

嚴 友

A free publication for staff and
residents of the Chinese University.

Campus News 30th Anniversary Flea Market

**Saturday Jan 18th from 10am to 1pm Basement
Recreation Room, Residence 14, CUHK.**

Come along for fun and bargains, in the best tradition of the British "Car Boot" or the American "Garage" sale! Book your stall now (they are already going!) to sell your product or promote your service at a very reasonable rate. This year, we are asking for donations of minimum HK\$50.



At our last fair we had:

- ◆ Quality new and second-hand goods
- ◆ CCN's famous, "**White Elephant**" Stall
- ◆ **Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, Persian Carpets Specialist, of Wall Well Carpets** – who brought his beautiful rugs and answered our carpet questions
- ◆ Goods from various independent sellers at great prices!
- ◆ The **CCN Cake Stall** – selling home baked goodies and drinks.
- ◆ **Friends of the Art Museum, CUHK** cards, gift wrap, and other products

- ◆ **CALLING ALL BAKERS!** We will need goodies for our very popular cake stall.
- ◆ **CCN White Elephant Stall** needs your quality, new and used goods - so clear out those closets and recycle your unwanted goods.
- ◆ *Proceeds go to support CCN, which is produced and funded entirely by volunteers.*
- ◆ *Booking and other enquires, please email Gillian Kew c/o gilliankew@yahoo.com*

**FULL DETAILS OF STALLS TO BE POSTED SHORTLY AND AVAILABLE
THROUGH THE EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE.**

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

From the CUWO Chair



2013 is almost at its end, and it has been another good year for CUWO, with our members enjoying talks, activities and cultural visits, at the same time having the opportunity to mix and to make connections, both within the university and from outside.

2014 will be a big year for the Chinese University Women's Organization - we will be 25 years old! I doubt whether any of us, there at the beginning, when we were a group of separate "clubs" would have seen us surviving and growing over the next quarter of a century into the organization we are today. I am proud to be part of an organization that has quietly served this community for such a long time, never asking for anything but giving much.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating our Silver Jubilee, and that you will look out

for notices of our special programmes, including a gala dinner to be held towards the end of May (date to be confirmed). The only fly in the ointment is that we lost one of our greatest supporters, this year - Mrs. Diana Li, who will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

We also hope that you will continue to support our programmes, as we continue to offer enjoyable and stimulating activities, and to support you.

On behalf of all at CUWO, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

G. Ke *Anne Chan*

From the Editor, CCN

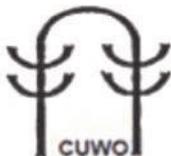
Campus News has had a difficult year, one which we seriously thought would be our last, as volunteer numbers dropped to unsustainable levels and new recruits were not forthcoming. Thus, in March I suspended production until, or indeed if, help could be found. When the next two newsletters did not appear in mailboxes I began to receive emails asking why but still no offers of help, until the CUWO committee stepped forward and offered to support us.

Thus, in September, we re-launched, with some changes. We now have articles in English and Chinese and a greater focus on things in our area. We are featuring Chinese

University staff and activities, and hope to promote CU organizations and their activities; in other words, we have both returned to our roots and grown new branches on our maturing tree.

In 2014 CCN will be 30 years old - another major achievement for an organ that is self-funding and produced entirely by volunteers.

As Editor, I would like to thank the campus community for taking this journey with us and CUWO for helping us continue on into the future. We look forward to celebrating our 30th, along with CUWO's 25th, and hope that you will join us.



中文大學婦女會

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Patron: Mrs. Gwen Kao

Email: CUWO@cuhk.edu.hk

CUWO ACTIVITIES: ALL ARE WELCOME

Pilates Class

Time: Mon 10.45 to 11.45am

Thur 11am to 12nn

Venue: Recreation Room, Basement
Residence 14, CUHK

With: Jane Tracy, NASM Persona Trainer
Polestar Pilates Instructor
Licensed Fletcher Towel-work
Provider

Fee: \$150 per person per session

Enquiries: Email CUWO@cuhk.edu.hk

Expressions of Interest Sought

"Are you interested in improving your social Mandarin or Cantonese? Would you like to join CUWO friends during lunch time for language learning and lunch? If you are interested in this idea, please email us at cuwo@cuhk.edu.hk

Bookworms Children's Library

When? Saturdays, 10 am to 12 noon

Where? Basement of Residence 14,
CUHK (access via the stairs
near the playground)

What? Run entirely by volunteers, the library has books for all ages, fiction, and non-fiction, picture and pop-up. If you have ideas for new books, just let us know!

