

中英文对照

凌节生 著

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怀念十二个难忘的人

—— 一个在联合国工作了半个世纪的公务员的回忆录



The Memorable Dozen

—— Memoir of a United Nations civil servant for
health and development

By Jack Chieh-Sheng Ling

Translated by Xu Wenqing and Zhang Lei

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The Memorable Dozen

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for health and development**

By Jack Chieh-Sheng Ling

Translated by Xu Wenqing and Zhang Lei

Peking University Medical Press

Preface

When I was an English major at St. John's University (Shanghai) in the mid 1940s, I had to read many books as part of the requirement. I found the assigned readings difficult, almost drudgery. The books included great classics from the world of English and American literature, some of which was somewhat beyond my comprehension level of the language. They dealt with life in days of yore and countries far away. I thought then that there was a dearth of material that was closer to my level of the command of English, preferably with some relevance to my familiar, albeit somewhat limited, world. I tried reading the *Shanghai Evening Post* and found the language more or less at my level and the subjects close to home. I switched my major to journalism and found my niche; collecting facts and presenting them in simple, declarative sentences for the man or woman in the street. When I was asked to write about my life, I realize that perhaps I could produce a text in simple English that could help fill the gap in a small way.

As China is emerging rapidly as a global power, many more young Chinese aspire to pursue a career in international work, governmental, non-governmental and commercial. In the course of my half-century service as UN official and consultant, I had the privilege of meeting and working with numerous interesting personages. For this book, I have chosen a dozen whom I consider

memorable; their life and work were so varied, each showing his or her unique strength. It is my hope that this book will encourage young Chinese to pursue a meaningful and enriching life working with people from various walks of life in different continents.

Although the title page includes a reference to memoir, the book is not strictly my memoir. However, readers will get a glimpse of my life through the chapters in *The Memorable Dozen*.

Jack Chieh-Sheng Ling

前 言

早在 20 世纪 40 年代中期，当我还是上海圣约翰大学英文专业学生的时候，我就得阅读很多的规定书目。我当时觉得这些规定读物晦涩难懂，阅读它们实在是一门苦差事。这些书中包括一些英美文学名著，其中一部分有些超越了我的语言理解能力。它们的内容无论在时间还是空间上对我而言都无比遥远。那时我总感觉符合我当时的英语水平、又贴近我这块小小天地的阅读材料真是少之又少。我曾试着阅读上海的《大美晚报》，感觉报纸的语言难易程度和内容都与我更为贴近。最终我还是改了专业，转学新闻，找到了自己的位置：收集事实，然后通过简单的陈述句，用街头男女都能看懂的方式呈现出来。因此当我被要求描写自己生活历程的时候，我意识到也许我能用简单的英文把它写出来，权当以某种方式填补这一空白吧。

在中国快速上升为世界强国之际，越来越多的年轻人正在追求国际化的职业道路，无论是在政府、非政府还是商业领域。在担任联合国官员和顾问的半个世纪间，我曾有幸和众多有趣的人物相遇并合作过。在本书中我选出了十二个自己认为难忘的人：他们的生活和工作大不相同，而每个人都显示出自身独有的力量。我希望这本书能激励中国的年轻人追求一种得以在不同大陆上与各种背景的人们合作的既充满意义、又丰富多彩的生活。

标题页上提到回忆录三个字，但严格说来这本书并不是我的回忆录。尽管如此，读者朋友还是可以从《怀念十二个难忘的人》一书的不同章节中一瞥我的生活历程。

凌节生

Acknowledgement

This book would not have been possible without the dedicated support and guidance from Dr. Xu Wenqing and Ms. Zhang Lei. Not only did they translate the English text into proficient Chinese, they were the ones who encouraged me in the first place to put down in writing about my life's experience. After she read an account of my 50 years of association with the UN in *Chinese in the United Nations* published by the Cultural and Language University of Beijing, Dr. Xu urged me to do a memoir from Shanghai childhood to the global fight against iodine deficiency, which can rob children up to 10% of their IQ potential. Ms. Zhang strongly endorsed Dr. Xu's idea for my memoir.

Dr. Xu, a graduate of the prestigious Peking University School of Public Health, is a key member of the UNICEF's HIV team in China, having served earlier as an innovative health promotion specialist in educating rural folks on various health issues. Ms. Zhang, a graduate of the elite Wellesley College in the U. S. and a true practitioner of bilingualism, specializes in communication and marketing. Both represent a new generation of Chinese professionals dedicated to serve the international community.

I undertook the task of recording my life's work on the premise that such a memoir, printed in English and Chinese side by side, might serve to guide those Chinese youngsters aspiring to enter international service and also to help those interested in learning

English with a text that has a Chinese flavor and backdrop. Although I started my working life as a reporter for a Chinese daily in Hong Kong, I have not used the Chinese language for almost six decades — other than speaking Shanghainese with my wife to shield our thoughts from our quite Americanized children. My Chinese is therefore no longer serviceable but, more importantly, out of date in 21st century China. Xu and Zhang were kind enough to volunteer their service to translate my English manuscript into Chinese, for which I am eternally grateful.

