

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- **New Chapter in Sino-British Relations**
- **All-Round Economic Development in 1984**

**Qinhuangdao: China's
Energy Seaport**





Beidaihe, a seaside resort.



Playing by the sea in the early morning.



Yansai Lake.

Scenes From Qinhuangdao

Shanhaiguan, the eastern end of the Great Wall.



Polishing glass at the Yaohua Glass Factory.



SPOTLIGHT

A special dock for shipping coal in Qinhuangdao.



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COVER: Workers are fixing a coal loading machine at Qinhuangdao harbour.	
Photo by Wang Donghai	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

New Chapter in Sino-British Relations

Last week's signing of the Hongkong accord constitutes a historic landmark in Chinese and world politics. It proves the practicality of the "one country, two systems" concept and heralds a new chapter in Sino-British relations (p. 4 & pp. 6-7).

Sino-Sudanese Ties Grow Stronger

In their recent talks in Beijing, President Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri and Chinese leaders found that they have identical or similar views on major international issues. This is the foundation for the two countries to develop friendly bilateral relations (p. 8).

All-Round Economic Development in 1984

Facts and figures from the State Statistical Bureau show that China's economy made strides in almost all areas in 1984. Big increases were registered in the total value of revenue and foreign trade (p. 10).

Qinhuangdao — China's Energy Port

As one of *Beijing Review's* profiles of the 14 open port cities, the city of Qinhuangdao is featured this week. The only ice-free port in north China, Qinhuangdao has developed into the key transport centre for oil and coal. Though tourists have long flocked to the city's Beidaihe seaside resort, investors and foreign business people are finding the rapidly growing industrial port an added attraction (p. 23).

Mei's Impact Remains in Beijing Opera

Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), China's premier performer of female Beijing opera roles, was an ambassador of Chinese theatre who spread its beauty all over the world. Last October, as the Chinese theatre world marked Mei's 90th birthday, there were many reminders of just how great an influence the opera master made during his half century on the stage (p. 17).

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New Stage for Sino-British Ties

by **MU YOULIN**
International Editor

The Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Question of Hongkong was formally signed Dec. 19 in Beijing by Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It is a historically significant event for the two countries and for world politics, and marks a new stage of all-round development in the history of Sino-British relations.

In the document the Chinese Government declares that it will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hongkong from July 1, 1997. The British Government declares that it will restore Hongkong to China at that time. Thus, the problem of Hongkong, left over from the past, is resolved satisfactorily. The unfortunate history of Hongkong coming under the rule of another country will be put to an end, and the wound left on Chinese people's hearts by the unequal treaties of the past has been healed. The prerequisites for a new stage in Sino-British relations are fulfilled.

The implementation of the joint declaration and the smooth transfer of power in Hongkong will be extremely complicated and difficult. It calls for close co-operation between the two countries. For this purpose, the joint declaration stipulates that a Sino-British Liaison Group be set up.

The Chinese Government has stated that it will carry out the ac-

cord to the letter. Mrs. Thatcher has expressed firm determination to carry out the Hongkong accord and to co-operate closely with China. The British Government has assumed responsibility for maintaining prosperity and stability in Hongkong, and China will co-operate in this regard. It will be a symbol of friendly co-operation to hand over a prosperous and stable Hongkong to China.

Ensuring the stability, prosperity and development of Hongkong is in the common interests of China and Britain. British investments and other economic interests in Hongkong will be protected and given due regard. Hongkong is the economic hub of the Asian-Pacific region. It is now one of the world's three largest financial centres. As Asia and the Pacific share a growing proportion of the world's economy, Hongkong will also play a greater role. It will certainly benefit Britain to strengthen its ties with this region which now has the most development potential in the world.

As the co-operation between China and Britain grows through the settlement of the Hongkong question, a closer all-round relationship will also be established. Now that the joint declaration has been officially signed the two countries' senior leaders will visit each other more often, and trade and other economic and technological exchanges will grow. Cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts will expand.

It is worth mentioning that Mrs. Thatcher has pursued a policy of friendly co-operation with China and has adopted a realistic

attitude towards Hongkong. With a stateswoman's foresight and sagacity in judging the hour and sizing up the situation, she fully understood and approved of the concept of "one country, two systems" put forward by Chinese leaders. She also made wise choices at important junctures in the talks, pushing the talks to a breakthrough and contributing to their success.

As an expression of how highly she values the joint declaration and the friendly co-operation between Britain and China, she has come to Beijing to personally sign the declaration. China warmly welcomes her and cheers her for her singular role in bringing Sino-British relations into a new era.

The Hongkong accord is a major step in China's great task to reunify the motherland. This step will have a tremendous impact on Taiwan's return to the mainland, too. The positive potential of the Hongkong agreement is in a sharp contrast to the Nanking Treaty of 1842, which was the first of a series of unequal treaties which caused old China to disintegrate.

The Sino-British accord will also benefit peace and stability in Asia and all over the world. It has been well received around the world as a good example for peaceful settlement of other issues left by history.

China and Britain hold similar views on safeguarding world peace and on many other international issues. The advent of greater Sino-British co-operation will contribute to consolidating world peace.

Vast Improvement

This letter may seem a little early but I must write to wish you and your entire staff a very happy and prosperous New Year of the Ox. I have subscribed to *Beijing Review* for many years and thoroughly enjoy reading and rereading each issue. I have saved all issues since 1977, when it was better known as *Peking Review*, and I do see the vast improvement. Your new colour cover and new format greatly improves the publication. I enjoy reading it every week and compliment you and the staff on the format, printing, excellent English and topics. It is better than our local newspapers as far as coverage and topics are concerned. Please keep up the excellent work, as I plan to keep my subscription for many more years.

Willard G. Sibus
New York City, USA

Concise Writing

I especially appreciated your succinct and concise contents and vibrant colour covers.

I am particularly interested in the two articles in issue No. 40 about Mayor Li Ruihuan's bold reforms in Tianjin. The articles also told about the realistic plans to rebuild the city and better use the space available. We have tried to use the same ideas of placing certain organizations and enterprises in specific areas here in Latin America, but attempts at comprehensive urban planning almost always come to nothing.

In Guadalajara (the second most populous city in Mexico, after Mexico City) we are conducting a survey called "social classes and urban development" aimed at clarifying power relations in how city space is dis-

tributed, while keeping in mind the origins of our social structure and the stage of development of our present capitalist society. More specifically, we are analysing Guadalajara from 1940 to the present.

I want to exchange various reference materials concerning our survey work with our counterparts in China.

Rosa L. Zamudis O
Guadalajara, Mexico

Development Efforts

In the nearly one year since we started reading *Beijing Review* we have been impressed by:

1. The serious efforts being made at all levels to build a society with material security for all but with cultural and social aspects.

2. The fabulous success of China's economy over the last few years.

3. The important efforts to motivate and mobilize the rural economy through the responsibility system. Indeed, socialism is based on the theory that the people must take responsibility for their lives, activities and existence (rather than depend on the whims of owners of capital, or state bureaucrats).

You keep us aware of China's efforts and imaginative ideas. Keep it up!

John Stewart
Harare, Zimbabwe

Awkward Writing

I must confess that the contents of your articles are very good. But as for the writing style, European readers find it awkward and stiff though your grammar is beyond question. I boldly suggest here that you employ some

native speakers as translators if it is possible. They can certainly make your articles more lively and more consistent in style.

It is interesting to read about China's theatre and movies. Europeans know little about this aspect of China, even those who have a great interest in China's wonderful traditions and present culture.

M. Hermes Pazzolini
Milan, Italy

More Colour Pictures

I appreciate your efforts to supplement reports of current events with your opinions. The competition for world news does not mean that world events should be covered to the neglect of other aspects of reporting. So I think it is especially necessary for your magazine to carry more colour pictures. This is where the present *Beijing Review* fails. Of course, your language is good and your analyses are well put, but more efforts should be made anyway.

Moussa Keita
Nouarhott, Mauritania

Likes Reports on Traditional Medicine

The important position of Chinese traditional medicine is well-known to the people of the world. I hope *Beijing Review* will leave some room for reports on your medical achievements. This will help promote the development and research on African medicine.

China and our country have established a very good co-operative relationship. In order to strengthen the relations between the two countries, we have shown great interest in *Beijing Review*.

Daga Djifa
Togo



EVENTS AND TRENDS

China, Britain Sign Historic HK Pact

The air of history in the making was unmistakable when Premier Zhao Ziyang and visiting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hongkong at Beijing's Great Hall of the People Dec. 19.

A mood of solemnity prevailed in the spacious Western Hall when Thatcher, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Zhao, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission Deng Xiaoping, President Li Xiannian, State Councillor Ji Pengfei and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian walked in to join British guests and members of the Chinese delegation for the official signing ceremony.

Zhao and Thatcher sat down behind a long dark-green table decorated with small Chinese and British flags. They promptly signed both sets of documents and warmly shook hands to the applause of dignitaries from Hongkong. Correspondents from all over the world recorded the historic moment, as the sound of

clicking cameras competed with the rising applause.

In the speeches that followed, the two prime ministers expressed satisfaction over the settlement of the Hongkong issue and pledged to implement the accord to the letter. As Deng and Li greeted Thatcher with toasts and the ap-

plause swelled up again, an air of festivity pervaded the hall.

The signing of the declaration was a historic moment. In accordance with the document, China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hongkong on July 1, 1997. The capitalist system will continue for another 50 years

Zhao: HK Basic Law Before 1990

Premier Zhao Ziyang said on Dec. 19 that China will promulgate a basic law for the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (SAR) before 1990.

The Chinese National People's Congress will approve the establishment of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region in line with the Chinese Constitution, before it establishes a committee to draft a basic law for the region, Zhao said during a meeting with visiting British and Hongkong correspondents. "In the process of its work, the draft committee will solicit the opinions of the Hongkong people," Zhao added.

When asked about reforms in Hongkong's administrative structure,

Zhao said he was not ready to make any comment on changes in the transitional period. But the Chinese premier said he expects Hongkong's people will have a bigger role in running the region. Zhao said he hopes any reforms undertaken during the transitional period will be beneficial to the prosperity and stability of Hongkong and will facilitate the smooth transition of power.

Referring to the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hongkong, Zhao said China means what it says. He pointed out that China has never failed to implement an international agreement, and this was true even during the chaotic "cultural revolution."

Deng On 'One Country, Two Systems'

Deng Xiaoping said Dec. 19 that the Hongkong agreement had removed a shadow over Sino-British relations. He predicted a bright future for cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Deng said in a meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the Hongkong issue dated back one and a half centuries. Unless this question was settled, it would always cast a shadow on relations between China and Britain and their peoples, he said.

Deng told Thatcher that the concept of "one country, two systems" was formulated in accordance with the principle of seeking truth from facts and it could be raised only under the conditions of China. "Facts over

the past two years have proved the feasibility of the concept," he added.

The proposal that the existing system of Hongkong will not change for 50 years after 1997, Deng said, was formulated in the light of China's open policy and endeavour to catch up with the advanced level of the developed countries. "To be well-to-do by the end of the century calls for dozens of years of efforts," he said.

Deng added, "When we speak of two systems, it is because the main part of China, with a population of one billion, is practising socialism. It is under this prerequisite that we allow capitalism to remain in a small part of the country. This will help develop our socialist economy, and so will the policy of opening to the world."

in Hongkong. The concept of "one country, two systems" has been welcomed by Hongkong residents.

The Joint Declaration on Hongkong was initialled on Sept. 26. After that, the Standing Committee of the Sixth National People's Congress endorsed the document on Nov. 14 and the Upper and Lower Houses of the British Parliament debated and approved it earlier this month. The signed

joint declaration will be submitted for final examination and ratification to the Third Session of the Sixth NPC, which is expected to convene next March or April. The British Parliament will also consider the agreement for final ratification before June 30, 1985.

Thatcher's role in settling the Hongkong issue was praised by Chinese leaders. In his speech at the signing ceremony, Zhao said, "Here, I deem it necessary to



Deng and Thatcher.

mention in particular the vision and statesmanship of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She has made a significant and praiseworthy contribution to the satisfactory settlement of the Hongkong question."

The Chinese and British Governments made the decision to begin negotiations on the Hongkong issue in September 1982 during Thatcher's visit to China. In the two years leading up to the initialling of the Hongkong agreement in September 1984, more than 20 rounds of negotiations were held. The sessions ran into roadblocks, but continued on. When the negotiations stalled in April and July of this year, Thatcher dispatched Howe to China and breakthroughs were achieved through the efforts of both sides.

Thatcher was in China just over 30 hours this last week. But her presence at the signing ceremony together with the Chinese leaders will go down in history. Her full schedule in Beijing included a welcoming ceremony at Tian An Men Square, talks with Zhao, meetings with Deng and Hu Yaobang, and banquets hosted by Li and Zhao.

The removal of the Hongkong barrier forecasts closer ties between China and Britain. Premier Zhao has accepted an invitation to visit Britain in the coming year and Queen Elizabeth will make a tour of China sometime in the future.

Deng Xiaoping, Li Xiannian and Zhao congratulate Thatcher following the signing.



Accord Brings Stability to Hongkong

Hongkong's situation has been stable and its economy encouraging since the initialling of the Sino-British joint declaration on the Hongkong question in September.

The Hongkong finance department recently predicted that the rate of economic growth in 1984 would reach 8 per cent.

The exchange rate of the Hongkong dollar rose to 7.81 to the US dollar on the day of the initialling. It has remained in the range of 7.81 and 7.82 over the past two months. The HK dollar has now become a strong international currency.

