



读ING

王成法 摄影 + 诗文

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倡导自然的阅读风尚

由于职业关系，我常去国外参加书展活动，因此有机会拍到了许多国家的阅读风景。

我拍的阅读状态，大都是自然的阅读景象。表现出来的是一种休闲，一种快乐，一种享受，一种纯自然的生活方式。读书的景致，在FBF法兰克福书展，有“阅读如风，人随书动”的阅读场面；在莱茵河畔，有“周末何处去？连椅读绿茵”的阅读风景；在赫尔辛基郊外的情人岛，有“求知蓝天之下，融入江河之中，阅读欢乐时光，向往纯美人生”的静读；在赫尔辛基城里，有“一份报纸，一杯浓茶，沐浴阳光，朝闻天下”的晨读；在圣保罗，有“初春乍暖还寒，提琴伴我阅读春风”的求知青年；在圣彼得堡，有“白发人未老，红巾读秋风”的丽质妇人；在莫斯科，有“仗剑行天下，读书气自华”的非凡侠客；在卢克索，有“尼罗河里游泳，躺椅之上读书，休闲自在，享受人生”的休闲老人……

也许是职业的敏感，拍照让我领悟到，阅读能够体现一个民族的精神气质，能够反映一个国家的文化风貌。由此我想到了“读书节”。

“读书节”来自美丽的传说。最早可追溯到1926年西班牙国王设立的“西班牙自由节”，并把伟大作家塞万提斯的生日10月7日作为这个

节日的庆祝日。1930年庆祝活动移到4月23日，碰巧这天正是加泰罗尼亚地区的大众节日“圣乔治节”。传说中勇士乔治屠龙救了公主，公主为感谢救命之恩特意送给他一本书，象征着知识与力量。从此每到这一天，加泰罗尼亚的妇女们就送给丈夫或朋友一本书，男人们则回赠一枝玫瑰花，由此沿习至今。联合国教科文组织在1995年确定4月23日为“世界读书日”，倡导“阅读改变世界”。

相对而言，“读书节”在西方国家开展得比较普遍，英、法、德、美等国家均有自己的“读书节”、“朗读日”、“诗歌月”……近年，我国也在积极推进国民阅读，围绕“世界读书日”也搞了很多读书活动。然而，由于我们国家应试教育的束缚，我们看到的往往是应试前痛苦的“准备”，或是工作前急速的“充电”，一味追求的是书中自有“黄金屋”，书中自有“颜如玉”，我们的读书显然太功利了。功利性的阅读破坏了中国孩子的阅读品位和兴致。他们随着年龄的增长，许多人却与图书渐行渐远了。仔细观察，我们当前的社会浮躁，从城里到乡村，到处都可以听到点钱声、搓麻声、敲背声、卡拉OK唱歌声……但是很少能听到国民朗朗的读书声。显然，我们的国民还没有养成阅读的习惯，还没有形成全民阅读的氛围。这有待于我们去倡导阅读、组织阅读、支持阅读，真正把我们的国家建设成阅读型的文明社会。就此，我无能力让别人去做什么，但我想到了出版反映世界阅读的书。无论作用大小，作为出版人，只是一种责任，一种对“世界读书日”的关注，一种对休闲阅读、快乐阅读、纯自然非功利阅读的声声呼唤……

.....

Advocate the Fashion of Spontaneous Reading

My professional career entails my frequent visits abroad for taking part in book exhibition activities. This has afforded me with hosts of opportunities for recording with my camera the ways people in different parts of the world engage in activities of reading.