Life membership is just \$100, so bring your children along to sample our great selection of books. Read-in or take away (as long as you bring them back, of course!), books provide endless joy and unlimited education.

Enquiries:

joanh.kt@gmail.com or
cuwo@cuhk.edu.hk



Campus Community News



Editorial Team

Chief Editor: Gillian Kew

Sub Editors: The committee of the Chinese University Women's Organization

Contributions

Please send submissions / classified ads to The Editor, gilliankew@yahoo.com with name and contact details for verification purposes; pen-names may be used upon request. Please submit contributions / classified ads **by January 15th for the next issue.**

Please note that contributions may be edited and that the opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Campus Community News.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
FUND-RAISING
'FLEA MARKET' on
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH.**

**YOUR SUPPORT WILL
HELP PAY FOR PRINTING
OF CCN IN 2014, OUR 30TH
YEAR OF PRODUCTION!**

Chinese University News

Concerts (CUHK Concert & Master Class Series) at Chung Chi College

Performer	Date	Time	Venue
Sascia Pellegrini, Percussion	23 January (Thursday)	8:00pm	Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building
Felix Ungar, Viola	13 February (Thursday)	8:00pm	Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building
Helen Cha & Rachel Cheung Piano duo:	27 February (Thursday)	8:00pm	Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building
P3 Piano Trio	27 March (Thursday)	8:00pm	Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building
Sophia Yan Piano:	24 April (Thursday)	8:00pm, Source: Music Department Events: Spring 2014	Lee Hysan Concert Hall, Esther Lee Building,

Source: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/mus/cms_14spring.html

IN HONG KONG The 42nd Hong Kong Arts Festival 2014



Dates: 18 February to 22 March 2014

Venue: Various Tel: 2824 2430

Website: www.hk.artsfestival.org

HKAF showcases the talents of Asia alongside leading artistes from around the world. The festival's broad spectrum of events ranges from the classical, to the avant-garde. The full list of the Hong Kong Arts Festival performances is available online.

For more details visit the festival website at <http://www.hk.artsfestival.org/>

**HURRY! TICKETS ARE GOING FAST
AND SOME EVENTS ARE ALREADY SOLD OUT!**

Chinese University News
At the Art Museum

殊途同歸

香港中文大學與英國牛津大學所藏高劍父、呂壽琨作品展

Two Masters, Two Generations, and
One Vision for Modern Chinese Painting

Paintings by Gao Jianfu (1879-1951) and Lui Shou-kwan (1919-1975)
in The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Oxford

2013.12.7 – 2014.5.15

香港中文大學文物館

Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



ASHMOLEAN

文物館開放時間：每天上午十時至下午五時 公眾假期閉館 Museum hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily Closed on public holidays <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/arm>



Friends of the Art Museum, CUHK

The Friends are a non-profit organization established to promote art education and to support the Chinese University Art Museum and its students through various activities, including lectures, gallery visits, and tours. Visit www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/friends/

LECTURE: THE FEMINIZATION OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEAS (1450 -1850)

by Professor Robert J ANTONY

Date: 9 Jan 2014, Thursday

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Venue: Club Lusitano, 16 Ice House Street, Central (entrance also in Duddell Street)

Cost: HK\$200 member; HK\$250 non member; HK\$100 Young Friends and Students (includes first drink and canapés)

Reservations and Enquiries: email eventsfam@gmail.com or call/text 6083 8892 Marianne Yeo.

Many regard the seas as mysterious and dangerous, but so are women! Based on over 30 years of research and fieldwork along the South China coast, our speaker will show that during the Age of Sail (1450-1850) the South China Seas were a highly feminized space. Unlike other places, there were no taboos on women working and living aboard ships. It is estimated that up to half of the total seaborne population was female: wives and family members, sailors, pirates, cooks, seamstresses, and prostitutes. These women were thought “exotic and promiscuous”. Guangdong boat women were famous for their lusty “salt water songs” and stereotyped as sleeping with whomever they pleased.