The Hang Seng index, which reflects the local stock market prices, topped 1,000 points in late September and rose to 1,115 points on December 10.

Local real estate agents were previously worried over policy changes after 1997. The joint declaration, however, assures them that the present land deed period will be extended until the year 2047, and private ownership of real estate will be protected by law.

The Hongkong authorities sold three sections of government land on November 28, the first time since the initialling of the joint declaration. One piece of land for commercial use was sold for HK\$190 million.

The land sales marked a shaking-off of the recession in real estate over the past two years.

Burton Levin, Consul-General of the United States in Hongkong, said that, with recovery of the US economy, many American firms were now ready to increase investment in Hongkong.

Major US investment projects in Hongkong since September include the Strague Electric Company's pouring of HK\$100 million into production of ceramic capacitors and integrated circuits, HK\$200

million from Texaco Incorporation for installing oil supply equipment, the Bank of America's investment of HK\$400 million in a regional data centre, and the Security Pacific National Bank's buying shares in the Bank of Kwangtung.

Other big US companies, including Wang Laboratories Incorporation and Esso Hongkong Ltd, are also increasing their investments in Hongkong to expand their business in Asia and the Pacific region.

US investment in Hongkong now totals US\$4.6 billion.

According to a recent survey, 80 per cent of the 340 Japanese consortia and firms in Hongkong are confident of investing in Hongkong and 30 per cent of them are increasing investment.

Japanese firms have invested a total of US\$2.4 billion in Hongkong so far.

After the initialling of the joint declaration, the two Hongkong currency-issuing banks — the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of Hongkong — said that they will not move out of Hongkong but will remain after 1997.

Large amounts of funds from Southeast Asian countries are also flowing into the local real estate and money markets.

Hongkong is also regarded as a bridge reaching the huge Chinese market, as the ties between Hongkong and the hinterland of China will become closer in the future, and China will raise funds to import technology and equipment from overseas, mostly through Hongkong.

Hongkong, as a world financial and shipping centre and a major trade port in the Far East, will become increasingly important to China's modernization, and China's economic growth will in turn promote the farmers' prosperity.

The two years before September 1984 were a period in which Hongkong was facing a historical turning point, with many local residents understandably worried about the future. The so-called question of confidence was exaggerated by some people and used by speculators to cause fluctuations on the currency and stock markets.

The value of the Hongkong dollar dropped markedly three times during that period. In late September 1983, the Hongkong dollar fell to over 9 to the US dollar — an all-time low.

The initialling of the joint declaration has put an end to the two-year chaos. Most local residents regard the joint declaration as better than expected. With the worries gradually removed, they are now more confident of Hongkong's future.

Sudan President Holds China Talks

Sudanese President Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri visited China Dec. 10-15 at the invitation of President Li Xiannian.

During his visit, Nimeri held talks with Li and met with Chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang. A Dec. 15 joint communique said that leaders

of both nations hold identical or similar views on the current international situation and many major international issues. Both sides praised the other's peaceful foreign policy and economic policies, the communique said.

Zhao met Nimeri Dec. 14 to discuss a broad range of issues. Re-



President Li Xiannian holds talks with Sudanese President Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri.

ferring to China's current economic restructuring, Zhao said it would be difficult to build socialism without invigorating the economy. "Socialism which is not based on the growth of the productive forces is meaningless," he said. "China is a socialist country and will continue in the future to adhere firmly to the socialist system."

Nimeri said, "We regard China as a friend of the developing countries. The relations between the Sudanese and Chinese peoples are firm and the friendship is profound."

Addressing foreign policy, Nimeri said, "The Sudan will protect itself from external interference and the threat of hegemonism." Turning to domestic issues, the Sudanese leader said, "At present, the Sudan, too, is carrying out economic restructuring and following new policies so as to eliminate unemployment."

In his one-hour meeting with the Sudanese president, Deng said that world problems could be sum-

marized into two major ones: the East-West question, or the question of peace, and the North-South question.

"The struggle for peace is arduous, but it promises hope of success," Deng said.

Deng pointed out that peace is beneficial to the people of the world, especially to the third world. "War is closely linked with hegemonism. We should unite with all peace-loving countries and people in the world in the struggle against hegemonism," he added.

Deng described the third world as the main force in the struggle for peace. He said that the North-South question is one of practical and immediate significance for the third world countries, who must first rid themselves of poverty. The North-South issue should also be of concern to the developed countries, Deng said.

There exists conditions for South-South co-operation, which, in turn, will promote North-South co-operation, Deng noted.

Turning to China's domestic situation, Deng said that the economic restructuring and the efforts to lower the average age of cadres are the latest strategic policy decisions. "Ours is a socialist country. The people's living standards will be raised along with every step of the country's development," he said.

"The current policies permit some people to become well-off first," Deng said, "but this will not give rise to a new bourgeoisie and millionaires."

Deng told the Sudanese president that the series of policies formulated at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee six years ago had produced the desired results. However, he said, China has not changed enough. He said he envisages remarkable changes over the next 10 years or so, and he predicted that tremendous changes will take place in the first 30 to 50 years of the next century. "By that time, China will have reached the level

of the developed countries," Deng said.

Nimeri said he realizes that China's changes have resulted from reforms and is happy about the achievements China has made in its reform work.

On Dec. 15, a trade protocol, a loan agreement and exchanges of notes were signed between China and the Sudan.

Economic Ties With Africa Grow

It is China's established policy to further increase economic and technological co-operation with African countries, Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun said on Dec. 14 at the end of his official visit to Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Mali and Liberia.

Friendship between the Chinese and African people is solid, Tian said. They have similar destinies and common interests. Most importantly, "they are all developing countries of the third world," he added.

Tian said that the difficulties African countries have encountered in developing their economies mainly stem from the unreasonable international economic order, which has left many African countries unable to free themselves from exploitation.

Tian praised the third Lome Convention between the European Economic Community and developing countries. He said he believed it will play a positive role in promoting North-South dialogue at a time when global discussion is deadlocked.

China has always highly valued Sino-African economic co-operation, which has yielded good results for both sides over the past 20 years, Tian said. China has sent experts and provided economic and

technological aid to some African countries to help develop their industry, agriculture, transportation and water conservation works.

During his visit Tian signed new agreements on economic and technological co-operation with the governments of Sierra Leone,

Benin and Liberia. China will provide them with interest-free loans to be used mainly for projects already under construction, to consolidate projects now in operation and to build some small and medium agricultural, industrial, cultural and health projects.

All-Round Economic Growth in 1984

Facts and figures from the State Statistical Bureau show that China's economy developed in almost all areas in 1984. Big increases were registered in the total value of foreign trade and revenue.

Another Good Harvest

In 1984 China's peasants produced yet another rich harvest, following output increases for many years running. According to preliminary statistics, grain output topped 400 million tons, 12 million tons more than in 1983. About 5.5 million tons of cotton was harvested, an increase of almost 20 per cent over last year. Of the oil-bearing crops, peanuts, sunflower seeds and others all recorded increases, except for rapeseed which decreased because it was not planted as widely. The output of all the oil crops combined is expected to increase by more than 4 per cent. The output of sugar, cured

tobacco, jute, bluish dogbane and other cash crops all increased.

There was also an unusually large increase in the output of pork, beef, mutton, dairy products and eggs. More than 6.9 million hectares of land were forested during the national tree-planting campaign this year.

More and more surplus rural workers turned to non-agricultural production. To date about a quarter of the rural labour force is working in industry, construction, transportation, commerce, catering and the service trades. Incomes from these trades are up 20.7 per cent over the same period last year. Some farmers have moved to the towns and cities to set up factories and shops.

Groups of families specializing in growing grain, raising pigs, breeding fish or planting trees have emerged in the countryside. According to survey by the Hebei

Zuixiang Restaurant in Beijing, run by the farmers of Shandong Province.



provincial statistical bureau, 153 out of 1,018 families earned more than 10,000 yuan from their specialized trades, 15 per cent of the total. At present the specialized families are diversifying their business activities, expanding their business scale and developing towards joint operations.

Improved Industrial Economic Results

From January to November the national industrial output value came to 632.5 billion yuan (according to 1980 constant prices), up 13.1 per cent from the corresponding period last year. The output of crude oil, which had been hovering around 100 million tons for the past six years, topped 110 million tons for the first time this year. The output of coal in this period increased by 9.9 per cent over the same period last year, and electricity increased by 7.1 per cent.

The number of large refrigerators and colour TV sets produced has doubled or redoubled. The increase in the amount of cassette tape recorders, washing machines, cameras, electric fans, woollen goods and beer produced ranged from 25 per cent to 51 per cent.

Industrial production in 1984 was well co-ordinated and developed rather quickly. The average monthly increase was more than 10 per cent, except for January, in which the increase was 8 per cent.

The reforms in the economic structure, the consolidation of enterprises and technological transformation have invigorated enterprises and improved economic results. Between January and October productivity in state-run industries increased by 8.6 per cent over the same period last year; while the amount of losses went down by 20 per cent. During the year 622 industrial products won national quality awards. With the exception of traditional Chinese goods, all of these products are up

to advanced international levels in their major quality criteria.

Investments Increased

By the end of October 47.6 billion yuan had been invested in building state-run enterprises and institutions, an increase of 21.1 per cent over the same period last year. It is expected that the year's investment will surpass 73 billion yuan, up 13 billion yuan from the previous year.

A group of large and medium construction projects were completed, raising China's capacity to supply energy and improve communications and transportation. Included in these projects were 1,119 kilometres of new railway lines.

China has also improved the technological transformation of existing enterprises. During the year the state invested about 40 billion yuan to upgrade and transform equipment, and more new advanced technologies were introduced from abroad.

Brisk Domestic Market

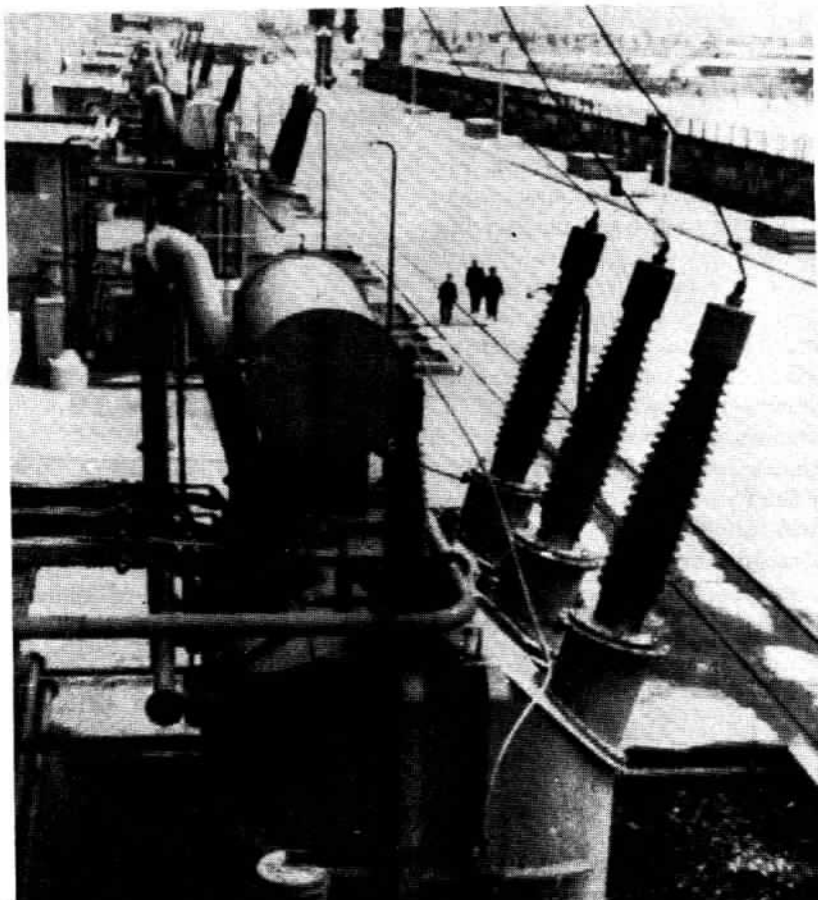
By the end of last October retail sales had reached 252.3 billion yuan, an increase of 14.7 per cent over the same period last year. Of this, food sales increased by 15.3 per cent, clothing sales by 6.4 per cent and sales of consumer goods by 18.4 per cent. The sales of fast food, nutriments, sweetmeats and pastries, woollen goods, silk and satin, knitting wool and woollen clothes increased by a wide margin. The sales of electric fans, TV sets, cassette tape recorders, washing machines and household refrigerators all increased by more than 50 per cent.

Both urban and rural fair trade has been brisk. The volume of business has amounted to more than 40 billion yuan, 10 per cent more than in the previous year.

Developing World Trade

According to customs statistics, between January and October,

The Gezhouba Hydroelectric Plant has fulfilled the state plan for the year 40 days ahead of schedule.



China's imports and exports were valued at US\$42.4 billion. This represents an increase of 21.1 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Exports rose by 17.8 per cent and imports by 24.5 per cent.

Among the exports, cereal, oil crops, tea, natural fibre, petroleum and petroleum products all increased by a wide margin. Of the imports, while grain, cotton, edible oil and sugar dropped, industrial raw materials such as timber, paper pulp, synthetic fibre, iron ore, and rolled steel, cars, TV sets, and chemical products increased considerably.

