by Yuan Enfeng, a folksinger from Xian, one of the ancient capitals of China, last December.

Crowned as a "ringing silver bell," the 46-year-old soprano brings to the capital the folk songs of northern Shaanxi, which she sings in her own style during her performances. Yuan's vocal technique is due to her wide collection and careful study of folk music for years.

After seeing her performance, a teacher from a music conservatory in Beijing said her folk songs had a unique charm that most trained singers could hardly reach.

Not only has Yuan devoted much of her time and energy to learning from folk artists, but she has developed her own styles. Yuan's voice is characterized by a clear, emotional style, which has made her one of the most popular folksingers in northern Shaanxi.

Yuan began her artistic career at the age of 12. She has performed in the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan and other countries. At home, Yuan has given performances in Xian, Luoyang and Shanghai. Her works have been recorded on albums and cassettes.

Today she is the vice director of the traditional instruments orchestra of the Shaanxi Broadcasting and TV Station.



Fastest Walker in the World



CHENG ZHISHAN

Yan Hong in action.

Yan Hong and her two legs have fascinated a large number of sports fans in China for years, as those legs have walked China's heel-and-toe race into two world records.

For example, in the World Cup walking tournament held in England on Sept. 29, 1985, China, with Yan Hong being the first in breaking the finishing line in the 10-km team event, beat the Soviet team with 104-98 points, thus winning the cup for the second time since 1983.

Twenty-year-old Yan Hong, who stands 1.52 metres tall, was born into a legal worker's family in Tieling Prefecture, Liaoning Province. She started out as a long-distance runner in high school, but her coach, Liu Dianke, asked her to practise walking since she did not stand out above other long-distance runners.

In autumn of 1982, wearing two short braids, Yan Hong competed

in the women's 5-km walking event in the fourth Liaoning Provincial Sports Meet. When the gun went off, Yan was the first to walk out, giving no notice to the veterans in her path. Though she finished a modest fourth, her fortitude was looked upon favourably by Wang Kui, the coach of the provincial team. Yan became a member of Wang's team at the end of that year.

Yan's teammates recalled that Yan was quite stubborn when she first joined the team. During her initial training, she couldn't believe she had lost to Xu Yongjiu, the national walking champion. Stamping her feet and shaking her braids, she asked the coach repeatedly to test them again.

But training can be a boring routine, especially for a 16-year-old girl. And like other adolescents, she had other reasons to shed tears, such as when she was forced to eat chicken liver and beef, and when she was asked to do extra running in her spare time. Whenever she cried, coach Wang would ask her, "Didn't you expect me to coach you?"

Yan Hong will never forget March 18, 1983, when she became the national champion of the 5-km walking event in the Fifth National Games. At that moment, she cried in joy, but also for the blisters on feet.

Her timing, 22'51.6", caught the attention of the nation's track and field circles, for it was only 38 seconds behind the world record.

At that time, it was six months before the third women's World Cup walking tournament, and Yan Hong was pushed even harder.

The World Cup walking tournament was held in Norway in September 1983. Though it was her first time to compete in a world tournament, Yan out-walked all

the other rivals from the very beginning in the 10-km event and broke first at the finishing line. The sports reporters and the cameras focused on her when the chief referee held up three red cards declaring Yan's disqualification for walking movement errors. Her coach and teammates felt sorry for Yan, but she did not cry this time. "I'm still glad, for the champion is also Chinese Xu Yongjiu," she said.

Actually, Yan was so depressed that she cried herself to sleep that night and vowed to walk ahead of all the others one day.

Back home, the coach and Yan watched a video of the race and discovered her exaggerated arms movement and jumping steps. The referee had been sharp and fair.

To correct her arms movement, Yan was asked to sit facing the back of a chair, and her arms, holding two iron balls in hands, were reined in to move beside the frames of the chair back. The coach also made her heavy canvas dress stuffed with sand to prevent her from jumping while walking.

In May 1984, China's women's team went with 11 other teams to Norway again for a world walking invitational tournament. In the 5-km track walking race, Yan Hong walked side by side at first with world record holder of this event, an Australian, and eventually overtook her and beat her record with 21'40.3". Only one week later in a 10-km track walking race held in Denmark, Yan again was up against the Australian. Yan broke the world record with 45'39.5", leaving the Australian and the others one leg behind.