Some women became pirates, fighting alongside men, commanding ships, and even pirate fleets. Tales of super-sexual female pirates who cannibalized male captives to enhance their own carnal prowess abound. The most important sea deities

were female, including the Empress of Heaven (Tianhou / Tin Hau), the Dragon Mother (Longmu / Lung Mo), and the mysterious Third Sister (Sanpo / Saam Po).

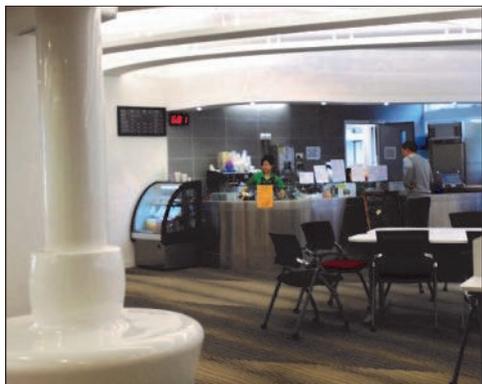
Why was this significant? The feminization of the South China Seas offers an alternative approach to understanding China; one that moves away from the dominant Confucian and terra-centred approaches to Chinese history. Boat women represented the most radical departure from the traditional norms of the dominant society and culture on shore. Women of the sea enjoyed more gender equality. They had unbound feet and worked alongside men aboard ships. Such indiscriminate mixing of the sexes would have been considered “immoral and shameless” on land. From the perspective of dominant society on land, such women “who behaved like men” perverted the social order and normal gender relationships and challenged the patriarchal hierarchy upon which both state and society rested. Female sea deities reinforced these notions of “otherness” and provided boat women with positive models of womanhood, strength, and defiance in an otherwise male-centred and terra-centred Chinese cosmos.

Professor Robert J Antony of the Department of History, University of Macau, teaches modern and comparative Chinese history. He gained his qualifications at the Universities of New Orleans and Hawaii and at Renmin University, Beijing. He has studied, written, and published extensively. His latest work, a monograph 海上風雲: 南中國海的海盜及其不法活動 *Turbulent Waters – Piracy and Other Illegal Activities of the South China Seas 1450 - 1940* was recently published in Beijing. He was recently appointed Advisory Editor of the journal of China Maritime Research published by the Maritime Museum, Shanghai. He is married to a clinical psychologist from Taiwan and has lived in Asia for many years.

校園內的隱世麵館

這地方確是不好找，沒有指示，沒有招牌，甚至連名字都好像沒有，但卻又是一個不錯的地方。

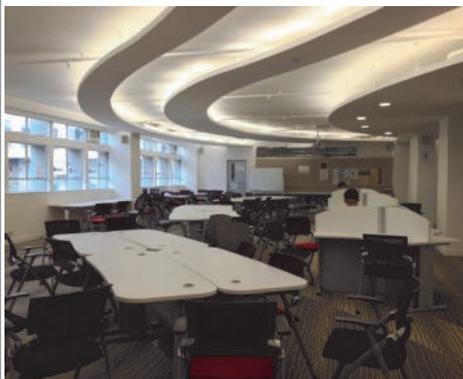
正確位置應為李卓敏基本醫學大樓三樓，即醫學院飯堂 Med Can 樓上，要從 Med Can 後面的電梯大堂乘電梯上三樓，途中完全沒有指示，要靠著自己的信心到達目的地才知道沒有走錯。



要找這地方不容易，要形容這地方也不容易。反覆思量，決定把這地方定性為有食物供應並且不需保持安靜的自修室。這裏的標準營業時間是上午十一時至下午六時，但其實上午九時許已開始有咖啡供應，雖然這裏看來

規模不大，但基本的咖啡種類如 Espresso, Blue Mountain, Mocha 以至意大利咖啡都一應俱全。除了凍櫃全日有預先包裝的三文治外，到十一時開始供應麵食包括車仔麵、撈麵、撈意粉，下午除了數款下午茶餐外還有沙律、港式小食，更別緻的是波子汽水，很明顯這裏的服務對象以學生為主。

這個地方的特別之處並不是食物，而是一份濃厚的學院氣氛。來到這裏會看到有些同學躲到角落一面吃一面溫習，也有同學聯塊來討論功課。中午時段更不難發現有些同事也到這邊隨便來個簡單午餐，然後閒話家常一會，不錯，大學就是應該有這種悠然的氣氛。