The use of foreign investment has been stepped up. Between January and September China used US\$1.66 billion worth of foreign investment, double what was used in that period in 1983. China also signed agreements on foreign investment involving US\$1.91 billion. Altogether 239 more joint ventures were approved, a figure larger than the total number for the previous five years. The money involved in foreign projects and labour co-operation reached US\$390 million, up 34.7 per cent from the same period last year.

Higher Revenues

A few years ago, because of poor economic results and the fact that agricultural and sideline products were purchased expensively and sold cheaply, the state did not earn much income. But in the past two years China has reformed the tax system, thus ensuring a steady increase of income. In 1983 the state's revenue increased by 12.5 billion yuan, and between January and October of 1984, the revenue increased by 19 per cent over the same period in 1983. The increase for these 10 months was more than the total increase for the whole year of 1983.

At the same time, the incomes of people all over the country in-

creased considerably. According to statistics from the People's Bank of China, between January and October 18.4 per cent more funds were used to buy agricultural and sideline products than in the same period last year. Cash paid to urban workers and staff increased by 16.7 per cent. Of this, wage increases accounted for 12.8 per cent, bonuses for 26.8 per cent, retirement pension for 20.1 per cent and other payments for 30.8 per cent.

Remaining Problems

But despite a year of progress, China's economy still faces some difficulties. Communications and transportation lag far behind the needs of the developing economy. Passenger traffic is especially crowded. Electricity is still in short supply. In the fourth quarter, for example, some electric power plants were forced to stop power generation because they lacked coal.

Light and textile products still can't keep up with the changing demands of consumers. The development of new industries and technologies is hindered by the lack of capital, materials and technologies. Reforms in the pricing and wage systems also face many difficulties due to a lack of understanding.

Book Exporter Marks 35th Year

The China International Book Trading Corporation, which celebrated its 35th anniversary this month, has achieved great success by exporting millions of Chinese books and periodicals to 182 countries and regions.

Founded on Dec. 1, 1949, the Chinese publications centre (known as *Guoji Shudian*) is aimed at pro-

moting understanding and cultural exchange between the peoples of China and other countries, developing co-operation between international publishers and serving Chinese and foreign readers.

Since China's policy of opening to the world was put into practice a few years ago, the corporation has rapidly expanded its scope and scale of business. Its business now includes:

- Exporting 14 foreign-language periodicals produced in China and approximately 1,000 different Chinese newspapers and magazines, selling books wholesale to foreign book companies on preferential terms and sending Chinese and foreign-language journals directly to 300,000 subscribers abroad;

- Exporting foreign-language and Chinese books, picture books, traditional Chinese paintings, calligraphy originals and prints, papercuts and straw patchworks, etc.;

- Organizing Chinese publishing exhibitions abroad, including participation in important international book fairs. More than 100 such exhibitions have been held in the past few years;

- Co-operating with foreign publishing houses in publishing Chinese publications in various languages;

- Importing books and picture books on the social sciences and humanities published abroad; and

- Producing and selling microfilm copies of Chinese journals and classic books and accepting foreign orders for microfilming books on special subjects.

The corporation has established business ties with book companies in more than 90 countries and regions. Representatives from 37 book companies all over the world recently came to take part in the 35th anniversary celebration held in Beijing.

World Economy

Slowdown Predicted for 1985

by LI CHANGJIU

THE world economy performed better in 1984 than the previous year, yet the economic recovery in industrialized countries has been far from steady and development has been uneven. Many economists foresee a slowdown in the economy's growth in the coming year.

The International Monetary Fund forecasted a 3.7 per cent growth rate in the world economy for 1984, 1.6 per cent higher than 1983's rate. And the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade estimated the increase in world trade volume at 5-7 per cent.

The United States and Japan have led the Western industrialized world in the economic recovery after an unusual four-year recession. The United States was the first to enjoy reduced unemployment and lower inflation (about 4 per cent). The US economy's growth rate is reported to be an enviable 6 per cent for 1984. This recovery has been spurred along by high interest rates, trade protectionism and an expansion in arms production. Japan has lowered its inflation and unemployment rates and will achieve a growth rate of above 5 per cent this year.

In rather painful contrast to the two economic leaders, Western Europe has been inching forward with only modest economic gains. The economic growth rate for 10 European Economic Community

members is estimated at an average of only 2.2 per cent in 1984, 1.4 per cent higher than in 1983. This sluggish growth has failed to produce new jobs, and the unemployment rate has climbed to an estimated 11 per cent.

The economic pulse has quickened in most of the East European countries that have undertaken economic reforms of one kind or another. Romania's gross industrial output increased by 6.2 per cent in the first nine months of this year, and Hungary's output was up 2.6 per cent. The Soviet Union experienced an output growth of 4.4 per cent, slightly higher than last year but somewhat impaired by another lean year in agriculture. According to the newspaper *Die Welt* of the Federal Republic of Germany, Moscow has purchased 46 million tons of grain in recent months. This means the Soviet Union will have to spend a quarter of its export earnings on grain imports.

Today, economic development in the third world has become a major issue for world debate.

The overall picture for the developing countries brightened somewhat in 1984. The estimated 6 per cent growth rate enjoyed by several Asian nations tops the growth rate of most industrialized countries.

However, most third world countries didn't fare so well because of the lingering effects of the West's economic crisis. The

average gross national product increase in Latin America will be 1 per cent or less this year, while foreign debt incurred by Latin American countries has snowballed to more than US\$350 billion, plunging them into deep financial trouble.

The most desperate situation has arisen in some parts of Africa, where several million people are starving and hundreds of thousands have died of famine as a result of several years of severe drought. All African countries have suffered from falling prices for their primary products. Despite an estimated average growth rate of 3.2 per cent, many countries on the continent face severe economic woes and social crises.

A slowdown in the world economy's growth seems inevitable in 1985. Such a slowdown has been forecasted by many economic research institutions. Growth should fall to 4 per cent or lower in the United States, as the US budget deficit, huge military expenditures and a trade imbalance constitute a high hurdle. According to the US Office of Management and Budget, the budget deficit will likely soar to a record US\$210 billion in 1985. And some economists warn that if the deficit is not reduced quickly, the US economy will fall back into recession.

Economic growth will likely be below 5 per cent in Japan, and should linger at 2 per cent in Western Europe. It will probably remain at a low level in most developing countries, with the exception of some bright spots in the Asian and Pacific region. The Soviet Union has indicated that its 1985 gross industrial output will not surpass the 1984 level.

Trade frictions between the in-

dustrialized countries will probably increase in 1985. Protectionism will become more rampant, and the world money market will fluctuate more violently.

Bujumbura

Summit Seeks to Ease Worries

by MA WEIMIN

THE civil war in Chad and the drought and famine across Africa were the primary topics of discussion at the 11th French-African summit held Dec. 11-12 in Bujumbura, capital of the Republic of Burundi. As security and economic development have been the major issues in all the previous summits, the Burundi meeting followed the set pattern.

A total of 37 delegations from France and French-speaking African countries attended the conference. The summit reflected the desire by more and more African countries to seek solutions to economic problems by boosting South-South and North-South co-operation.

The Chadian issue, for the fourth time, was the focus of French-African summit. This, in itself, shows the complexity of Chad's problems. The withdrawal of French troops from Chad, while more than 2,000 Libyan troops remain in northern Chad, left some African leaders confused and worried. The Bujumbura summit, for France, was an opportunity to remove some of these worries.

The French press said that African trust in France "has been shaken." Some observers feel the decision by leaders of the Ivory Coast and three other countries to boycott the summit was

Meanwhile, economic exchanges and co-operation between developing countries will continue to grow and South-South co-operation will be further strengthened.

related to the question of trust. President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire also planned to skip the summit and only changed his mind after a visit from French President Francois Mitterrand.

While the African nations were most worried about Chad, the French delegation hoped to put the focus of the summit on the issues of economy and development. Mitterrand's Dec. 11 speech dealt mainly with economic problems. He stressed that he wouldn't allow Africa to suffer further economic woes and pledged that France will spend 0.15 per cent of its gross national product on African development. He once again proposed the establishment of an African special fund, to which France will donate 500 million francs (US\$53 million).

At the end of his half-hour speech, Mitterrand used only two minutes to talk about security and the Chadian issue. It is reported, however, that private meetings between the government heads, especially between Mitterrand and Chadian President Hissene Habre, were focused on Chad's security problems.

Mitterrand declared that France will not accept a split government in Chad. But France will not police Africa's problems, he said. "France knows when to take risks, but will not take any senseless risk," he said. To safeguard the

stability of Chad and northern Africa, French troops will limit their activity to the area around 16 degrees north latitude. This is a "basic factor" of French policy, said Mitterrand.

The closing communique from the summit said the meeting was held in a "friendly and understanding" atmosphere, but mentioned nothing about the Chadian issue. Some observers speculated that Africa recovered its trust in France at the summit. Yet others had a different view.

Habre termed the summit a success, while noting, "We have our own analysis while France has its own." Views of both sides "are not totally different" and "are getting close," said the Chadian president.

Mitterrand summed up the meeting as "quite good." He went so far as to say, "Some African people have more trust in the French Government than some French do."

Some political observers, after hearing Mitterrand's summit speech, feel France is taking a new stance in Chad. The *Le Monde* report quoted a "dependable" source as saying France will not use arms to force the withdrawal of Libyan troops unless they cross the "red line" (16th parallel).

France feels it has escaped military involvement in Chad. This is significant for the French both domestically and diplomatically. On the one hand, the Chadian issue involves a matter of "prestige" for France and is a local question unsolved for many years. On the other hand, the withdrawal of French troops from Chad and the efforts to improve French-Libyan relations have regional influence. France is still trying to seek a balance between the two.

Southern Africa

Angola Proposes Cuban Withdrawal

by YANG BAOZHU and
HU TAIRAN

SIGNS of change have recently appeared in talks on a Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

At the end of last month, Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, in a message to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, put forward his plan for a Cuban pullout from Angola. The proposal broke the deadlock which has existed in southern Africa since Angola, South Africa and the United States reached an agreement on military disengagement early this year.

Dos Santos proposed that Angola and Cuba begin withdrawing 5,000 Cuban troops after a United Nations' peace-keeping force is readied in Namibia and the number of South African soldiers is reduced to 1,500. The proposal calls for the withdrawal of other Cuban troops in southern Angola within three years after the UN troops are in place. Cuban troops stationed in Cabinda Province and northern Angola, which are guarding the nation's important economic zones and the capital city Luanda, will be withdrawn when Angola and Cuba decide the time is right, according to the president's plan.

Cuban troops entered Angola in 1975 when a full-scale war broke out after the nation won its independence. Over the past nine years some 150,000 Cubans have been sent to Angola. At present there are still 25,000 Cuban soldiers and thousands of Cuban civilian workers in Angola.

As soon as Dos Santos' plan was announced, the Cuban Government expressed its support. South Africa also welcomed the with-

drawal plan in principle, yet the South Africans suggested that the Cuban troops be pulled out at the same time as South African troops are removed from Namibia. The South Africans also proposed that all Cuban troops be withdrawn within 12 weeks. Negotiations on the withdrawal continue.

The issue of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola has always been complicated, full of conflicts and struggles. With support from the United States, South Africa is still occupying Namibia and southern Angola. The South African regime insists on a Cuban withdrawal before Namibia is granted independence. US officials have raised the same pullout demand when they talked about improving US-Cuban relations.

The attitudes of South Africa and the United States have hindered the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia. The UN Security Council pointed out in a resolution last year that Namibia's

New Caledonia

Trend Towards Independence

by ZHANG QIHUA

THE French Government's move to send troops and a diplomatic envoy to New Caledonia, France's largest overseas territory, has helped curb the violence and ease tensions in the South Pacific island group, where pro-independence groups have been pushing their cause.

The recent tension was sparked by the Nov. 18 election, which many pro-independence groups boycotted. With half the voters abstaining, the major independence party, the Rally for Caledonia and the Republic won more than 70

independence cannot be held hostage to the demands of South Africa and the United States.

In recent years Angola, while keeping good relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba, has tried to improve its relations with countries in the West in the hope of bringing peace to the region and revitalizing its economy.

Meanwhile, Cuba began adjusting its relations with the United States and has expressed a readiness to minimize its military ties with Angola. Under this situation, Angola began to show signs of flexibility on the issue of Cuban withdrawal.

Heavily burdened by its huge military budget, which totalled some US \$2.8 billion last year, the South African regime also desires some change in the southern African situation. At the beginning of this year South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha remarked that his country did not want to bear alone the heavy political and military burdens of Namibia. For some time now the United States has been stepping up its diplomatic manoeuvres in the region.

per cent of the votes. Angered by the election, pro-independence groups destroyed military police outposts, set up roadblocks, cut off transportation, held demonstrations and even participated in armed conflicts with security forces.

On Dec. 1 native Melanesians, headed by the separatist Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), hoisted the flag of Kanaky (the Melanesian name for New Caledonia) at a military police station and declared the establishment of a provisional government of the Republic of Kanaky.

The territorial strife prompted strong reactions from various parties in France. Some called for military suppression and some voiced support for independence, but most expressed the hope that the problems can be solved through dialogue.

On the evening of Dec. 1, French President Francois Mitterrand called an emergency cabinet meeting, the first such meeting since he took office, to consider actions to ease the tension on the islands. Three days later the French National Assembly also fiercely debated the issues.

The French Government hopes to get the various factions in New Caledonia to negotiate a political resolution so the situation will not grow worse. The government has backed the right of the New Caledonian people to choose their own government and has agreed to move up a planned 1989 independence referendum to 1986. Immediately following the crisis Paris dispatched a representative to New Caledonia to negotiate the details for carrying out self-determination.