A Close Look at the World

About the World, a book on international affairs by Huan Xiang, a renowned Chinese diplomat and scholar, has come off the press in a Chinese edition published by Beijing Knowledge Publishing House.

The collection, a total of 31 pieces, including articles written by Huan, his speeches at different seminars and his interviews with journalists, represents Huan's major achievements in his study on international affairs and his research and experiences in his tours to various countries.

The book focuses on three aspects: A comprehensive analysis of international situation and the world economy since World War II, the guidelines and policies for China's socialist modernization and tasks and plans of China's social sciences to confront the international political and economic trends and the challenges by the current technological revolution, and the study of major international issues and the lines, principles and policies of China's diplomacy.

Li Younan

Hu Feng's Literary Criticism

Hu Feng's Literary Criticism Collection (three volumes in Chinese) was published last month by the People's Literature Publishing House.

Hu Feng (1902-85) was a critic of literature and art in China's new literature movement. Incorrectly labeled a "counter-revolutionary" in 1955, Hu lost his freedom in the 50s until he was rehabilitated after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held at the end of 1978.

Although Hu began writing in

the early 1930s, he had been greatly influenced by the new literature movement in the early 1920s during his studies at middle school in Wuchang. As a student in a preparatory course of Beijing University between the autumn of 1925 and the summer of 1926, Hu also was influenced by the works of Lu Xun, one of China's most famous writers. In autumn 1929 he went to Japan to study and there came across Marxism-Leninism, and soon became a member of the Communist Party of Japan and a member of the Japanese Proletarian Science and New Art Research Society. But in 1933 he was arrested by Japanese police for his anti-Japanese activities. He was expelled from Japan and returned to China in July the same year.

Soon after that, Hu was appointed director of the propaganda department of the League of the Chinese Left-Wing Writers and later became the executive secretary of the organization. It was about this time in 1934 that Hu became a professional writer.

Hu Feng's Literary Criticism Collection, more than 900,000 words, comprises nine books of criticisms Hu wrote between 1934 and 1948, including *Notes on Literature and Art*, *Literature, Art and Life*, *The National War and the Characteristics of Literature and Art*, *On the National Form* and *On the Road of Realism*. These essays involve the author's comment on the writers of the 1930s and 1940s, and the arguments going around the literature and art circles of that time. Hu's opinions represent an important aspect of the progressive literature and art movement of that time.

These essays, however, had been banned for publication since 1955. In April 1984, a year before his death, Hu wrote a 40,000-word

postscript for the collection, in which the author reveals his latest opinions on the literature and art movements of the 30s and 40s, and introduces the background of some literary debates of that time.

Li Helin

* * *

One Hundred Japanese Writers, a book introducing 110 contemporary Japanese novelists, poets and dramatists will soon come off the press in a Chinese edition at the Sichuan People's Publishing House. Each piece includes a brief biography of each writer, his or her literary activities, representative works and a list of study materials regarding his or her works. The book presents the writers in chronological order according to when each writer first became well-known in literary circles in order to give the readers a clear sense of Japanese literature history.

Xin Zhai



Public Health Facilities on the Rise

■ Health Institutions

By the end of 1985 China had about 200,000 health institutions, 20,000 more than in 1980, or a 10 percent increase. By the end of 1984, China had 67,000 hospitals, 1,719 more than the figure in 1980. The 1984 figure included close to 56,000 township clinics. There were also 117,000 outpatient departments and clinics in China in 1984, as against 102,000 in 1980.

The recent years have seen fast development of epidemic and special diseases prevention stations, which numbered 3,339 and 1,458 in 1984 respectively, representing an increase of 234 and 320 since 1980. Convalescent homes also experienced rapid development in these years, increasing from 470 in 1980 to 599 in 1984.

■ Hospital Beds

By the end of 1985, China had 2.233 million hospital beds, compared to 1.98 million in 1980. The increase in the number of hospital beds was sought to meet the needs of traditional Chinese medicine departments, the department of dentistry, ear, nose and throat departments, and the departments of psychiatry, obstetrics and gynaecology, as well as paediatrics departments. During the period of 1980-84, hospital beds for women and children increased by 97.2 percent, the traditional Chinese hospital beds by 73.5 percent, and the psychiatric hospital beds by 30.4 percent. These increases have helped to readjust the composition of hospital beds. In 1980, there were an average of 2.02 hospital beds for every 1,000 Chinese people, but the figure rose to 2.1 beds in 1984. During the four years, the number of hospital beds per 1,000 Chinese rose from 4.7 to 4.77 in cities, and from 1.48 to 1.49 in the rural areas.