Tips and Tricks: by Anita Kwong

Secure Your Mobile Devices

Mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets bring much convenience to our everyday lives. However, if they are not securely protected, they also become convenient access points to security threats. To reduce the risk of leaking personal data from a mobile device, you are strongly encouraged to follow these best practices:



Lock Your Mobile Device

- ◆ • Enable pass-code
- ◆ Automatic screen lock after a short period of inactivity

Use Secure Networks

- ◆ Turn off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and location service when they are not in use.
- ◆ Do NOT connect to untrusted Wi-Fi networks.
- ◆ Do NOT access personal or financial data with public Wi-Fi networks.
- ◆ Use a secure network, such as VPN.¹

Enjoy Safe Browsing

- ◆ Beware of clicking links and opening attachments, as these might contain viruses, especially those from unsolicited email or text messages.

- ◆ Use SSL (<https://>)² when browsing any website that may process sensitive data.
- ◆ Beware of the Quick Response (QR) code you scan as it might links to a malicious website

Protect Your Operating System (OS)

Do NOT jailbreak or root³ the device

- Keep the OS updated
- Install anti-virus software

Mind Your Apps

- Do NOT download apps from untrustworthy sources
- Review and update apps regularly
- Remove unused apps

Protect Your Sensitive Data

- Avoid storing confidential / sensitive data on your mobile device
- Encrypt confidential / sensitive data by using the encryption feature available on your device
- Back up the data on your mobile device to another secure storage media regularly
- Securely erase / wipe all the data in your device before discarding or selling your device

For detailed guidelines of securely managing mobile devices, please visit: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/itsc/security/gpis/guideSecureMobileDevice.html>

Terms

1. *VPN - Virtual Private Network: a network that cloaks your internet identity, providing increased security. See <http://www.techterms.com/definition/vpn>*
2. *SSL - Secure Socket Layer: a network that encrypts data using two security keys. See <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/SSL.html>*
3. *Jailbreak r Root -*

Day Trip to STANLEY

赤柱 (*Chek Chue*)

(or the “red pillar” on Southside, HK Island.

The best way to visit is on a sunny day, sitting on top of a double decker bus (no. 6, 6A, 6X, 66, or 260) from the Exchange Square bus terminus, underneath Numbers One and Two, Exchange Square. Alight either at the old bus station, – **Stanley Market** 赤柱市場 or at the new bus station – **Stanley Plaza** 赤柱廣場, then stroll about to your heart’s content. It is difficult to get lost, as everywhere is reachable on foot. The leisurely seaside atmosphere and bustle of the shops in the winding bazaar and the many restaurants add to the attraction for visitors. There is little point to bargain, as the stallholders are used to tourists but it is possible to find some good sale items, especially gifts and souvenirs for friends and relatives living abroad. Children can enjoy supervised art activities in the Plaza while parents enjoy an hour or two of free time.

Historical Stanley:

When the British arrived in 1842, Stanley was a fishing village located on the peninsula, where **Stanley Fort** now stands (presently home to the PLA garrison in Hong Kong). The British moved the villagers to the vicinity of the current **Stanley Post Office**. This tiny 1930s building is still in use today, almost in its original state, the oldest post office in Hong Kong. Next door, you will find a small Wellcome supermarket 惠康超級市場 in the original **old Stanley Police Station** with dungeon, which was built in 1859. This is a declared monument, being the oldest police station in Hong Kong (and probably the only police station in the world ever to be used as a shop!) If you look closely among the grocery shelves, you can see the old granite steps and thick, iron barred doors.



Hong Kong Old Stanley Police Station, now home to a ‘Wellcome’ supermarket.

The **new police station** is the gleaming white building across the road with watchtower and multiple antennae.

Just beyond the old bus station, near the Post Office, the road forks – one fork to **Stanley Prison** and the other to **Stanley Military Cemetery**. Both are pleasant, leafy walks and lead to beaches with public showers and barbeque areas. Annual international windsurfing competitions and dragon boat races are held here.

If you alight at the new bus station, take the escalator or stairs all the way down to the old **Tin Hau temple** 天后古廟 built in the 1700s. It is a simple, rural structure sitting in its original spot. Inside are displayed a badly preserved tiger skin of an animal shot by a Sikh policeman after the animal was seen prowling outside the old police station just before World War II, and a large bronze ceremonial bell donated by the notorious pirate, Cheung Po-Tsai.

