

# WUXI

CITIES OF CHINA - WUXI

Where Ancient Culture Meets Contemporary Life



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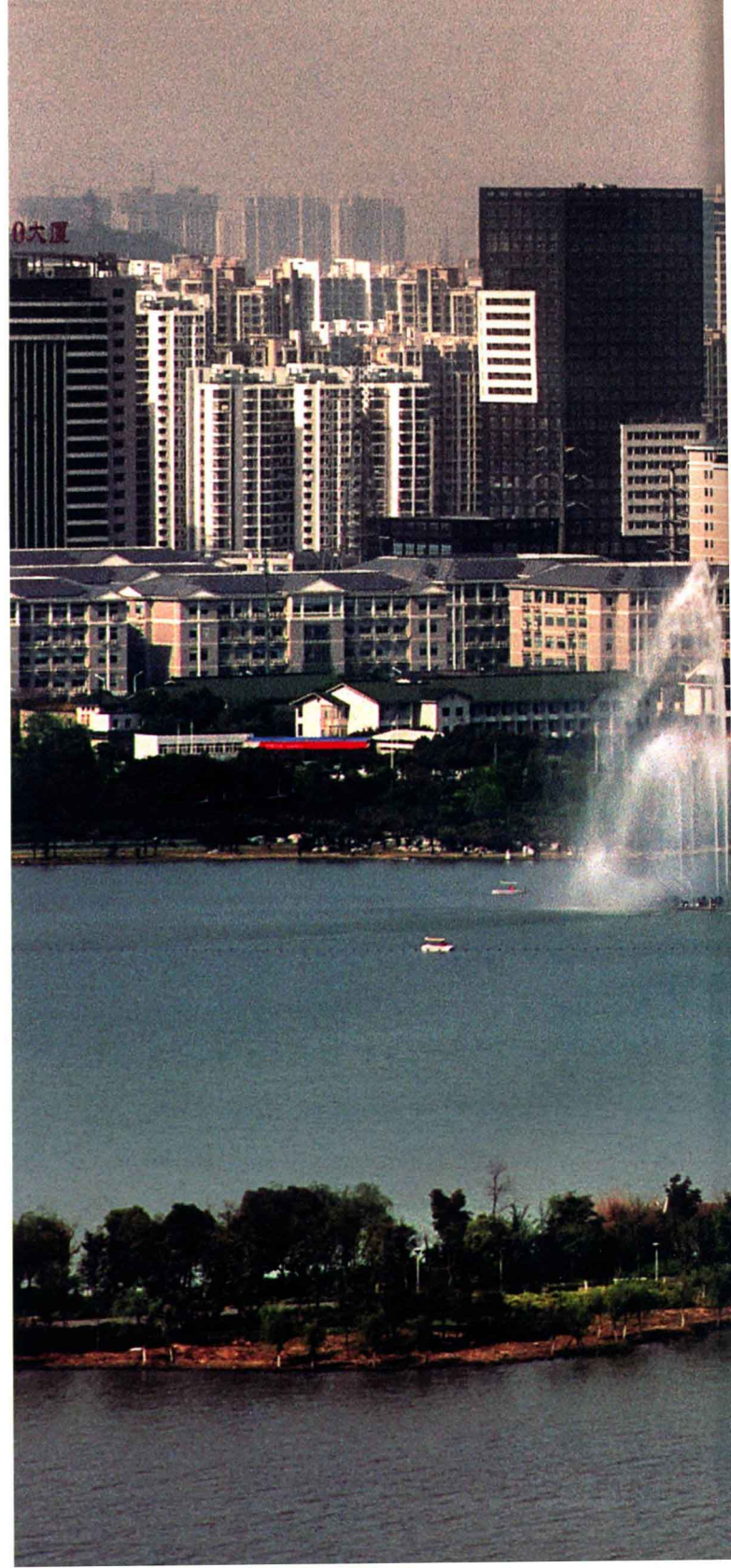




Tamako Sado

- My nine-hour journey from Beijing ended as I awoke in the morning just as the train pulled into Wuxi, the emerald green city just west of Shanghai. (Tom Bannigan)

- 从北京乘火车，经过大约9个小时舒适的夜晚旅行，天色已亮的时候，我终于醒来，这时，火车驶入无锡：这是个翡翠般的绿色城市！她位于上海的西部。(Tom Bannigan)