New Caledonia covers 19,000 square kilometres and has a population of 145,000. In the early 1850s France colonialists set up a port on the island at Noumea, which was to become the capital. Later Europeans came to live on the islands. In 1853 France formally listed the islands as one of its overseas territories.

Since then the Europeans (more than 37 per cent of the island's population) and the native Melanesians (about 42 per cent) have become two social forces and national disputes and conflicts had occurred between them. The Melanesians and some other political groups have a strong desire for independence from French rule.

Since World War II the wave of anti-colonialism has been irresistible. It is unavoidable

that New Caledonia will achieve autonomy or independence. But the islands, which are rich in mineral resources, hold strong attractions for France. Nickel deposits there are among the largest in the world. In addition, France has naval and naval air force bases in Noumea and a nuclear test base in the South Pacific. French economic

and military interests are directly influenced by the situation on the islands, so France will not readily become a bystander and give up its interests on the islands.

The French Government's envoy has held talks with a representative of FLNKS. The two sides agreed to release political prisoners, remove the roadblocks and begin formal talks.

Puerto Rico

Election Reflects National Desire

by **SUN GUOWEI**

LAST month's victory by the pro-independence Popular Democratic Party in Puerto Rico reflects a growing desire among the Puerto Rican people for independence from the United States.

Rafael Hernandez Colon, the Popular Democratic candidate, defeated New Progressive Party candidate Carlos Romero Barcelo in the November 7 governor's race. The election marks the end of eight years in the governor's mansion by the pro-statehood New Progressives.

The Popular Democratic Party, one of four major political parties in Puerto Rico, opposes any plans by the United States to incorporate Puerto Rico as the 51st state and insists on its present self-governing "Commonwealth" position in association with the United States. The Party also hopes to attain more autonomy from the United States.

Puerto Rico was occupied by Spain at the beginning of the 16th century, and fell to the United States after the Spanish-American War in 1898. Puerto Rico adopted its own constitution in 1952 and became a Commonwealth of the United States. Though the Puerto Ricans have internal autonomy, the

United States directly controls Puerto Rico's defence, diplomacy and customs. Washington also enjoys the right to abolish the acts passed by the Puerto Rican Congress. US business monopolies control Puerto Rico's economic lifelines.

US President Ronald Reagan declared in January 1982 that he favoured statehood for Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, the US Government accelerated the militarization of the island. The United States made use of Puerto Rico's prime strategic and transportation location to turn it into a key military base in the western hemisphere. Tens of thousands of US soldiers are stationed there, and military manoeuvres are often held in Puerto Rico and in its surrounding waters.

In order to end US colonial rule, the Puerto Rican people have waged tireless struggles for many years. During recent years they have also attempted to gain international support. Despite US efforts to keep the Puerto Rican question off the United Nations' agenda, the United Nations Decolonization Committee resolved on August 24, 1984 that the Puerto Rican people should be free to exercise their right of self-determination and their sovereignty and full political equality should be recognized.

Mei's Impact Remains in Beijing Opera

by **LING YANG**
Our Staff Writer

MEI Lanfang (1894-1961), China's premier performer of female Beijing opera roles, was an ambassador of Chinese theatre who spread its beauty all over the world. Last October, as the Chinese theatre world marked Mei's 90th birthday, there were many reminders of just how great an influence the opera master made during his half-century on the stage.

Mei was born in Beijing. He grew up amidst Beijing opera, as both his grandfather and father were performers adept at portraying female characters. And his uncle was a two-stringed fiddle accompanist for the opera.

Mei began studying Beijing opera at the age of 8, made his

debut at 11, joined an opera troupe at 14 and was nationally known before he reached 20.

Successor and Creator

Mei inherited 200 years of Beijing opera development from his predecessors, carried forward the fine tradition and came up with his own independent creations to advance the art form.

Over his 50-year career, Mei played no fewer than 100 roles. These included the highest-ranking imperial concubines, daughters of wealthy and influential families, ogresses in fairy tales and legendary women generals. Mei portrayed women who faced different fates and experiences. His characters were sometimes dignified, elegant, kind-hearted and upright, and sometimes courageous, resolute, lively and vivacious. His portrayals demonstrated the fine

moral character and strong personality of Chinese women. Mei—with his unique gait, eye expressions, gestures, costumes and ornaments—had a style of his own. The beauty of his performances was that he used simplicity to make profound statements. His performances, which were beyond compare, launched China's theatrical arts to new heights.

When Mei first stepped on the stage in 1905, China was still a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society. Influenced by the turbulent reality of life, he created and performed a series of new operas detesting old China and its ways. These operas attacked the oppression of women, forced marriages, old superstitions and corrupt official circles. In the 1930s, enraged by the Japanese invasion and the government's humiliating submission to force, Mei again

Left: Mei Lanfang as Goddess Luo in "The Goddess of River Luo."
Right: Mei Lanfang and Charles Chaplin in Los Angeles, 1930.



created and performed an opera depicting the heroic fight put up by a female general against foreign aggression in ancient times. Another anti-Japanese opera told of the nostalgia of a homeless and miserable ordinary woman. Mei later grew a moustache and he did not shave it for eight years until victory was won over Japan to show resistance against the invasion.

Artistically, Mei was the first to break down the convention that female characters usually stressed only the art of singing, or one's figure, expressions and acrobatic skills. Instead, he combined many facets into a single character to fully develop the role in line with the plot. His pioneering efforts greatly enriched female characters in Beijing opera.

While refining the sword- and mace-play of earlier Beijing opera repertoires, Mei intertwined martial arts sword skills with song and dance to create a new combined art form. Using the swordplay, Mei was able to depict the feelings of a sentimental and knowledgeable beautiful girl of 2,000 years ago. In the opera, the girl's husband, an obstinate, self-opinionated but brave duke, kills himself after being defeated by the enemy. Mei's exquisite portrayal of the girl's tender feelings, her vigour, sorrow and despair, and her ability to force a smile, invited sympathy and sighs from opera audiences.

In his excellent long-sleeve dance, Mei played a long-living fairy who proposes a toast to a grandma and the other fairy maidens. Again, in a silk-ribbon dance based on ancient Buddhist grotto frescoes, Mei depicted the graceful bearing of a fairy scattering flowers, and, with two colourful ribbons tied to his body, he danced with the elegance of a fairy flying against the wind.

Mei also created a horsetail whisk dance, a plate dance, a

feather dance, a floral sickle dance and a catching glow-worm dance.

In the early 1920s, Mei Lanfang was the first to introduce the melodious *erhu* (a two-stringed bowed instrument) into the Beijing opera orchestra. Mei portrayed an ancient beauty and revealed to the audience the beauty's complicated inner world—how she endured humiliation in order to carry out an important mission and how she yearned for her hometown after her country was subjugated. The *erhu* music brought the emotions into sharp relief. Today, the *erhu* has become one of the major orchestral instruments for Beijing opera.

Drawing inspiration from traditional Chinese paintings, Mei improved the colour, style and design of Beijing opera costumes. His stage innovations also included changes in hair styles, make-up techniques, stage sets and lighting and introduction of Western orchestral accompaniment.

Mei's presence illuminated China's theatrical stage for more than half of this century. In 1959, when he was 65 years old, Mei performed his last opera, *Mu Guiying Takes Command*. With his sedate manner, sweet singing style, mellow voice and polished acting, he portrayed the thoughts and feelings of a patriotic female general in ancient China.

Serving the People

Despite his prestige, Mei remained modest and was always approachable.

Some of his stage co-performers recalled how this great master was considerate when they made mistakes. He was often able to work around misplaced stage props and cover for actors who forgot their lines. When supporting actors apologized for making a mistake, Mei always had a few comforting words and some pointers for future improvement. He often gave

aid and support to his poorer colleagues and friends. Even when he himself was in financial difficulties, he sold his property to help them.

Mei was just as kind to the thousands upon thousands of opera lovers who respected and admired him. Shortly after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, Mei travelled from Shanghai to Beijing to attend the first national conference on literature and art. When the train passed through Bengbu, a city by the Huai River, there was a delay because the railway bridge had been damaged by the war and had not yet been repaired. The passengers had to get off the train and wait at a nearby teahouse. When the local people heard that the world-famous opera master was in the teahouse, they hurried over. Within a few minutes, the narrow street was thronged with people from all directions. They applauded repeatedly, demanding to see the stage star. Mei walked to the window and heartily greeted them. When the crowd asked him to sing a few arias, he cheerfully sang, one song after another. When the impromptu concert had ended, he told one of his travelling companions, "Now I somewhat understand the meaning of serving the people."

In the years to come, Mei won a wider audience and the deep love of the people. In addition to Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities, he travelled to smaller cities and towns throughout the provinces to give performances. People in factories, mines and villages enjoyed his singing and graceful dancing. He once gave a special performance for People's Liberation Army soldiers at a playground in Guangzhou and drew 50,000 fans. And there was the time he performed for workers in a square in Beijing while it was pouring rain. Despite the rain, no one left to find cover. The master con-

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Mei Lanfang greets miners in a coal-pit in western Beijing, January 1958.

tinued his performance and his audience stayed with him. Said Mei of his fans, "I was greatly inspired by the enthusiastic audiences, which pushed my performing art a big step forward."

During his lifetime, Mei accepted and personally instructed some 100 students. He served as president of the Chinese Opera Research Institute and the China Beijing Opera Theatre. He was elected as a deputy to the National People's Congress and as a standing committee member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He was also elected vice-president of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and the Chinese Dramatists' Association. Mei was determined to dedicate himself to the cause of communism and joined the Communist Party of China in 1959.

He Belongs to the World

Mei was the first performing artist to take China's opera art to

foreign stages and enjoy international acclaim. Mei led opera troupes to visit Japan three times, the first in 1919. In Japan he was praised as an "outstanding performer of the Oriental art," whose performances display "both classic and youthful flavour."

Mei and his colleagues visited the United States in late 1929, just as the US economy entered the Great Depression. The bright, colourful Beijing opera was in fashion everywhere and became a favourite topic of conversation. Tickets for the two-week New York premiere were sold out only three days after they went on sale. The highest-priced ticket, US\$5, brought US\$18 on the street.

Mei's American tour enjoyed critical acclaim as well as popularity among the audiences. Of Mei and Beijing opera, drama critic Justin Brooks Atkinson wrote in *The New York Times*, "You may feel yourself vaguely in contact, not with the sensation of the moment, but with the strange

ripeness of centuries. Other critics noted the parallels between Beijing opera and Greek and Elizabethan theatre.

While in the United States, Mei met with famous artists like comic actor Charles Chaplin and singer-actor Paul Robeson. He was awarded honorary degrees from the University of Southern California and Pomona College.

In 1935 Mei introduced the art of Beijing opera to the Soviet Union. There, theatre greats Konstantin Stanislavski, Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko and Vsevolod Meyerhold; film director Sergei Eisenstein; and German dramatist Bertolt Brecht all expressed their respect for Mei's talents. They came to the same conclusion: there are superb acting forms in Chinese drama worth learning from.

Posthumous Honour

Mei died of a heart attack in 1961 at the age of 67.

Though the master is dead, his art and unique style live on today. The repertory of the Mei Lanfang school is still one of the most regularly staged and welcomed operas on the Beijing opera stage. Several dozen operas from the Mei school were staged last October in Beijing and Taizhou, his hometown in eastern China, in commemoration of his 90th birthday. The stage performers included Mei's students, former associates, and professionals and amateurs from the Mei school, including Mei's son and daughter and guests from the United States and Hongkong.

Other activities included a commemorative meeting which was attended by 1,000 people, and symposiums about Mei's work. There were also films, television programmes and broadcasts describing Mei's life and his art. In addition to numerous articles of

(Continued on p. 34.)

Buddhism and Chinese Culture

by REN JIYU

BUDDHISM originated on the Indian subcontinent and spread into China along the Silk Road. It soon was integrated with traditional Chinese culture and became a part of it. Historians are still not unanimous as to the exact date Buddhism was introduced into China. In my opinion, it was first introduced into China in 2 BC (the first year of the reign of Emperor Ai Di of the Western Han Dynasty).

A Chinese version of Buddhist scripture appeared after 70 AD and attracted the attention of the upper classes of society. But the earliest Buddhists were a small number of foreign merchants from the Western Regions, and for them temples were built in the big cities in the hinterland. The Chinese were forbidden by law to be Buddhists.

In the beginning, Buddhism in China was confined to the imperial families and aristocrats. It became popular in China between the third and the eighth centuries.

During that period, Buddhist scriptures of various Indian sects were translated into the Han and Tibetan languages and other languages of the minorities in northwestern China. So far, the Han and Tibetan translations lead the world in volume as well as variety.