A third international civil servant, to whom I owe a debt of deep gratitude, is Guo Jidong who provided invaluable editorial oversight of the Chinese manuscript. A senior UN simultaneous interpreter, Guo was formerly an officer of China's Ministry of Health; he obtained his Master's degree at Tulane University during my tenure there.

After I finished my initial memoir draft which ran over 200,000 words, however, I became aware of, and indeed sensitive to, the general critique of autobiographies that “vanity” inescapably plays a role in such work. I have decided to keep the memoir project for the benefit of my children and grandchildren and perhaps friends who I hope will be charitable enough to overlook the inadvertent “vanities” in my narration. My second thought then led me to write this much shorter text which records a dozen memorable personages in my life, from whom readers will get some glimpses of my life's work.

I also owe a vote of thanks to Prof. Guo Yan, a member of WHO's Commission for Social Determinants of Health, a valued

UNICEF's health consultant and a former Vice President of School of Public Health, Peking University. It was my pride and privilege to have been Dr. Guo's academic adviser for her Tulane MPH degree program in the early 1990s. She was a staunch supporter of the book project and recommended my manuscript to the publisher.

Finally, I could not possibly have completed this book without the constant support of my wife, Christine Yuan. Ever an honest critic and a loyal fan, she is my loving life-long partner, whom I have consulted on all my major decisions, including the writing of this thin volume and the choice of the memorable dozen from the scores of personages I have known. Christine is the proverbial woman behind the man.

Jack Chieh-Sheng Ling

致 谢

如果没有许文青医生和张蕾女士的一贯支持和引导，这本书就不可能成形。她们不仅帮我将英文翻译成地道的中文，还从一开始就鼓励我将自己的生活经历写出来。许医生读了北京语言文化大学出版社出版的《联合国中的中国人》中一篇关于我在联合国工作五十年的文章后，敦促我写回忆录，记叙我从上海的童年时期一直到晚年参与全球抗击碘缺乏病斗争的经历（孩子们可能会因为这种疾病而失去 10% 的智商）。张蕾女士也极力赞同。

许医生毕业于北京大学公共卫生学院，是联合国儿童基金会在华的艾滋病专家，之前是乡村健康促进专家。张蕾女士毕业于美国韦尔兹利大学，系传播与市场学专家，也是非常精明的翻译。她们俩代表了献身国际社会的新一代中国专业人员。

我也想，如果把我的工作生涯用中英文对照的方式记录下来，可能会对想投身国际事务的中国青少年有一点指导性，同时还能让英语爱好者看到一些有中国风情的英文。虽然我的第一份工作是香港一家华文报纸的记者，但我已经有近六十年没有使用中文了，只有在偶尔不想让非常美国化的儿女们知道我们在说什么的时候，才会用上海方言和夫人交谈。我的中文已经不够写作的水平了，更重要的是，对于 21 世纪的中国来说，我的中文太过时了。许、张两位女士热情地表示要帮我把英文翻译成中文，对此我永远心存感激。

我还要深深地感谢郭继东先生，参与这一工作的第三位国际公务员，他为中文书稿做了宝贵的审校工作。郭君现任联合国资深同声传译员，此前是中国卫生部的官员。当我还在杜兰大学任教的时候，他在那里取得硕士学位。

在完成 20 万字的初稿后，我才敏感地意识到大家一般都倾向于认为回忆录“虚荣自大”。所以我决定把回忆录留给那些对我宽容、不会介意我不小心流露出的“虚荣心”的子女和亲友们来读，本书便成了记录十二位令我终生难忘的人的短篇，读者也可从这些故事中略知我的工作。

我还要鸣谢世界卫生组织健康问题社会决定因素委员会委员、联合国儿童基金会卫生顾问、北京大学公共卫生学院前副院长郭岩教授。我有幸在 20 世纪 90 年代初于杜兰大学做过郭岩研修公共卫生硕士时的导师。她是这本书的坚定支持者，是她将我的手稿推荐给出版社。

最后，如果没有我太太袁曜华（克里斯汀·袁）的鼎力支持，这本书是写不完的。作为我的忠实粉丝，她坦率地提出批评意见；她还是我的终生爱侣，我的所有重大决定都和她商量，包括写这本小册子——在众多的可写对象中选择十二位令我难忘的人。克里斯汀就是人们常说的“男人背后的女人”。