## • PREFACE

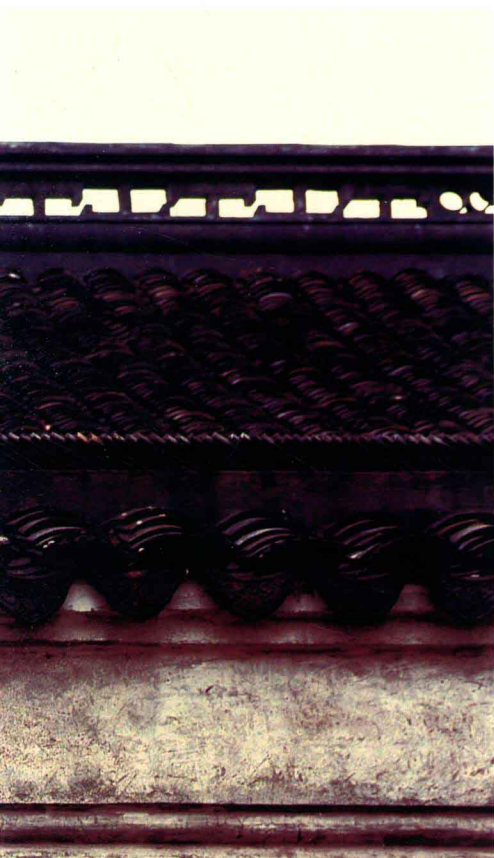
• Ye Zhaoyan



Nearly 30 years ago, in the early morning of a summer's day, I started a bicycle trip from Nanjing to Wuxi. After riding a distance of some 220 kilometers the bumpy roads of pebbles took their toll on my body and spirit almost sending me home. However, off in the distance I suddenly spotted Taihu Lake and my spirit was restored. Taihu Lake was not too far away and the descending sun and my tired legs were not going to stop me from getting a glimpse of the lake.

I rode towards the lake on a zigzag course being cheered up and motivated onward by the lake's glittering surface. Taihu Lake's charm, a fine representative of Wuxi's beauty, is its glossy and silky water. Although a lover of photography I instantly regretted not bringing my camera with me and was unable to have this memorable scene recorded. As they say, history doesn't repeat itself and this beautiful experience from my past can only be regrettably retained in my personal memory.





Alain Escudier

I am a fan of vintage photographs. I never pass up the chance to appreciate them whenever the opportunity arises. Old photographs always convey such rich information about our history. Personally, I believe the primary function of photography is to record history with the pursuit for artistic appeal coming second. Cameras are a foreign invention with the first photographs about Chinese life being taken by foreign photographers and friends from all parts of the world. The foreigner's perspective seen in their photography is often quite different from those of local Chinese photographers, giving these images a very distinctive viewpoint to our society.

In order to understand ourselves better or even re-discover ourselves, sometimes we need to find a unique perspective. This is especially true when we have become too familiar with our own life patterns and unaware of the new happenings around us. In this time of drastic changes in China today, the work from foreign photographers reflects back a new vision of Chinese life, a vision that will not only be unusually significant to people now, but will also enlighten the future generations.

During this warm and beautiful spring, ten photographers from around the world gathered in Wuxi, focusing on the local customs and people. As professional photographers, the concepts and compositions executed in the photos were immensely fascinating to view. It was my honor and joy to be the first to appreciate their work and to write this preface for this collection.

Perhaps what impressed me the most was the pure enjoyment I had, while viewing these wonderful photos, an enjoyment that was not solely based on the artistic glamour captured by the photographers. To be honest I was not as surprised about the beauty of the familiar scenes on these photographs as I have seen many of these places and subjects in old photographs taken by foreigners over the years. What I enjoyed was that the different perspectives between Chinese and foreign photographers are becoming less striking and the appreciation for our unique culture and beauty is being shared by both groups.

This illustrates that both Wuxi and her people are making progress, that Wuxi is opening up and becoming more developed and most importantly that foreign photographers are not simply interested in seeking out the novel and satisfying curiosity any more. Photographers are trying to reveal more of the true picture of Wuxi. Meanwhile, we Chinese have changed our attitude from blindly following foreign ideas or simply ignoring them as a means to achieve a globally balanced foothold. The global view seen in these pages is the perfect embodiment for people from all over the world to communicate and understand each other well.