As far as content is concerned, Buddhist culture was introduced into China in the following four ways:

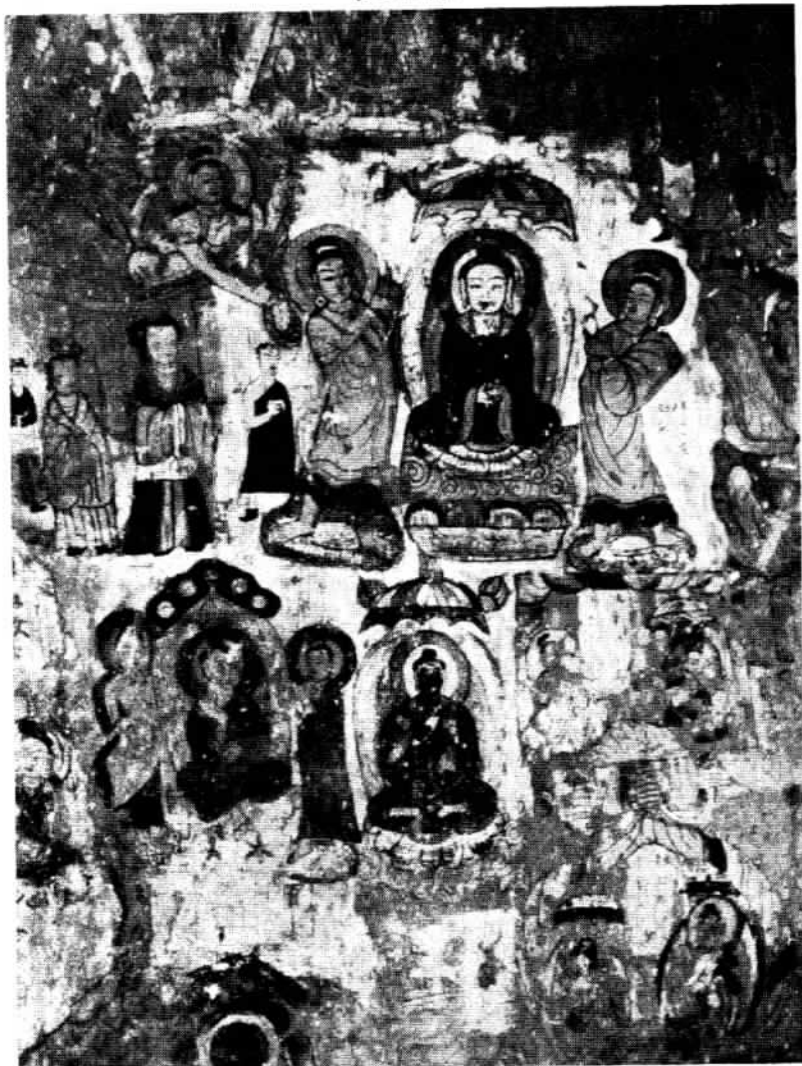
1. Books on the elementary knowledge of Buddhism.
2. Books about the system and norms of Buddhist monastic life.
3. Biographies and stories of Sakyamuni and other prominent Buddhist figures.
4. Books on the religious theory and practice of Buddhism.

The first two were mainly circulated within the Buddhist organizations, while the influence of the last two was felt far beyond the enclosure of the monasteries. They influenced and were influenced by the social trends and cultural traditions of the time.

The history of Chinese Buddhism indicates that there are some laws in the dissemination and exchange of different cultures. There are external and internal conditions necessary for a foreign culture to take root and grow in another nation. Buddhism was first introduced into China's hinterland during the Han Dynasty in the early first century, when Chinese society was facing a serious crisis. People suffered desperate poverty and misery because of the

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Murals on the north wall of Cave 169 in Bingling Temple in Gansu Province (420 AD).



witless and incapable emperor and the corrupt government. These conditions were favourable for the spread of religions.

In the meantime China found its own religion—Taoism. Buddhism was accepted by the people almost together with Taoism, and both had a great impact on society. People took advantage of Taoist organizations to start an extensive armed uprising—the Huangjin (Yellow Turban) Uprising (184-204). The uprising, though a failure, shook the very foundations of the Han Dynasty. As the central government lost its supremacy, the empire was torn into various principalities which remained for a long time. At the beginning Buddhism developed side by side with Taoism. The armed struggle of Taoist worshippers, however, shocked the rulers who, in return, stopped supporting it. Hence Buddhism gained the upper hand and its influence soon surpassed that of Taoism. Buddhist supremacy continued for nearly 2,000 years.

Another reason for the dynamic development of Buddhism was its integration with Chinese tradition, making it more acceptable to the Chinese people. Han Dynasty Buddhist believers worshipped Buddha equally with Huang Di (the Yellow Emperor, the alleged ancestor of the Chinese in central China) and Lao Zi (Lao-tse, the founder of Taoism).

According to Chinese historical records, Buddha had the ability to teach people how to be immortal and if one succeeded, his body could ascend to heaven. Yet it was known that the founder of Buddhism had always held that "all things are impermanent and all will perish." He opposed legends of the supernatural such as the immortality of the soul and the human body flying to heaven. Chinese Buddhist adherents, in the Han Dynasty, including certain scholars, looked upon Buddhism as



Buddhist statues of the Northern Wei Dynasty are located in the Yungang Grottoes in Datong, Shanxi Province (460-465 AD).

a sect of immortals. Among intellectuals Buddhism was viewed in the same way as the Huang Di-Lao Zi philosophy.

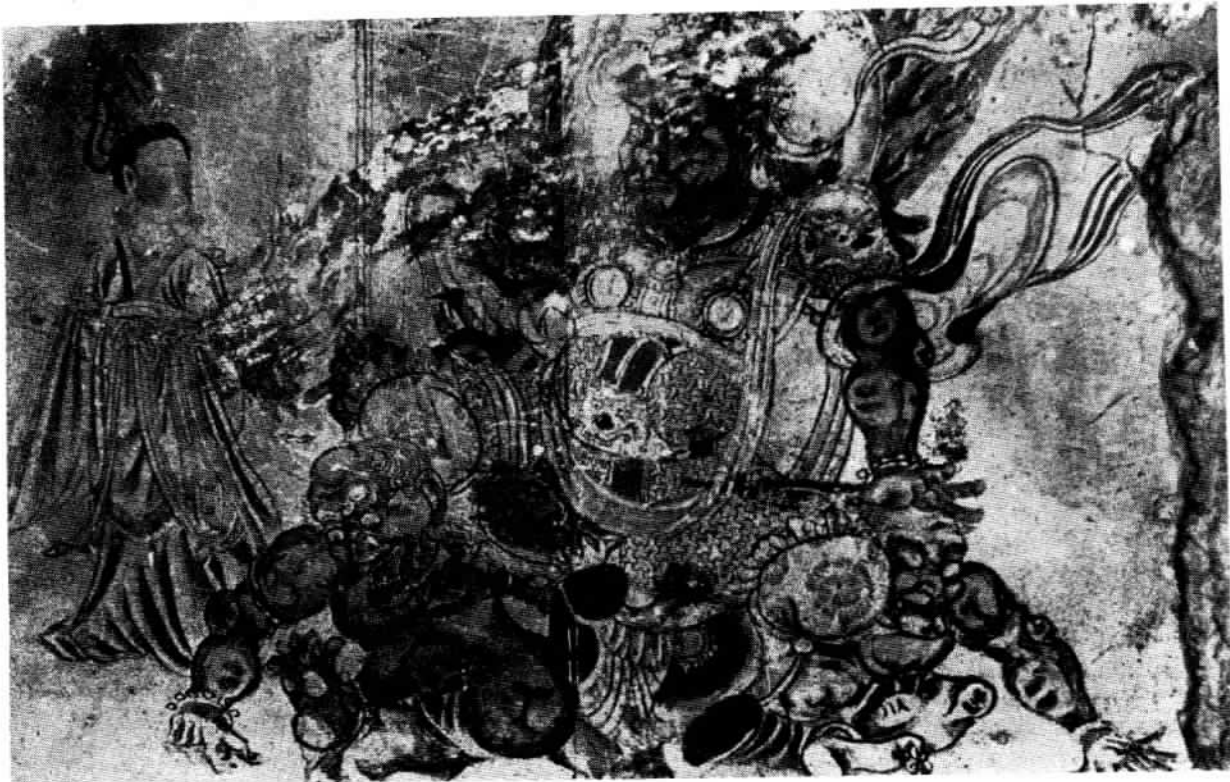
The earliest Chinese translation of Buddhist scripture is *The Sutra of 42 Sections*, which cannot be checked against the original. Strictly speaking, it is a rewrite rather than a translation. The influences of the time left the book with traces of Taoist ideas and Huang Di-Lao Zi's teaching. Only the theory of retribution was introduced from India. But people in the Han Dynasty didn't understand the implications of this theory. According to Buddhism, retribution is a consequence of one's karma, yet in the Han Dynasty the Chinese generally believed that "the offering of sacrifices will bring one happiness; otherwise there will be calamities." They believed that gods and ghosts could bring good or bad fortune to people. The Chinese religious tradition also held that the good or evil deeds of a person would affect the lives of his descendants. Good deeds would bring good fortune and bad deeds bad fortune to his offspring. This

concept was alien to the theory of karma and opposed by Buddhism.

The Buddhist idea of hell didn't find its way into China during the Han Dynasty. The Chinese believed that one's soul would go to Tai Mountain after death. So in the early Han version of Buddhist scriptures, "hell" was translated as "Tai Mountain."

To suit the customs of feudal Chinese society, the Chinese translation of the Buddhist scriptures contained some additions and deletions. There are alterations or omissions of passages concerning sexual relations because of feudal ethics which forbade talking about sex.

The philosophy which prevailed in China from the third to the fifth centuries was *Xuan Xue* (metaphysics), an integration of Taoism of Lao Zi and Zhuang Zi (a prominent Lao Zi disciple), and Confucian doctrine. By 396 AD, 1,621 Buddhist scriptures collected in 4,180 volumes had been translated into Chinese. Buddhist monks and scholars during that time interpreted Buddhism in the light of Lao Zi-Zhuang Zi doc-



Murals from the Tang Dynasty cover the walls of the Foguang Temple on the Wutai Mountain in Shanxi Province (857 AD).

trine, just as people in the Han Dynasty interpreted Buddhism in the light of the supernatural.

With more Buddhist scriptures translated into Chinese, a set of Chinese Buddhist terms was built up, to which Kumarajiva (344-413, born in Xinjiang) contributed a great deal. However, these praiseworthy efforts could not take the place of a correct understanding of Buddhist philosophy. Having a good translation is one thing, but grasping the ideas of the translation is another.

When a foreign culture spreads to a new region, it takes time for the local culture to accept and absorb it and form a new culture from it. The process and results vary considerably with different nations; some have a long-standing culture and traditions and some are culturally backward. If the local culture is inferior to the foreign one, it is apt to be assimilated by the latter. If the local culture is superior and older, as in

the case of China or India, then the foreign culture will have difficulty finding its way into the community and taking root.

Buddhism was introduced into China nearly 2,000 years ago and the Chinese people have come to regard it as part of their own traditional culture and not as something foreign. Its influence has far exceeded the scope of religion, and it permeates Chinese philosophy, art, literature, language, dance, music, architecture, medicine and even family and social life. The two cultures absorb from each other and permeate each other; each enriches itself and yet each retains its own distinctive features. This is obvious in the brilliant achievements resulting from cultural exchanges and co-existence in peace between the two great nations, China and India, for more than 1,000 years.

The incorporation of Buddhism into Chinese tradition has a long history and has achieved brilliant

results. As researchers in this field, we must discover the pattern of its ups and downs in the course of history. We differ from the scholars of past generations in that we are trying to explain the course of change of Buddhism by looking into the effects of social history on Buddhism, not merely Buddhism itself. Philosophy and religion are a reflection to certain degrees of the social and economic life of the times, though the reflection is sometimes indirect or distorted.

With the development of Chinese society, the study of Buddhism had passed the stage of translation and introduction, and has entered the stage of creative writing. Since the 7th century, Buddhism had made great development in China, and its influence has extended to Korea, Japan and other countries. It has become an important link of cultural exchange between China and the rest of Asia. But this is beyond the scope of this article. □



Port City Profiles

Qinhuangdao—China's Key Energy Port

Qinhuangdao is a quickly growing port on the Bohai Bay in north China. The central government has invested heavily in Qinhuangdao because of its superb natural harbour and its importance to China's modernization programme. By the end of this century it will become a key world port with an annual handling capacity of 100 million tons. The city is seeking foreign investment and joint ventures in a variety of undertakings, including the tourist industry.

by **HAN BAOCHENG**
Our Correspondent

THE Great Wall begins its 5,000-kilometre path across China from Shanhaiguan, an ancient fort northeast of the city of Qinhuangdao. Thousands of Chinese and foreign vacationers flock to the summer resort of Beidaihe to the south of Qinhuangdao. But while these tourist attractions have made Qinhuangdao famous in China, the city's shipping port is the key to making its name known around the world.

Qinhuangdao, located 400 kilometres east of Beijing, has a comprehensive port specialized in coal and oil shipping. With an annual

handling capacity of 35 million tons, the port is the third largest in China after Shanghai and Dalian.

In 1984 Qinhuangdao exported 20 million tons of coal, accounting for 80 per cent of China's total coal export. The port handled 900 million tons of crude oil, placing it second among China's oil ports. The port shipped more energy goods than any other in China this year.

Qinhuangdao now has 11 deep-water berths for ships of more than 10,000 tons. With more than 2,000 ships coming and going each year, the port has established trade relations with more than 100 countries and regions of the world.

New docks in the eastern areas

of the port are devoted to coal and oil transportation, and the western part has been improved and expanded to handle coal and sundry goods. Many of the loading, unloading, transport and storage procedures have been automated. The automated procedures are controlled by a central control building, where operators monitor the procedures with video displays and radio telephones.

Historic Changes

Qinhuangdao was once a small fishing village. In 1898 the Manchu government opened it as a commercial port to foreign traders. Later it became a coal port for the Kailuan Coal Mine owned by a British firm in Tangshan. At that time only small vessels could berth there. Loading and unloading was done by hand since there were no machines. The situation remained the same until the founding of New China.