Modern Stanley: Suitable for the entire family, it is a favourite place for young couples to visit and to have their wedding photographs taken. It is pet friendly, but dogs must be leashed and well-behaved. A large, American community has developed since American Club and American School were

Out and About by Marianne Yeo

built here and recently the French community too, have discovered Stanley and its neighbour, **Chung Hom Kok 春坎角** which has a lovely public beach and picnic area. Stanley is easier to get to than its twin village, **Shek O 石澳 “Rocky Bay”** but the beach there is “wilder” ocean and more beautiful, with some (badly preserved) Bronze Age rock carvings. There is open air dining, day and night at small family run restaurants and there are balmy, evening sea breezes. There are two large barbeque areas, one on each side of the beach, very popular at the weekends but so discreet that other beach goers enjoying the moon and stars are not disturbed.

Bring enough cash as there is only one portable ATM machine – on the 2/F of Stanley Plaza – and a small commercial money changer (with uncompetitive rates) next to Haagen Daz, in the market, just beyond Watson’s. Many shops accept credit cards and you can easily top-up your Octopus at the 7/11 or the two supermarkets, which also offer cash-back if you pay with your ATM card.

The restaurants and bars are mostly western, with some Chinese noodle type places, which at night, are closed, or serve only Thai food. On public holidays, there are organized street events like fairs, processions, free concerts and displays of artwork. Stanley is proud of its marching band from the HK Sea School and of its traditional Chinese dragon / lion dancers.

Local Chinese love visiting Stanley for its different atmosphere just as much as do tourists; somehow, all find things to savour and enjoy in this modern / old village!



Bustling Market at Stanley



Murray Building, moved from Central to Stanley in 1998



View across the bay from Murray House

Holiday Recipe Corner

by Gillian Kew

Throwing a cocktail party or having family round this year? Sick of “Waldorf salad” dripping in Miracle Whip, and soggy vol-au-vents with tasteless fillings? Catered parties can be hit and miss, so why not try adding a few simple dishes of your own to supplement the bought ones?

Parma Ham Figs (makes 24)

6 ripe figs; small sprigs rosemary; pack Parma ham, sliced into long strips.



1. Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C (fan) or Gas 5. Cut figs into quarters, put a sprig of rosemary on each quarter and wrap with ham.
2. Roast on a baking sheet for 5 mins until warmed through, then serve.

Sticky Sausages

30 cocktail sausages (approx 400g); 2½Tbsp hoisin sauce; 1 Tbsp whole-grain mustard; 1-2 tsp sesame seeds



1. Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C (fan) or Gas 6. Mix sausages, hoisin, and sesame seeds in a roasting tin, coating sausages well.
2. Roast 20-25 mins until cooked. Serve warm or at room temperature, on sticks.

Zesty Pea Dip

100g frozen peas; 200g cream cheese; Finely grated zest & juice of ½ a lemon; extra zest to garnish; hand-full of chopped, fresh parsley plus extra to garnish.

1. Soak 100g (3½oz) frozen peas in enough boiling water to cover, for 3 mins, then drain.
2. Using a food processor or blender, blend with 200g (7oz) cream cheese, finely grated zest and juice of ½ lemon, and chopped parsley, and seasoning, until combined but still with a good texture.
3. Check seasoning and transfer to serving and garnish with lemon zest, chopped parsley and black pepper, as desired. Serve with your favourite crackers, breads, or crudites. .



Toblerone Mousse

750ml double cream; 300g Toblerone milk chocolate plus grated milk chocolate for garnish; 6 tablespoons hot water; 3 egg whites



1. Whip the cream until just stiff.
2. Place a bowl with the chocolate and 6 tablespoons of water over a pan of simmering water and allow to melt. Remove from heat, stir and cool slightly.
3. Beat the egg whites in a clean, dry bowl with a pinch of salt until stiff peaks are formed.
4. Fold the melted chocolate into the cream and then carefully fold in the egg whites. Pour into individual glasses (champagne, liqueur, and shot glasses work well) or small ramekins. and chill for a few hours before serving, topped with grated chocolate and / or berries / whipped cream

Poetry and Prose by Anita Chan

Christmas Cheer (2013 at CU)

The Christmas tree is our Christmas cheer
The Christmas Turkey, euphoria
Bells of Christmas around campus
Parties for Christmas around campus