The photos I took highlight in a carefree and unmannered way in reading—a way that bespeaks relaxation, pleasure, enjoyment and a life completely free of mundane concerns or constraints. Some photos taken at the Frankfurt Book Fair serve to illustrate such a reading habit as can be described as “the eyes browse the pages like a sweeping gale, and the readers move along the books”. Some photos taken somewhere on the banks of the Rhine serve to feature the way of life of the local people—“their resort at weekend was to enjoy reading on garden chairs on a lawn”. Some photos taken in the “lovers’ island” in the suburbs of Helsinki can all be given the caption: “It seems

knowledge is ubiquitous, in the heavens as well as in the streams. So long as you addict yourself to reading, you would experience only ecstasy and aspire after a sublime life." Reading can certainly bring about peace of mind. Some photos taken in Helsinki faithfully reflect the zest of the local people in practicing "morning reading". They enjoy the morning routine of "browsing through newspapers while tasting a cup of fragrant tea in morning sunlight to have a panoramic view of what is going on in the world". The photo taken in São Paulo, Brazil, shows a young man in the chill early spring wind, reading books with a viola by his side. A photo taken in St. Petersburg indicates a white-haired lady, with a red shawl, is reading in the autumn wind. A photo taken in Moscow give us to understand that even the chivalrous warriors set great store by profuse reading. A photo taken in Luxor, Egypt, serve to illustrate the fact that the elderly swimming in the Nile, then reading in a deck chair, freely and leisurely, enjoying life...

A sort of acumen probably cultivated by my professional career as a cameraman has led me to perceive that the way in which a nation engages in reading is the apt epitome of her esprit and of the level of her cultural development. This perception of mine has moved me into musing over the "World Reading Day".

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"World Reading Day" has behind it a lot of beautiful legends. The earliest of them dates back to 1926 when the king of Spain founded the "Spain Festival of Freedom" on Oct. 7, the birthday of the great Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes. In 1930, the festival was changed to April 23, "Saint George's Day" in Catalonia, Spain, becoming a part of the traditional celebrations of the day. The legend of the "Saint George's Day" runs like this: a brave man George killed a dragon and saved a princess, who later presented him a book symbolizing knowledge and strength to show her gratitude. In memory of the legend, from medieval era, men and women would exchange books and roses. In 1995, UNESCO decided that the "World Book and Copyright Day" would be celebrated on this date and its theme is "reading changes the world".

Comparatively speaking, western countries have been more active in establishing their own Day of Book. Such countries as Britain, France, Germany, America, each has its own Reading Day, Book Day, Poetry Month... In recent years China has been trying to follow suit by developing a spectrum of reading-based activities. However it is a pity that what is now prevailing in the domain of education in China is to encourage students, rather than to acquire really useful knowledge, only to seek good marks in all

kinds of examinations throughout their school days. So the motive of the present Chinese students for reading is indubitably utilitarian. As they get older, the students would gradually estranged from books. A careful observation of the current social life in China would notice that China's society is going increasingly blundering now. Not only in cities but in rural areas the prevailing bustle is caused by treacherous bargaining in markets, clamors over mahjong tables, flirtations from erotic sauna houses, din from windows of karaoke restaurants... And what absent is the sound of reading aloud. Apparently addiction to reading is at present still alien to public mentality in China. There does not exist in China a climate congenial to reading. Such a circumstance calls for us to advocate reading, organize reading and support reading, so as to build our country into a highly civilized and reading-based society. As for me, I know I am not in a position to ask others what to do, still it is in my power to prepare this work of mine for publication, which is intended for making our people understand how countries across the world are dealing with reading. Though being definitely unsure of what a role this book is about to play, I would dedicate it piously to World Reading Day out of a sense of duty as a pressman. Moreover I would offer it to the general public

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as a clarion call to the practice of relaxation-oriented reading
and of mirthful reading—a practice that is motivated by a
spontaneous urge totally freed of utilitarianism.

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知识因传播而美丽。

——世界读书日主题语

Knowledge gets handsomer in the course of its dissemination.

—The theme of World Reading Day

幻影

Creatures of some weird phantasmal world

法兰克福书展

Frankfurt Book Fair

阅读如风，
人随书动，
为探索人生奥秘，
在知识海洋里航行……

The eyes browse the pages like sweeping gales,
And the readers move along the books.
For exploring the secret of man's life
We sail over the ocean of knowledge...

Eingang Presse Zentrum
Entrance Press Centre

Eingang
Entrance **LitAg**

FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