After 1949 the government improved and expanded the dock. Several deep-water berths were built and the port channel was dredged to make way for ships of more than 10,000 tons. This enabled the port to increase its annual handling capacity from 1.75 million tons in the early years of the 1950s to 5.2 million tons in 1972.



In 1973 work began on an oil wharf. Fifteen months later a pier which can simultaneously berth two 20,000-ton oil tankers was completed, together with ancillary facilities to accommodate 10 million tons of oil. The new dock provided a new sea route for the oil produced in the Daqing Oilfield in Heilongjiang Province. Within three years the construction investment was recouped.

Soon thereafter another project began, this time aimed at building a modern coal dock. The construction was divided into three stages. The first stage, a highly automated coal dock, was designed by Chinese technicians, built by Chinese workers and equipped with Chinese-made equipment. The 500-metre-long dock is able to moor a 20,000-ton vessel and a 50,000-ton vessel simultaneously. After the dock was commissioned in 1983, the port's handling capacity increased by 10 million tons of coal a year.

Now the second stage of construction is nearly finished, with only some adjustments and tests left to be done. The second stage consists of Japanese-made loading

and unloading machines. The 600-metre-long pier will be able to berth two 50,000-ton vessels at once. When it is put into operation, the port will be able to increase its export of coal by 20 million tons a year.

By the beginning of 1985 a berth big enough for a 50,000-ton oil tanker will be constructed and put into use. Completion of that oil dock will boost the oil handling capacity of the port by another 5 million tons annually.

The Port's Key Role

Energy supply and transportation are the two weakest links in China's modernization programme. The building and expansion of harbour will play an important role in improving these two areas. Its favourable location and superb natural conditions make the port strategically important in China's modernization drive.

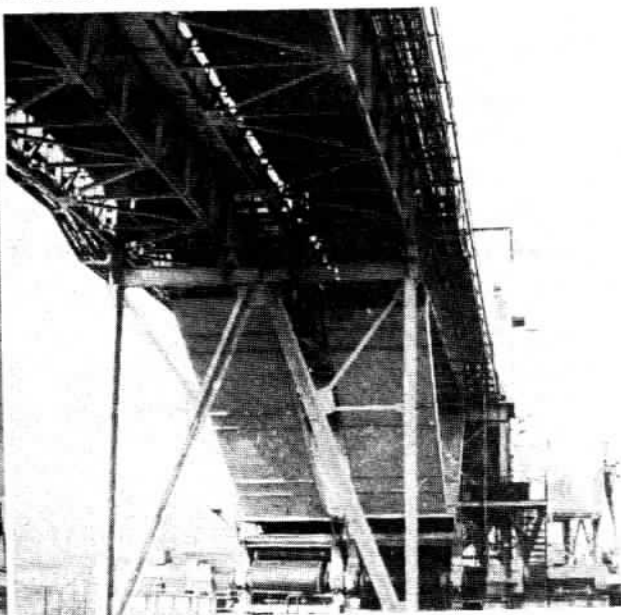
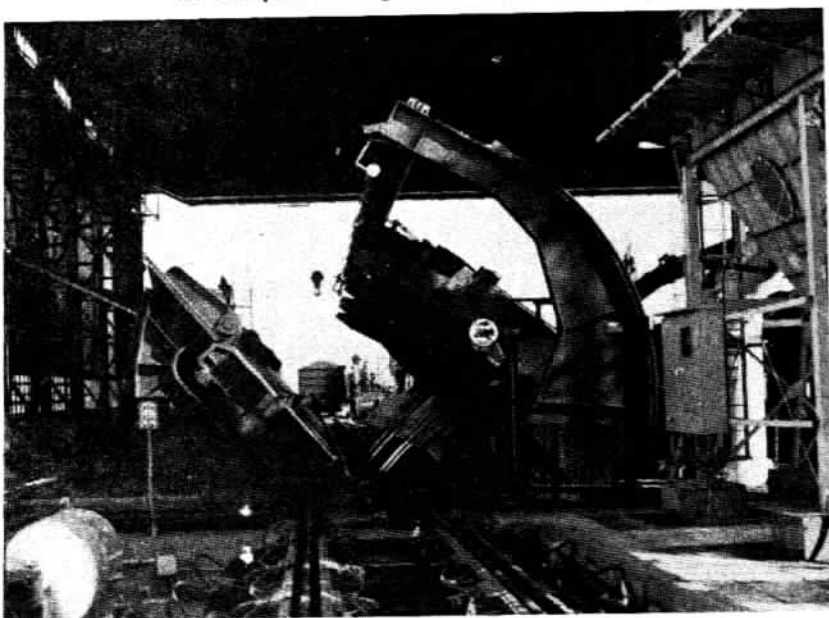
The geological structure of the Qinhuangdao harbour is stable, and there is little silt. Warm currents from the Yellow Sea and a high salt content combine to keep this Bohai Bay port free of ice the

year round. Qinhuangdao is, in fact, north China's only ice-free port. The winding coastline, smooth tides and deep waters combine to make Bohai Bay an ideal shelter for ships.

Qinhuangdao enjoys convenient railway transportation because it is a communication hub linking the north China and northeast China economic zones. In addition to the railway line between Beijing and Harbin which passes Qinhuangdao, there is another directly linking the city with the capital, which will soon be electrified. Another electrified railway line designed for transporting coal from Datong, a coal-mining centre in Shanxi Province, to Qinhuangdao is now under construction.

Beijing, Tianjin and Tangshan form a triangular economic zone to the west of Qinhuangdao. Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces, which make up a heavy industry base, lie to the northeast. In the hinterland of north China, Shanxi and Hebei Provinces and the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region have rich coal deposits which, according to estimates, account for about 50

Left: A new coal dumper transfers coal from railroad cars to a conveyer belt, which carries the coal to the ships for transport. Right: Conveyer belts transport the coal from railway to ship.



per cent of China's proven coal reserves.

The distribution of China's coal resources and industrial bases is uneven owing to historical and natural reasons. Most coal mines are concentrated in north and northwest China, where industry is underdeveloped. Whereas coal is never sufficient in China's 10 coastal provinces and municipalities, where the nation's industry and agriculture are concentrated and coal consumption is high. The proven coal deposits of the coastal region make up only 5.5 per cent of China's total. Although great effort has been put into coal mining along the coast, the output amounts to only 24 per cent of the nation's total coal output. In the wake of the adoption of the open policy and further economic development along the coast, the demand for coal there will increase even more dramatically.

This imbalance places great pressure on the railways. At pres-

ent one-third of China's rail capacity is devoted to coal transportation. Railways serving coal mining areas have long been stretched to their limits. Improving the coal-handling capabilities so that more coal is shipped by sea will substantially reduce the pressure on the railroads. In the long run, such an energy port is very important to China's foreign trade since coal exports will surely increase.

Future Looks Even Better

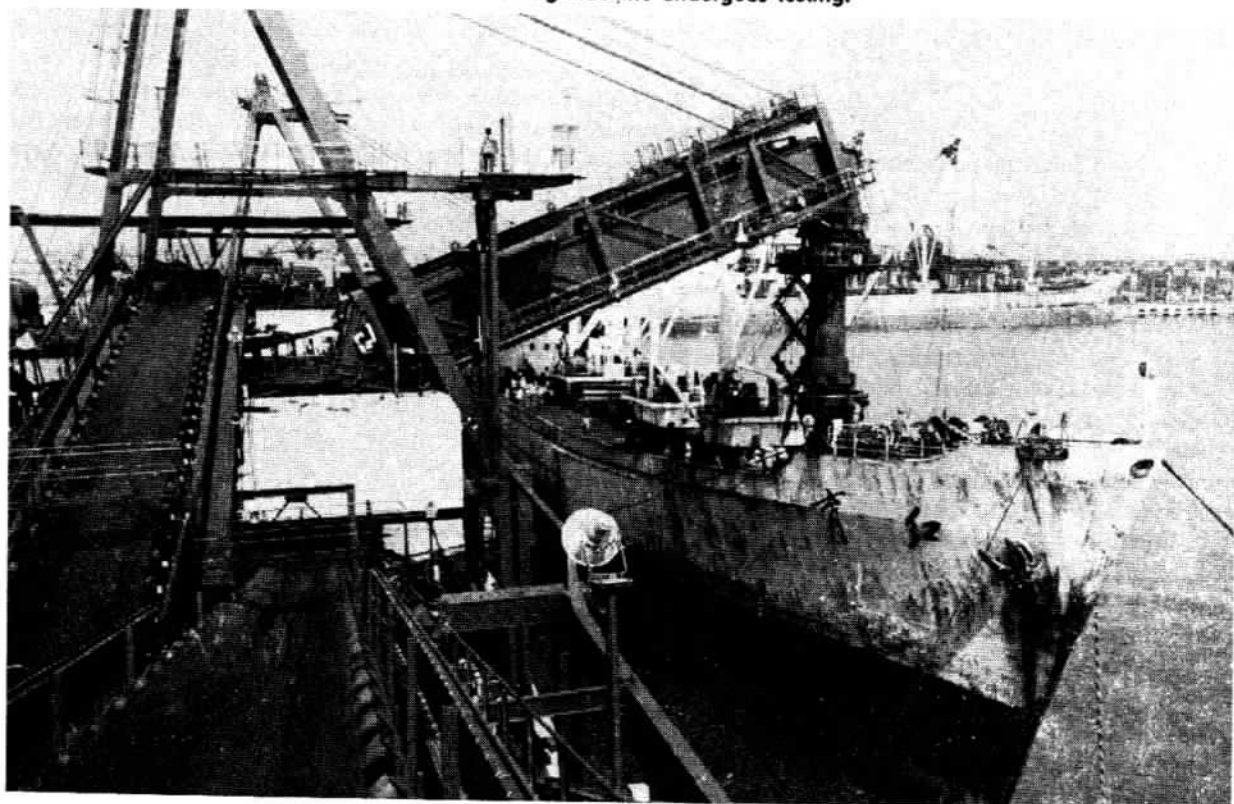
Huang Zhendong, director of the Qinhuangdao harbour administration, said that construction of the port would be sped up in the next 15 years to meet the demands of the open policy and the increase in energy exports. After the new coal loading and unloading facilities and the new oil wharf are completed and put to use in 1985, the annual handling capacity of the port will be up to 60 million tons. The third stage of coal dock construction, designed to handle

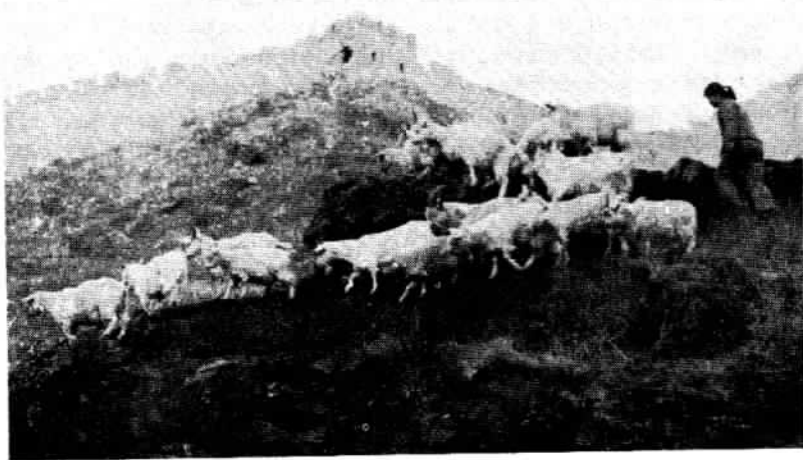
an additional 30-50 million tons a year, got under way last year. Judging from the speed of construction, the original timetable for achieving an annual handling capacity of 100 million tons by the year 2000 looks like it will be cut by five years.

Huang said, "The available coastline for building deep-water berths is 17 kilometres long. So far only 4 kilometres have been used. The potential is great. We expect foreign companies to cooperate with us on some projects in the port construction."

The harbour administration has received business representatives from the United States, Singapore, Australia and Hongkong. Huang said, "They were deeply impressed by the good natural conditions of the harbour and the rich coal deposits in the hinterland. They agreed that the port's construction plan is realistic and expressed their willingness to cooperate in its development."

A coal loading machine undergoes testing.





A young woman herds her goats near the eastern end of the Great Wall.

As Qinhuangdao opens its door still wider to the outside world, the amount of other exports will inevitably increase. Six berths to handle various goods are under construction. Upon completion they will meet the needs of the city's open policy. However, the port will remain fundamentally an energy port.

In the past the coal trains have

returned to the coal-mining areas with empty cars. To make use of the empty trains, Qinhuangdao is planning to build special docks and yards for timber from northeast China, which will then be shipped to the inland areas. The project has been approved by the State Council. The city government will soon make feasibility studies and contact potential foreign investors.

Legends, Scenic Spots, Historical Sites

Qinhuangdao is famous for its excellent harbour, beautiful beaches and rich aquatic resources. Strategically situated, the city was the scene of battles in ancient times. So it is not surprising that the region abounds in sites and places of historical interest.

The Yanshan Mountains, a famous range stretching across north China, runs directly to the seashore at Qinhuangdao. It is only 7.5 kilometres from the foot of the mountains to the beach. Ancient military strategists built a fort there and named it Shanhaiguan, meaning "mountain, sea and pass" in Chinese. This constitutes the eastern end of the Great Wall.

Qinhuangdao was named after Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC), the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty who unified China. It is said that

he once visited Qinhuangdao and was very impressed by its beautiful scenery. He wrote a poem about the city and had it engraved on a stone. Legend has it that he sent 500 young men and 500 young women to sea in search of an island where they would find longevity pills for him. Many poets and politicians later visited the city and wrote poems about the legend.