The Christmas pine cones are cheery
Walks around the campus are breezy
Flowery red over hills and vales
Christmas red over hills and vales

The mulled wine is ready in the early dusk
The mince pies are scrumptious on the
CUWO desk
Christmas gifts are nigh
Christmas gifts are nigh

Friends from far away are coming
It is wisely built Christmas timing
Winter kisses, winter cheers
Christmas kisses, Christmas cheers

Sing loud, sing hard, CU fellows
Out of our voice, sing along fellows
“Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled”



Travelogue: Another Place, Another Time North Korea (Part II) by Dr. Memie Kwok

The final installment in our 3-part series on North Korea

Unification was one topic about which, Madam Lee and Mr Kim were both enthusiastic. They stated, "Certainly it is the ardent yearning of both North and South Korean people for reunification; the Korean people are one family. It is the Americans who are making difficulties and trying to stop the process." "But if you look at the reunification of East and West Germany, it has brought out a lot of problems ; besides, would you be worried that your young people might be seduced by Western consumerism and change their values?" I asked, with some concern, to which they replied, "That is why we want to go slow and assimilate gradually; the reunification could take 10 or even more years to complete, but we still have to start somewhere."

The echo of the wounds inflicted by the forced division of their country rang deep in the psyche of North Koreans and was most evident when we visited the War Museum and Panmunjom, the Demilitarised Zone. As an armistice, not a peace treaty was signed in 1953, the two Koreas are technically still at war to this day. "You know, my father actually served in the Korean War", I told the young Museum guide . "Our country thank your father," she bowed . " But he wasn't in the frontline," I hastily added, " he was an interpreter in the interrogation of the captured American GIs." "No matter; he came so he's our friend." Many Chinese did come. It is estimated that at least half a million Chinese volunteer fighters died in the Korean War , including the eldest son of Mao Zedong.

Visitors to North Korea all had different agendas. A young Indian Business student from Dehli but studying in Beijing was travelling alone. His thesis theses was on North Korea. Two Italians from Milan came to

assess business opportunities, Italy being the first major Western country to open ties with North Korea. The English and Scottish couples I met in our hotel were retired; they came to test what they had read about North Korea. Their verdict was, "Surreal," but they nevertheless enjoyed their stay. A woman in our group was a reporter for a Hong Kong magazine of some disrepute. I read her piece after we returned : it was shallow, cliché and bigoted, full of preconceived prejudicial ideas that did nothing but reinforce stereotypical, narrow perceptions about North Koreans. This was perhaps not surprising, as during the whole trip she asked less than 6 questions, in contrast to the 600 I hurled at anyone who would talk to me. It was as though she had already formulated her ideas of the country even before she visited. While I was talking to some schoolgirls, she rushed up and started talking to them in Mandarin. As anyone who does their research knows, the second language taught in all North Korean schools is English.



Monument to Chinese Martyrs in the Korean War

Travelogue Continued: North Korea by Dr. Memie Kwok

I noted with sorrow this woman is not alone; many journaists coming into North Korea are only looking for scandal, and are ready to sneer, jeer and snicker at any thoughts or deeds dissimilar to their own, scrutinizing the people as if they were zoo animals . Precious few make any attempt to touch the real people, to see things from their perspective, to try to understand the social fabric and ideology that tie these people together, which in its way gives sense and meaning to their harsh lives

Korean patriotism is legendary. During the Asian Economic Crisis South Koreans sold their family jewellery to help out their compatriots in the north. It is possible that the love most North Koreans (particularly the older generation) proclaimed for Kim Il Sung is genuine; unlike China, North Korea has never suffered any major political upheavals and intellectual have fared much better than their mainland Chinese counterparts. Korea had been under foreign domination for generations; the older Koreans still remember the hardship and humiliation they endured under brutal Japanese rule, as well as the years of war before they gained independence.

The new Republic gave them a new lease of life and a new pride. In the 1960s and early 1970s, before the economy of South Korea took off, North Korea was infinitely the more progressive of the 2 Koreas in every way. People were well fed, industries boomed and literacy was 99%, thanks in part to aid from the Communist Bloc. The nightmare began following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the disintegration of the Eastern Block. Suddenly there was no market for the minerals that were their chief export, and the subsidized food and energy supply ceased. The withdrawal of aid coincided with catastrophic droughts and floods, which led to severe food shortages, just around the time that Kim Il Sung died , so the memory of Kim's

Realm was associated with good times.