Alain Escudier

三十年前夏天，我骑自行车从南京出发，花了一整天时间，兼程220公里，黄昏时分到达无锡。那年头公路是石子路，一路颠簸，正十分疲乏和无聊，突然眼前一亮，不远处已是太湖。

过九曲十八弯，面对波光鳞鳞的水面，心情陡然好起来。看到太湖，就是看到无锡。无锡美，美就美在太湖水。很后悔没带相机，我虽然不专业，一度也非常热爱摄影。时过境迁，历史不会重来，好照片不可复制，当时没留下记录，只能永远遗憾。

我是老照片的爱好者，算不上发烧友，只要能见到，便不会轻易放过。老照片可以流露出丰富的时间信息，不管摄影行家是否同意，我总觉得拍照首先记录历史，然后才是艺术。照相机这玩意是老外发明的，最早记录中国历史的老照片也是老外拍摄。对于中国人来说，这个老外是哪一国不重要，可以西洋欧美，也可能东洋日本，重要的只有一点，都是外国人，都是老外。

老外随手拍摄下来的历史，与我们的记录很可能会有所不同。他山之石，可以攻玉，不识庐山真面目，只缘身在此山中。有时候，真的非常需要老外视角，通过他们独特的目光，重新观察和校正我们的日常生活。当代中国正在剧烈变化，经济和文化日新月异，老外独特的拍摄角度，不只是记录了不同寻常的当下，更重要的是还可以启发未来。

暮春三月，江南草长，十位来自海外的摄影家，雅集名城无锡，聚焦此地的风土人情。作为专业的摄影界人士，他们的目光自然独到，构图必定精美，给我们视觉带来美好的享受。因为机缘，我有幸先睹为快，看到了这些照片，并且受命为精选出来的影集作序。

想说的就是，与常见的老外拍摄的历史老照片不同，这一次我们所能见到的，不管它们有多漂亮，制作有多精良，却是似曾相识。换句话说，作为观赏者，我并没有太吃惊，更没有很意外。老外所看到的一切，与我们自己的目光所及，虽然还会有差异，但是已没什么太大不一样。

这说明什么？说明了与时俱进，说明了无锡的开放和发达。我们都改变了，老外的目光，放弃了以往的单纯猎奇，不再满足于奇风异俗。我们的思维，再也不是少见多怪，盲目排外或者崇外。面对共同的地球，我们已开始了用全球化的目光来审视，我们学会了应该这样看世界，也知道应该让世界这样来看我们。