凌节生

Contents

Introducing The Memorable Dozen	1
I GRANDFATHER LING, THE SENTIMENTAL CONFUCIAN	5
II GRANDFATHER CHEN, A REBEL AND A TRADIONALIST	10
III SPURGEON MILTON KEENY, WHO CHANGED MY LIFE	19
IV EVE LABOUISSSE, THE ONLY CURIE WITHOUT A NOBLE PRIZE	27
V BARON RITCHIE-CALDER OF BALMASHANNER IN THE ROYAL BURGH OF FORFAR	38
VI JAMES P. GRANT, SECOND GENERATION CHINESE	50
VII MARLON BRANDO, ALSO A GODFATHER TO SUFFERING CHILDREN	65
VIII DR. RADEN KODIYAT, THE HERO WHO CONQUERED YAWS	78
IX AFRICAN WOMEN—AFRICAN OPTIMISM AND WISDOM	87
Madam Fatou Ngom of Senegal	87
Leeh of Kenya	93
X EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS—MARIE AND DAVID OF YUNGAY, PERU	97
United Nations Or National Development Agencies Referred To By Acronyms In The Text	169

目 录

概述十二个令我难忘的人·····	103
I 凌家祖父——心软的儒家弟子·····	106
II 陈家外祖父——一个既反叛又传统的人·····	109
III 改变了我一生的斯伯格·米尔顿·吉尼·····	114
IV 伊芙·拉博伊西——居里家族唯一未获诺贝尔奖的成员 ·····	119
V 里奇·考尔德男爵·····	126
VI 詹姆斯·P·格兰特——第二代中国人·····	134
VII 马龙·白兰度，也是不幸儿童的教父·····	144
VIII 雷登·考迪亚特博士——打败雅司病的英雄·····	153
IX 非洲妇女——非洲的乐观和智慧·····	159
塞内加尔的法都·恩高姆女士·····	159
肯尼亚的李耶·····	163
X 地震幸存者——秘鲁永盖的玛丽和大卫·····	166
文中引用的联合国和国家发展机构缩写的英文及中文全称·····	169

Introducing The Memorable Dozen

By any standard I have lived a blessed life. In my more than half a century working life—as a young journalist, as a career international civil servant and consultant working for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and as a professor of international health and development—I have had opportunities to interact with countless interesting people of all walks of life. My work for the United Nations, in particular, took me to some 90 countries in all continents. In this book, I recall a dozen whom I had the privilege of knowing and whose memories I treasure.

My Grandfathers and Early Mentor

I begin with my days in Shanghai, recognizing my two grandfathers, Confucian scholar Ling Zhanchang and revolutionary cum pediatrician Chen Mo, two very different characters, each offering lessons in life: the former, sentimentality and faithfulness and the latter, the inevitable clash between the mores of different generations. They represented a generation of very hardy Chinese

who lived through epochal changes—from the last days of Manchu rule to the establishment of the People's Republic of China. They experienced the various changes of warlord days, the Japanese invasion and a long civil war.

Then, I acknowledge Sam Keeny, my mentor, who put me on a different path for the rest of my life. The common touch and generosity were hallmarks of my early mentor. He was one of the leaders who laid the groundwork for UNICEF's achievements, which brought the agency the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965.

Three who stood out in their Fields

Three personalities with a place of honor in their respective fields whom I admired are:

Lord Ritchie-Calder of the United Kingdom, award-winning science writer and nuclear disarmament advocate, for his keen observation of the problems societies face in a fast-changing world, and for his definition of wisdom. He also helped me to correct a bias I had.

Journalist/Author Eve Curie Labouisse, the only non-science member of the distinguished Curie family of France that received multiple Nobel prizes, for her discipline and thoughtfulness. She also set an extraordinary standard for reportorial skill and command of bilingualism.

Dr. Raden Kodiyat of Indonesia, the hero of the successful fight against yaws, once the widely prevalent disfiguring and crippling infection in Southeast Asia, for his courage to stand up for his convictions and challenge the experts in both WHO and UNICEF.



His humble yet fierce persistence was unmatched.

The Child Advocate Extraordinaire

James P. Grant of the U. S. A. was unique. He did more for children than anyone in history and made children's rights and welfare a political imperative. His bold vision and persistence in reaching for goals far beyond the realm of even the most ambitious were awe-inspiring. At his death, Grant earned this accolade from President and Mrs. Clinton: "One of the greatest Americans in the 20th century."

The Unconventional Hollywood Star

Marlon Brando, the iconic and magnetic actor who made "method" acting the profession's new standard, gave some of his time on and off for a decade to help UNICEF help children. This was a side of that greatest of screen celebrity that did not receive much press attention. His commitment to righting wrongs and to fighting injustice was deep and personal.

His celebrity, however, led to an indulgence that was not quite in keeping with his genuine compassion for others.

Wise Women of Africa

Two women in rural Africa, Mme. Fatou Ngom in Senegal and Grandma Leeh in Kenya, stood out as natural leaders in providing community service under harsh circumstances. Their optimism,