Juche is the official ideology of North Korea: the philosophy of socialist self-reliance that the whole nation embraces. The Juche idea states that man is the master of his own destiny; he does not rely on others and it is through his own effort that he changes his environment and shapes his own destiny. North Koreans are intensely proud people; they extract donations in subtle ways. At every place we stopped we were invited to buy bouquets of flowers to lay at the foot of a Monument. (Pyongyang is the City of Monuments). The bouquets were removed the moment we left to be re-sold to the next lot of visitors. I was more than happy to buy the bouquets as a small way to help out. Madam Lee seemed relieved that there was at least one taker for the bouquets and enthusiastically recommended other sale items, with the result suddenly I found myself the proud owner of a copy of "Kim Il Sung, The early years"!



The Peoples' Monument: one of the many where flowers are most welcome.

At Madam Lee's suggestion we broke away from the official itinerary and spent a night at a Spa in the countryside. She told me that we could have arranged more out-of-itinerary outings if our HK tour guide was a little smarter. At the end of the journey,

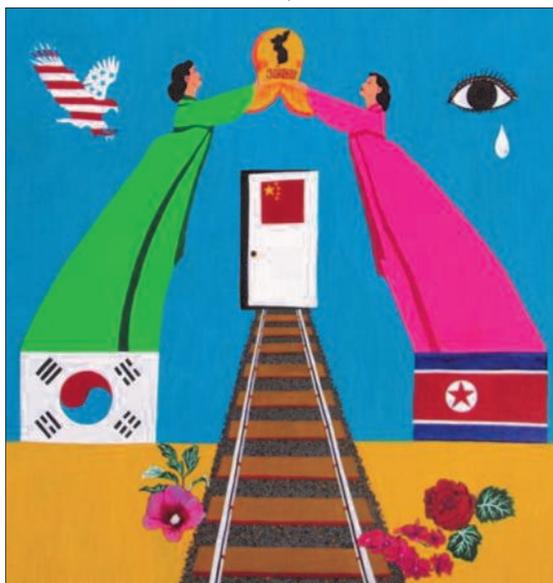
Travelogue Continued: North Korea by Dr. Memie Kwok

everybody left with the guides whatever snacks they didn't finish in the trip. I gave Madam Lee a bag of mixed, dried fruit . "It's all organic, so really good for you," then added apologetically, "But it's from America". "It's unopened," she muttered softly. "It's a gift". I gave her a hug, "I would never give you leftovers," then stuffed 300 dollars in her hands : for her, Mr Kim and the driver. "You must accept this," I urged, as Madam Lee hesitated. "This is a small token of thanks from my heart".

The trip reinforced my conviction that people are just people, whatever country or culture they are from. One lunch time I wandered off by myself a little way off the hotel premises and was accosted by a group of young men and women . Through a lot of body language and broken English I surmised they were workers on a day trip. The men crowded round me and all tried to finger my Canon camera , holding their thumbs up and nodding their heads vigorously. They wanted me to take pictures of

them and laughed and jostled each other for a better position . Flying in the face of socialist decorum , some of the men were drunk, at midday! "Boys will be Boys," and these young people were just trying to have a good time on their day off and do young people things. I remembered too the middle aged lady at the Arc de Triumph, who blushed with pleasure when I complimented her on her beautiful Korean dress . Strip off the thin veneer of unfamiliar languages and customs and we see ourselves and our friends . While I have great reservations about the Korean Government (and Governments in general), I couldn't help but feel a great warmth for the people, and admiration for their dignity and courage in dire circumstances . What stirred me most was despite their daily hardship, all that the North Koreans wanted from me was to think well of them; all that they wanted was a little respect for them as a people .

I certainly have no problem saying nice things about the North Koreans.



The two Koreas: original work by Dr. Memie Kwok

Through Reflections, we stop to ponder, to dream, to learn and to live...

REFLECTIONS by E. C.

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."

Nelson Mandela

Imprisoned for 27 years for his fight against racial oppression, Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first black president and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for bringing peace and reconciliation to his troubled country. After a life long fight to end apartheid, he was able to unite his country and bring an end to segregation through peaceful means. An inspirational figure, he was courageous but above all, forgiving - as these words uttered after he was freed from imprisonment in 1990 demonstrated.

In this season of goodwill, let us remember and practice those words.

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