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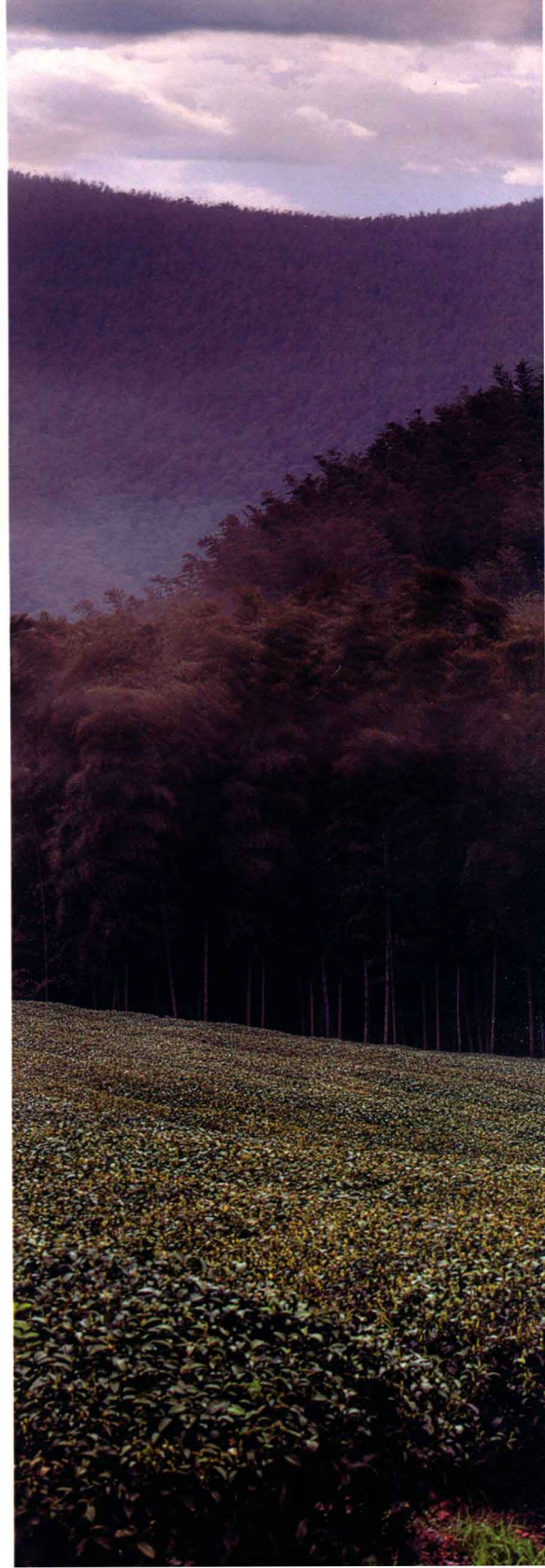
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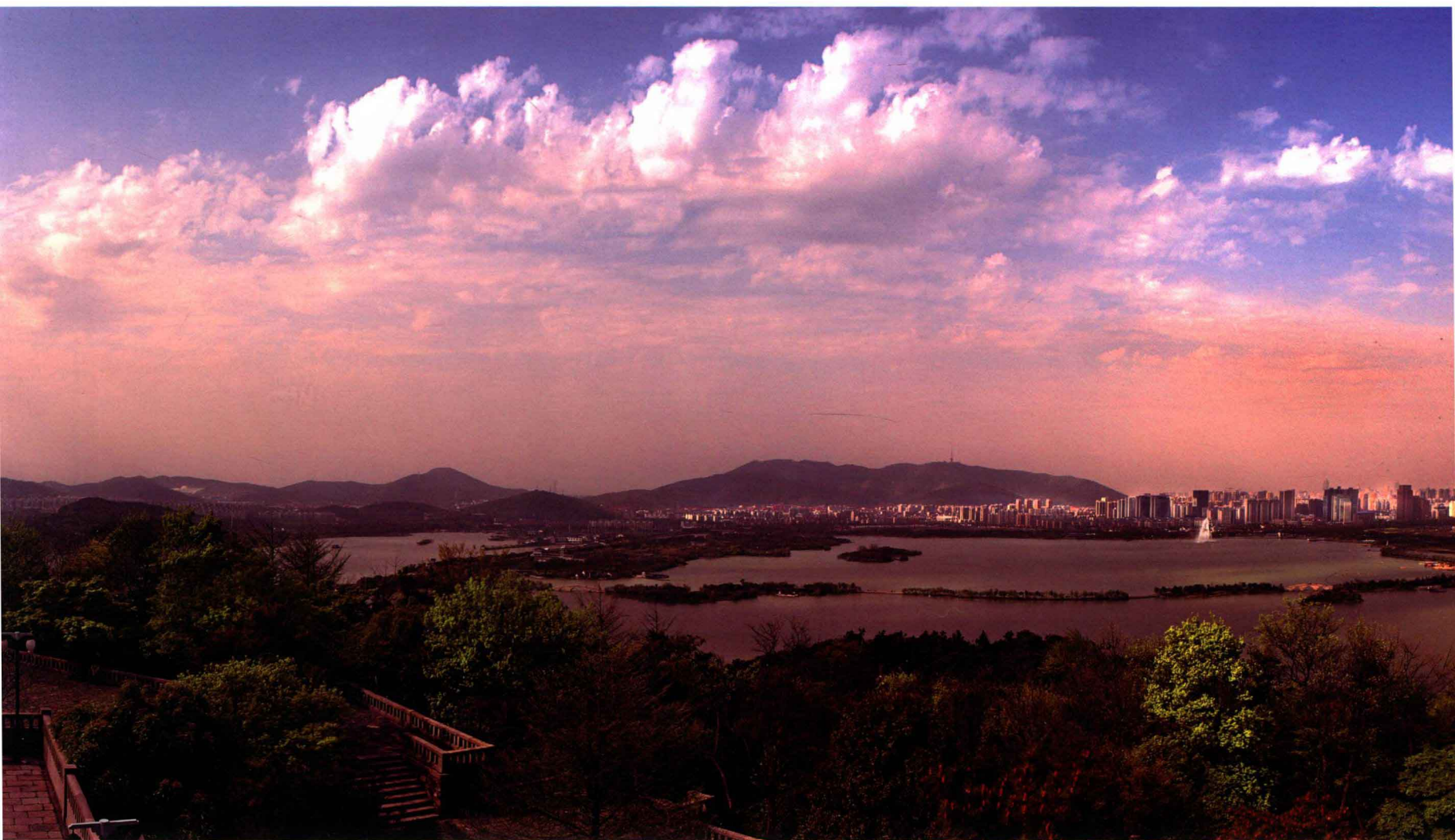




- Wuxi is located on the Yangtze River delta, one of the most developed areas in China. It is located just 128 km west from Shanghai and covers an area of 4,788 square kilometers.

- 无锡位于中国经济最发达的长江三角洲地区，距上海128公里，总面积4788平方公里。





Alain Escudier





## • WONDERFUL WU CIVILIZATION

Beginning nearly 3,000 years ago with Taibo, the pioneering founder of the Wu State, Wu culture centralizes on moral enlightenment and practical thought.







## • 君家吴门住

远古洪荒，泰伯开基，三千年文明  
至德至行，经世致用，吴文化之光







Patrick Chatelier

▲► The ancient Wu waterways.  
吴地·水乡印象





Patrick Chatelier