Eastern Terminal of the Great Wall

Shanhaiguan Pass, at the eastern end of the Great Wall, is 17 kilometres northeast of Qinhuangdao harbour. There is a horizontal inscribed board above the main gate of the fort which reads, "The First Pass Under Heaven."

The fort was built in the 14th

century by a general of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It consisted of seven castles, 10 gates and several beacon towers, built to defend the inland areas from attack and harassment by the nomads living north of the Yanshan Mountain range. The fort is 4 kilometres wide, and its wall is 14 metres high and 7 metres thick.

The Great Wall begins its long journey to the west from Shanhaiguan Pass. It goes first to the north and then to the west along the mountain ridges. The bay is only 4 kilometres south of the fort. The Great Wall once went all the way to the sea. It is said that the builders used cauldrons as a base in the sand on which to build the rock and brick wall. Most of this section have now fallen. But some stones, as big as 50 metres long and 10 metres wide, can still be seen in the sea.

Shanhaiguan Pass, wedged between the mountains and the bay, is the only land route linking northeast China to north and central China. Many important battles were fought here. Three hundred years ago the Manchus from northeast China invaded the rest of China via Shanhaiguan Pass while the weakened military forces of the Ming Dynasty were occupied fighting a peasant uprising. The invading army soon established the Qing Dynasty, which lasted for more than 250 years.

Meng Jiangnu's Sad Story Retold

Near Shanhaiguan Pass is a small temple commemorating an ordinary Chinese woman named Meng Jiangnu.

At the temple is told a moving story about the misery inflicted upon the common people. In the times of Qin Shi Huang, Meng Jiangnu's husband was conscripted to help build the Great Wall just

three days after the couple had wedded. Meng Jiangnu missed her husband very much. As winter drew near, she set out to see him, taking with her some warm clothing and personal articles for him. Crossing one mountain after another by herself, she arrived at the foot of the Great Wall. She climbed the hills every day, looking to the distance in vain. In her sorrow, she began to weep and cried so many tears that in three days a section of the Great Wall crumbled. As the wall crumbled it revealed the buried remains of her husband. Later, upon learning of her beauty and elegance, Emperor Qin Shi Huang decided to marry Meng Jiangnu. After rebuking the tyrant angrily, the bereaved woman drowned herself in the sea.

For 2,000 years, Meng Jiangnu, as a symbol of resistance and an emblem of loyalty, has earned the respect of the Chinese people. The temple is erected on a hill overlooking the Great Wall. A flight of 108 stone steps leads tourists to the temple. Standing in front of

the hall is a clay sculpture of Meng Jiangnu. Dressed in a black gown, her expression reveals her grief and indignation. Behind the temple stands a giant reddish brown stone. According to legend, she stood on the stone to look for her husband. And her footmarks can still be seen on the stone.

North of Shanhaiguan Pass, hidden among the mountains, is the Shihe River, which is more than 100 million years old. The banks of the river are formed by granite and have caves and irregular formations similar to a karst landscape. A dam was built by the local people in a valley 8 kilometres north of Shanhaiguan Pass in 1971, thus bringing about the 15-kilometre-long bottle-shaped Yansai Lake, which twists and turns through the canyons.

Yansai Lake takes its name from its location in the fortress of the Yanshan Mountains. Visitors are enchanted by the lake scenes, the marvellous mountains, the hardy pines and the jade-green cypress trees. The natural beauty

Tourists visit the Meng Jiangnu Temple.



December 24, 1984

A Brief Introduction to Qinhuangdao

Location Situated on the coast of eastern Hebei Province, the city of Qinhuangdao includes three districts and four counties. It covers a total area of 7,721 square kilometres and has 113 kilometres of coastline. The three urban districts, with a total area of 363 square kilometres, are in a belt along the coastline.

Population Qinhuangdao has a total population of 2.23 million, with 410,000 residents living in the urban districts, mainly concentrated in the harbour district where the city government is located. The Shanhaiguan district is 19 kilometres to the northeast and the Beidaihe district is 18 kilometres to the southwest.

Climate The city enjoys the oceanic climate of the northern temperate zone. The annual temperature averages 10.1 degrees Celsius, and in July the average temperature is 23 degrees. In January the average temperature is 4 to 5 degrees. The average humidity is 62 per cent.

Products and Natural Resources Mountains and hills rise in the north part of the city, where fruit and Chinese medicinal herbs are grown. As one of the major fishing centres in north China, the aquatic products include prawns, sea cucumbers and jellyfish. Non-metallic mining dominates the mining scene. There are an estimated 600 million tons of quartz reserves and 220 million tons of limestone reserves. The city also has sizable deposits of granite and marble, as well as mining potential for coal, iron, lead, zinc, gold, silver and graphite.

and the efforts of humanity have made the area a scenic spot. Tourists may go boating on the lake, enjoying the scenes on the shores. The local people boast of their home, "It is not necessary to tour the Three Gorges and Guilin if you have been to Yansai Lake."

Beidaihe Seaside

Setting out from the harbour along the coastal highway, tourists may head southwest 12 kilometres to the famous seaside resort of Beidaihe. The beach is broad and covered with soft, fine sand. The mountains slope gently down to the water's edge, where the beach is ideal for swimming. The shore is clustered with numerous ancient interests, including the Immortal's Cavern, Spring for Happy Lot, the ruins of an ancient beacon tower and the Temple of the Goddess of Mercy. Standing on the rolling green hills, visitors can admire the sunrise at daybreak.

Despite its location on the same latitude as Beijing, Beidaihe has a mild climate. The temperature ranges around 23 degrees Celsius even in July and August, as the air

is cooled by the interchange of sea wind and land breeze. Beidaihe has only small temperature changes, and the humidity stays high. The cool and moist air and the resort's proximity to Tianjin and Beijing make Beidaihe an ideal place for tourists. Every summer Beidaihe attracts an average of 2 million visitors.

In 1897 the Qing government built the railway line from Tianjin to Shanhaiguan Pass. A British engineer laid out the line by way of Beidaihe. He found the seaside town a posh location to go swimming and to spend his summer vacation. Soon afterwards, some foreign missionaries and Chinese capitalists flocked to the town to build their own vacation villas. In 1898 the Qing government began to use Beidaihe as a resort for people from all over the world. By 1934 the resort had become the envy of other leisure areas. It had 705 villas and vacation facilities such as restaurants, theatres, ballrooms and bars. However, at that time only foreigners, high officials and the rich had the privilege to taste the good life at the seaside.

After liberation the People's Re-

public gave the town a facelift and built a number of sanatoriums. A dream place for working people to regain their health was transformed into reality. Today there are 37 sanatoriums with a total of 12,370 beds. The coal-mining, railway, metallurgical and petroleum industries have set up their own sanatoriums and rest-house along the seashore. Today most tourists are working people.

Thanks to these rich tourism resources, the tourism boom plays a big role in co-operation between the city and foreign investors.

Large-scale tourism construction will begin with the opening of an entertainment area covering 92 square kilometres. It will include high-rise hotels for travellers, shopping areas, swimming beaches, boating facilities, a vacation village and an aquarium. City development companies have already made contacts with foreign partners to help the construction along.

Recently launched tourist-related projects include reconstructing the deteriorated section of the Great Wall from Laolongtou through

Beidaihe's beach attracts large numbers of summer tourists.



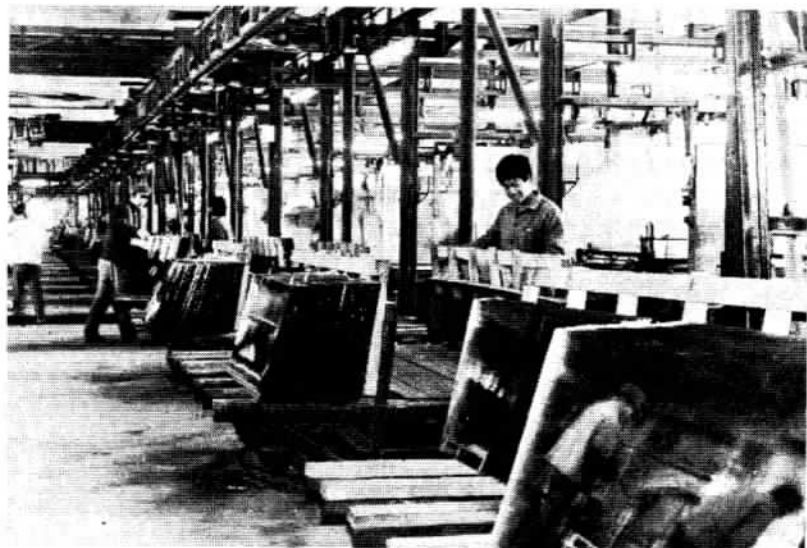
Shanhaiguan Pass to Jiaoshan, restoring the original look of the ancient town, adding a street in the Ming Dynasty style, and rebuilding the ruins of an ancient battlefield.

'City of Glass' Advances In High Gear

Qinhuangdao's chief industries include glass, textiles, electronics, engineering, food processing, clothing and mining. Among the 14 coastal cities recently opened further to foreign investment and co-operation, Qinhuangdao ranks 13th in the total value of industrial output. However, despite its weak industrial foundation, the coastal city's glass industry leads the nation. This fact has earned Qinhuangdao its label—"city of glass."

There are 14 enterprises producing glass and glass products, with a combined staff of 15,000. The city now boasts a state glass designing institute, related research institutes and an audio-visual research institute. The Yaohua Glass Factory, the largest in the city, turns out 4 million crates of glass annually. Its products are exported to more than 70 countries. The city turns out more than 50 varieties of glass products, and the city's advanced glass techniques have boosted the national glass industry as a whole. Among the 30 joint ventures proposed by the city government for co-operation with foreign investors, 20 deal directly with glass production.

Qinhuangdao stands in a good position to benefit from its special "open door" status. Deputy Mayor Wang Honglie said, "Apart from its favourable location and fine environment, the city has good transport facilities and rich natural resources. Among the 696 existing industrial enterprises, most are to be technically upgraded. It will take a considerable sum of money



Workers at the Yaohua Glass Factory cut and pack their products.

and require advanced techniques. The harbour, tourism and the glass industry stand out as the three pillars of the city's construction."

With open policy under way and the national economy growing stronger, Wang said, "The prospect for co-operation with overseas firms is bound to be broad. Now a series of laws and regulations regarding foreign investment have been drawn up by the state, and preferential investment terms will be offered to encourage investment in the coastal cities."

To speed city construction, the deputy mayor places great importance on restructuring the economic system, revamping the existing enterprises and updating the transportation and communication facilities. Also included in the city blueprint for success are large hotels, tourist facilities and industrial projects that will help implement the open policy.

In the city's economic and technological development zone, efforts will be devoted to setting up the infrastructure so as to create favourable conditions for introducing modern techniques and

management experience from abroad.

Guo Zherigshan, deputy secretary for the city government, said, "An airport big enough for jumbo jets will be completed by May of next year."

After the Beijing expressway is finished, Guo added, "It will take just four hours to drive from Qinhuangdao to Beijing. Qinhuangdao will become an important gateway city linking Beijing to the rest of the world. Living in an age of reform, we are fully confident about the city's future. And it's our sincere wish that entrepreneurs from China and abroad will give full play to their talents for the city." □



Few Schools of Thought in China?

from "WENHUI BAO"
(Wenhui Daily)

FOR a long time there have been few schools of thought in the natural or social sciences in China. Though there are several theorems named after Chinese scientists, some of them were first discovered abroad then China followed. Deng Weizhi, member of the Shanghai Association of Science and Technology, complained of this unfairness in a recent article.

But is it true that there are few schools of thought in China? Actually, no. China has its own theory of the evolution of the solar system in astronomy. In earth science there are at least five major theories on how rock bodies are formed. There are many schools of thought in philosophy, economics and history.

Although there are many schools of thought in the developed countries and few in China, this is not really a measure of the originality of scientists. Rather, Chinese thinkers have a hard time getting their research papers and schools of learning recognized, for the following reasons.

1. A word by a predecessor is being used to negate everything new.

2. New ideas are called "not mature." But there is no mature science in the world. We could say that Newton's theories represented a mature science, but not if they are compared with Einstein's theories of relativity. Immature ideas and even those which contain mistakes can be called a school if they have their own theoretical system and can stand on their own within a certain scope.

3. "That is only his own idea." This is true. As an expert in his field, he has the right to speak out for his science. Each one has limitations. But if experts in each subject can speak to a wide audience, their ideas could be combined to form a more complete theory.

In order to vitalize the sciences and schools of thought, Deng suggested:

1. We must sincerely encourage discussion between different ideas and not regard a new view as heresy.

2. The press and publishing houses should be bold in making way for new discoveries and schools of thought. The academic press should push those who stand out among his or her fellows to the forefront.

3. A social atmosphere of respect for learning must be encouraged throughout society. Scholars shouldn't blush when they report on their discoveries and their colleagues also shouldn't be envious of those who have a chance to relate their new ideas. So long as the new discoveries and ideas are not pseudoscience, we should give the scholars guidance and help. We also should seriously point out mistakes in new ideas wherever they are found.

China's First Ultra-Light Helicopter

from "LIAONING RIBAO"
(Liaoning Daily)

CHINA'S first ultra-light helicopter successfully completed a test flight at Tianjin Airport last

September. The designer and pilot is Dong Dawei, 37 years old.