To provide convenience for the old, disabled and those plagued by

chronic diseases, hospitals at various levels in the cities and rural areas stepped up their practice of home-care. In 1984, the number of these beds at home totalled 490,000 used by 7.39 million patients, each bed being served 44.2 days per year on the average. This has helped to alleviate the hospital bed shortage problem in China.

■ Professional Health Workers

At the end of 1985, there were about 4.313 million professional health workers in China, up 22 percent from 1980. Among them were more than 1.4 million doctors practising traditional Chinese and Western-style medicines, an increase of more than 260,000 since 1980. This means China has surpassed the quotas set forth in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, which stipulated that China have 4.21 million professional health workers by 1985, including 1.38 million doctors specializing in Chinese and Western medicines.

Upwards of 60 percent of the people assigned to work in the medical field in these past five years came from medical schools. Out of the 1.381 million doctors of traditional Chinese and Western medicines in 1984, 324,000 were doctors of traditional Chinese medicine, representing an increase of 23.7 percent from 1980. The proportion of the traditional Chinese medicine doctors in the total number of doctors of traditional Chinese and Western medicines also rose from 22.7 percent in 1980 to 23.5 percent in 1984. Out of the doctors practising Western medicine, the proportion of gynaecologists and obstetricians rose from 6.2 percent in 1978 to 7.8 percent in 1983 and that of paediatricians, from 5.4 percent to 5.9 percent in the 1978-83 period.

In the meantime, however, the proportion of physicians and surgeons in the total number of the doctors of traditional Chinese and

Western medicines decreased from 56.6 percent to 53.8 percent from 1978 to 1983.

From 1980 to 1984 the number of doctors per 1,000 Chinese increased from 1.17 to 1.34. This included an increase of doctors per 1,000 Chinese from 3.22 to 3.6 in the cities and from 0.76 to 0.82 in the rural areas.

■ Sanitation and Epidemic Disease Control

From 1981 to 1985, efforts were made to fight epidemic diseases that not only jeopardized people's long-term health, but also undermined industrial and agricultural production. As a result, the incidence of these diseases plummeted from 20.8 percent in 1980 to 10 percent in 1985.

In 1985, the sanitation and epidemic control stations numbered 4,800, or a 15 percent increase from 1980, and the number of people involved in the work stations totalled 150,000, or a 40 percent increase from 1980.

Meanwhile, efforts were made to fight parasitic, infectious and endemic diseases. According to a survey of a number of cities, since 1980, the incidence of tuberculosis has been dropping by 6 percent a year and the number of people who died of TB in 1985 was down from 2.1 percent in 1980 to 1.9 percent. Goitres have been fundamentally wiped out in seven provinces, as well as in Beijing.

■ Number of Private Practitioners

Private doctors and public health workers, supplementing China's medical and sanitation institutions with outpatient treatment, number some 80,000, with 9,000 in cities and 70,000 in rural areas. Among them, 5,000, or 6.3 percent, are senior doctors; 40,000, or 50 percent, are middle-ranking ones; and 35,000, or 43.7 percent, are primary medical practitioners.

ART PAGE



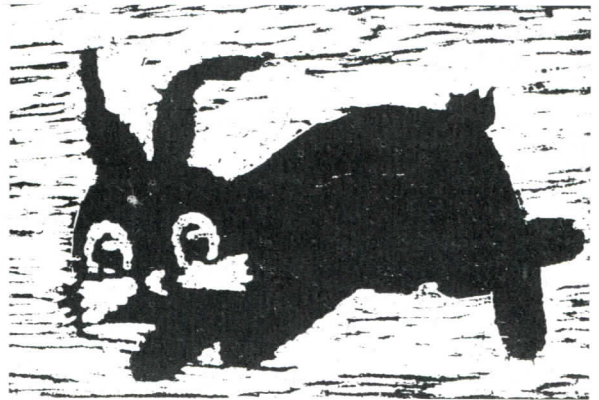
A Galloping Horse.

By Li Hu (boy, 7).



Doves.

By Wang Xiaoyan (girl, 10).



A Young Rabbit.

By Tong Qi (girl, 9).



A Cicada. By Wei Zhian (boy, 11).

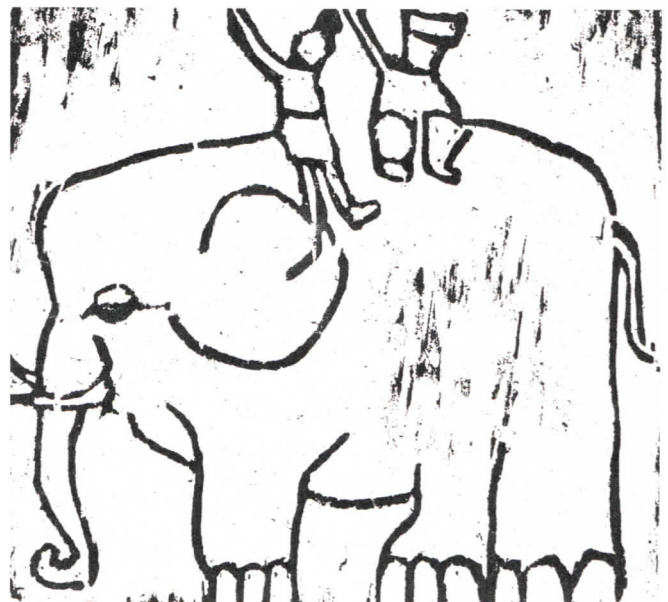
Woodcuts by Children

The following woodcuts were engraved by pupils from 7 years to 11 years old. Their pieces, most of which were done after school, are simple and expressive, and reflect the innocence and beauty of childhood.



A Home.

By Wang Xuan (girl, 10).



An Elephant.

By Liu Junfeng (boy, 10).

Just Off the Press

Zhou Enlai

A PROFILE

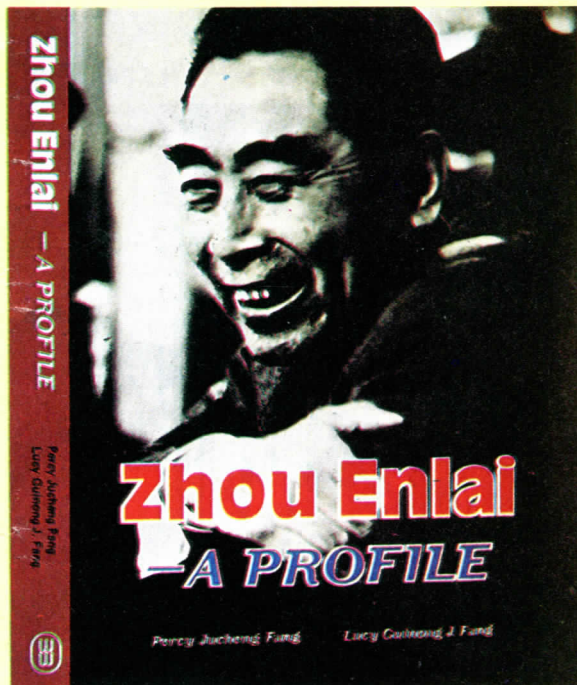
By Percy Jucheng Fang &
Lucy Guinong J. Fang

Foreign Languages Press, Beijing
250 pp of text, 38 pp of photos
222 x 152 mm
Paper cover with jacket

This book, commemorating the 10th anniversary of his death, fills a most timely need: for understanding of the new China that Zhou Enlai, Mao Zedong and their comrades fought for decades to bring into existence and today's China, embarked on a vast modernization effort that carries the unmistakable imprint of Zhou Enlai's political and executive genius.

The authors, Mr. and Mrs. Fang, possess an expert knowledge of the China scene, having worked continually in the country for thirty years, yet they are also familiar with Western audiences, as they have lived for long periods abroad. This informal biography of China's most outstanding diplomat and head of government is a product of their crystallized experience gained in both the East and the West.

Formerly from *Beijing Review* and Radio Beijing International respectively, the Fangs have retired after a lifetime devoted to journalism.



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