The helicopter can carry two passengers. Its ability to land and take off without a runway gives it wide applications in agriculture, surveying, meteorology, aerophotography and other fields.

Dong, born in Jinzhou, Liaoning Province, has loved flying ever since he was a child. In 1978 he entered the Nanjing Aeronautical Engineering Institute and decided to design and build a helicopter. But the institute did not have the facilities. Dong so wanted to do his bit to develop state aviation that he applied to leave the school.

He told one sympathetic professor, "Developing talent has no fixed model. In the cause of China's modernization some people must risk everything for their research. Let me try."

The institute broke its rules, and let Dong return home to begin his tests.

Now Dong has established the Jinzhou Ultra-Light Helicopter Company and is the manager and general designer. He has the support of all relevant departments.

Choosing Mates Brings Happiness

from "BEIJING SHIFAN DAXUE XUEBAO"
(Journal of Beijing Teachers University)

A SURVEY of 494 women and 489 men in Beijing showed that 41.58 per cent of happy couples had freely chosen their partners, while 32.53 per cent of happy couples had found their spouses through a matchmaker.



Young peasants in Taoyuan County, Hunan Province, enjoy a social dance.

The author, Lu Shuhua, concluded that young people should be encouraged to choose their lovers themselves.

In the light of the shortage of social activities in China the cycle of matchmaker-introduction-love-marriage prevails. But Lu says conjugal happiness relates to the process of getting to know each other.

He said when we speak of free choice, the marital affairs of young people should also be the concerns of their elders, friends or organizations. Today freedom in meeting people stirs deeper feelings, because the lovers usually know each other for a time and have seen each other's strengths and weaknesses when they make up their minds to love.

But there are two shortcomings in marriages via matchmakers. The first is that people find it difficult to love those they do not know well. The second is that they often feel they were not passionately in love, even after they are married.

The answer to the marriage problem is to organize more re-

creational activities, so that young people have a chance to meet each other naturally. We should also encourage people to find their lifelong companions among people they already know.

First Doctorate Was in China

from "ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO"
(China's Legal System)

THE first doctorate was granted in China as an official title during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC). But it wasn't until the Western Jin Dynasty (265-420 AD) that it was established as an academic degree for those well-versed in the field. In 268 AD, an intellectual named Jia Chong was awarded a doctor's degree in law and certain privileges for his profession. Emperor Wudi then put him in charge of revising the criminal law and writing Laws of the Jin Dynasty.

Soon afterwards, academic degree spread into Korea and Japan.

Doctorates did not appear outside of Asia until the 12th century, when the University of Bologna in Italy began conferring doctor of law degrees. The title soon spread to other branches of scholarship, including philosophy and medicine. By the 13th century some universities began conferring honorary doctorates on those who had made remarkable academic achievement.

So we may say that Jia Chong of the Western Jin Dynasty was the first doctor of law in the world.

Virtues Students Admire Today

from "JIANGSU MEIXUE TONGXUN"
(Jiangsu Aesthetics Journal)

WHAT is the noblest virtue?" a survey asked 393 high school students in Nanjing and Wuxi. Half said honesty.

Warmheartedness or kindness was the choice of 27 per cent. Another 12 per cent chose gallantry.

Asked what qualities most disgusted them, 77 per cent said pretence, fawning or conceit.

These answers show the students' high regard for truth and goodness.

However, only 14 students, or 3.6 per cent, said they valued thriftiness, and just 14 per cent hated selfishness. These reveal the wide difference between young people today and those of the 1950s.

Chinese Dancers Win International Prizes

Five Chinese ballet dancers won awards at the Fourth Osaka International Ballet Contest held in Japan in October 1984. It is a mark of the progress young Chinese dancers have made in classical ballet.

Yang Xinghua won the individual performance prize for men and Li Keyu won the top award for costume design. Two pairs of dancers won awards in the pas de deux division: Zhang Weiqiang and Tang Min won second place, while Guo Peihui and Zhao Minghua placed fourth. All three Chinese pairs entered in the competition were among the 12 couples in

the finals. In all, 33 pairs from 19 countries were entered.

A British ballet critic who has been involved in the dance world for almost 50 years praised the Chinese dancers' performances as both romantic and classical. He found their technique to be excellent.

A month later another two Chinese dancers, Wang Qifeng of Shanghai and Wang Caijun of Beijing, were awarded special prizes at the First Paris Ballet Competition. In 1980 Wang Qifeng had won a prize for China at an international contest for the first time.

Wang Qifeng (above) and Wang Caijun in "Giselle."



China began to train its own ballet dancers in 1954, when the Beijing Dance School was set up. It became the Beijing Dance College in 1978. First generations of ballet dancers, teachers and choreographers trained by dancers from Moscow and Leningrad danced *Precaution Inutile* and *Swan Lake*. Later the Central Ballet Troupe was established from the Experimental Ballet Troupe, set up in 1959. Several famous works were performed including, *Pirate*, *Giselle*, *Notre Dame de Paris*, *Les Sylphides* and *Sylvia*.

In order to meet popular demand,

Chinese ballet began to reflect the people's lives beginning in 1964. More than 10 full-length ballets were developed.

The Red Detachment of Women is about a farm girl who joins the revolutionary troops to overthrow the local landlord and reactionaries. No other Chinese ballet can match its demanding but graceful choreography.

Mermaid retells an old legend using a series of solo dances, pas de deux and ensemble dances.

The New Year Sacrifice is adapted from a modern story written by Lu Xun. It depicts the miserable life of a woman.

Lin Diayu is named after a sentimental girl from the classical novel *Dream of Red Mansions*.

The choreography in these ballets incorporates movements and poses from traditional Chinese dance. Chinese dancers are trained in various dance styles, including folk traditions.

In the beginning, choreographers, directors and dancers were sent to the countryside to learn the styles and skills of folk dances. This supplemented their formal trainings based on the Russian style.

In recent years Chinese dancers have turned their attention to the Western countries, under the guidance of the open door policy. They are searching for a training system suited to Chinese dancers.

There are now three ballet companies in China: in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang. The Central Ballet Troupe in Beijing has the strongest group of dancers. Of its 350 members, 100 dance, 80 make

up the orchestra, 30 are stage hands and the rest are choreographers, directors, composers, artists and theoreticians. In addition to performing in cities, the dancers often tour other parts of China with a small group of about 30 artists.

American Play Adapted to China

The Central Academy of Drama scored another hit in Beijing last October with its performance of *Andi*, adapted from Eugene O'Neill's play *Anna Christie*.

George White, a founder and chairman of the American O'Neill Theatre Centre, chose and directed the play himself. Under his terse, clear guidance, the Chinese actors successfully expressed the complex inner feelings of the characters of the play.

Anna Christie describes the fate of a woman whose father is a ship's captain. Tired of his life at sea, he tries to prevent her from marrying a sailor.

White moved the setting from the original 1920s New York and Boston to Shanghai and Ningbo in the 1930s. The characters themselves are Chinese, and Anna is changed to Andi, a popular name in southern China.

Local dialect and folk sayings have been incorporated into the dialogue of the characters, to heighten the play's realism. For example, when the old captain cursed the young sailor in Shanghai dialect *xiao chilao* (little devil), audiences could not help laughing.

Chinese-style sets specially made from models by American set designers complete the transformation from the American to the Chinese eastern coast. A wine shop set at the beginning of the play is typical of southern China. Equipped with a crude counter covered with pot-



Andi meets her father, Lao Gui, in a wine shop in a scene from "Andi."

tery jars with lids wrapped in red cloth, the shop was a common place for sailors to relax during the 1930s.

Although some details remain strange to Beijing audiences, on the whole the play aroused sympathy for the working people's lives and their feelings. When the old captain's mistress tearfully bids him farewell because his daughter has returned, audiences were moved to tears. They also found much sympathy for Andi, whose love is torn between her father and her suitor.

According to White, the relationship between the father and his daughter and between the woman and the sailor are universal. O'Neill does not belong only to Americans but to all people. The tears of Beijing theatregoers show that they share White's viewpoint.

Foreign plays were translated into Chinese as early as the 1930s. One example is Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*, adapted by Hong Shen, one of the founders of modern Chinese drama.

In 1933, Hong Shen also wrote *A Dialogue Between Eugene O'Neill and Me* (O'Neill was his schoolmate at Harvard University) as a prologue to his play *Zhao, the King*

of Hell. The dialogue, which ranges from dramatic theme and plot to Greek tragedy to Chinese traditional opera, was first performed during a China Evening sponsored by the O'Neill Theatre Centre of the United States this past July.

The current adaption of *Anna Christie* marks the 96th birthday of the American playwright, who was a guiding force in American drama in the 20s and 30s.

Comparing the original play *Anna Christie* performed by the Central Academy of Drama two years ago with *Andi*, Beijing audiences were hard pressed to say which was better. Each had its own style, they agreed.

The performance of *Andi*, like *Death of a Salesman* directed by the playwright Arthur Miller in Beijing last year, demonstrated that the understanding between dramatists of China and the United States has deepened.

Drama Academy Taps New Resources

China's Central Academy of Drama is now tapping the world's literary treasure-house for new experiences and ideas.

Last fall the academy established a Shakespeare Research Centre. And in recent years they have performed Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, the Japanese drama *Straits of Hunger* and the American play *Anna Christie*. They also invited foreign drama experts to lecture and direct their rehearsals.

Just three months ago they held an exhibition of set designs by Chinese and Japanese students. Eighty-one designs were shown in Tokyo, Beijing and Shanghai.

These activities broaden the views and expand the knowledge of scholars, dramatists and students researching Chinese drama and its cultural traditions.

At the ceremony establishing the Shakespeare Research Centre, Professor Sun Jiayu, who has long been translating and studying Shakespeare's plays, said, "Shakespeare's works have exerted a tremendous influence on the world as great classical poetic drama. But his writing style and form, characterized by vivid expression, bold outlines and realism, has many similarities with China's

traditional drama. It is therefore very important to extract the essence of Shakespeare's dramas in developing our country's dramatic art, and especially in reforming and nationalizing our theatre."

Sun's speech reflected the academy's philosophy of learning what is worthwhile from other cultures and assimilating it into a national form.

and developing subjects in philosophy and the research activities in Taiwan and Hongkong.

Aside from the reference outlines, whose main purpose is to collect and store materials, the yearbook entries are highly readable. The elaborated sections are written in a vivid, instructive style, and original subjects have been chosen. This makes the book widely useful for scholars and laymen alike.

Philosophy Yearbook Packed With Details

In recent years yearbooks in all sorts of subjects have been appearing in China. The 1984 *Yearbook of Philosophy* (in Chinese) is the latest.

In a limited space, a wealth of new information, developments and trends is presented. For example, most of the topics in the "Research Progress" section are presented in 2,000 word entries, except for a few major ones which are elaborated by well-known specialists. But the lists present the main points of each subject

and clearly express what progress has been made. The 1984 yearbook includes about 100 such entries.

Because space is limited and only a small portion of subjects are elaborated upon, the editors have been very careful to be sure that works of lesser significance are not ignored. The columns "Recommended New Books," "Selected Theses," "New Books on Philosophy" and "Theses Index" list all the new works for the year, in an easy reference form. They also introduce new

The 1984 yearbook also includes a column "Philosophy News From Abroad" written by seven specialists who studied outside of China and talked about their impressions upon returning.

The column "Brief Biographies of Late Philosophers" introduces many great Chinese thinkers and the ideas which made them famous. Edited by the Philosophy Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and published by the Encyclopedia of China Publishing House, the 1984 *Yearbook of Chinese Philosophy* follows its 1982 predecessor.

— Shi Weida

(Continued from p. 19.)

reminiscences, Beijing's *Dramatic Forum* published a special issue highlighting Mei's artistic accomplishments and aesthetic views. Three volumes of artistic reminiscences and a collection of writings left behind by the opera master have been republished. A memoir written by his son, who does research in foreign literature, was recently released.

There was also a buying spree for *Beijing Opera and Mei Lanfang*, a book published three years ago. The book calls Mei the most

representative and mature exponent of traditional Chinese theatre and puts him on the same level as theatre masters Stanislavski and Brecht.

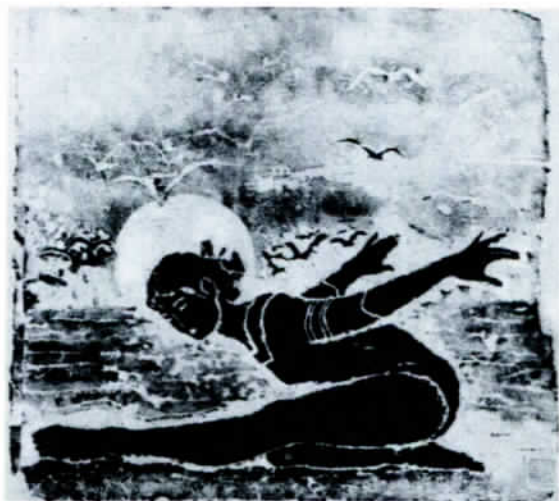
Exhibitions of Mei's calligraphy, paintings and personal belongings were held in his hometown of Tai-zhou. A commemorative pavilion was also built for him and a theatre was named in his honour. A decision has been made to establish a memorial hall at his former residence in Beijing. In 1965 his family placed 30,000 documents, letters, photos and personal objects under the care of the

Chinese Opera Research Institute. These items, which escaped damage during the "cultural revolution," will be displayed at the memorial hall. □





Xiao Xian, an Ancient Chinese Calligrapher.



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Autumn Harvest.



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