



Foreign Celebrities in Shanghai

Written by Xing Jianrong

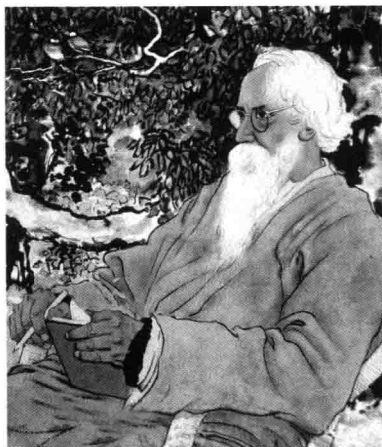
Translated by Lily Ma Karen Huang

REDISCOVERING CHINA

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SHANGHAI CENTURY PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Shanghai BookStore Publishing House

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

外国文化名人在上海 = Foreign Celebrities in Shanghai: 英文 / 邢建榕著. —上海: 上海书店出版社, 2010.5

ISBN 978-7-5458-0132-3

I. 外… II. 邢… III. ①名人—生平事迹—世界—现代—英文②上海市—地方史—史料—现代—英文 IV. K812.51
K295.1

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2009)第 154482 号

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For more information, please contact:

Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House

(a division of Shanghai Century Publishing Co., Ltd.)

193 Fujian Middle Road, Shanghai

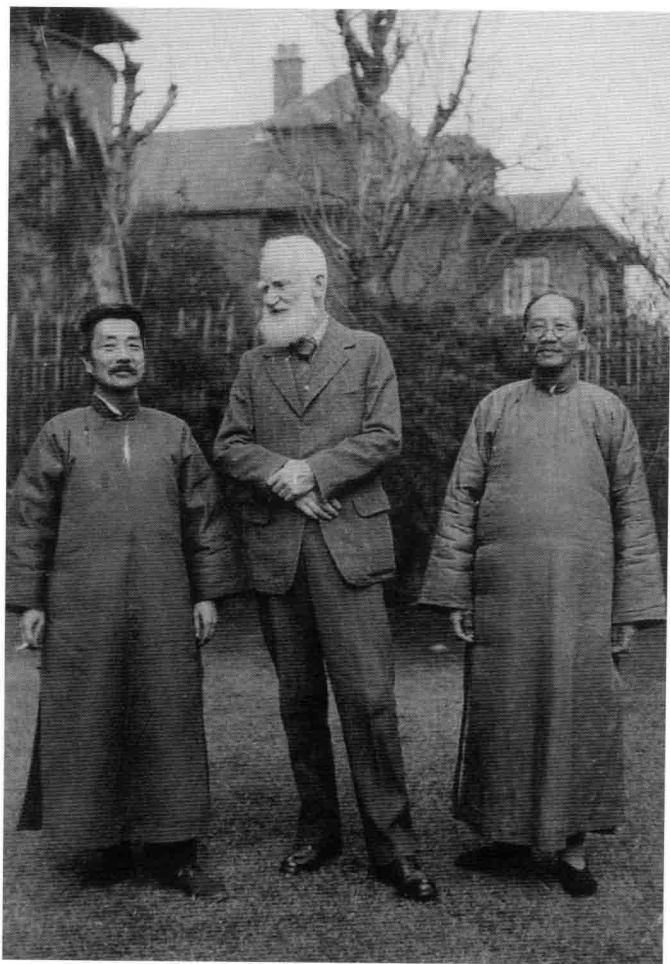
China, 200001

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Printed in Shanghai

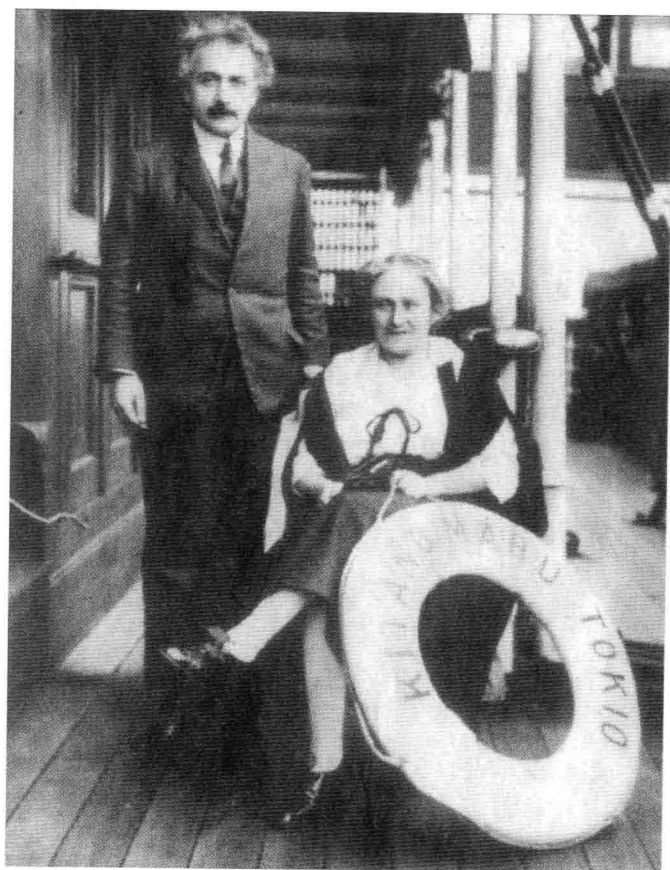
ISBN: 978-7-5458-0132-3/K · 23



(From left)A photo of George Bernard Shaw, Lu Xun and Cai Yuanpei at Song's Residence



*(from left to right) Smedley, George Bernard Shaw, Song Qingling,
Cai Yuanpei, Yi Luosheng, Lin Yutang and Lu Xun*



Mr and Mrs Einstein on the "Kitano Maru" deck



Photos of Tagore (sitting on the left), Lin Huiyin(the fifth on the left) and Xu Zhimo(the first on the left) etc

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Foreign Celebrities in Shanghai



*Mei Lanfang's photo with
Chaplin when visiting America
in 1936*

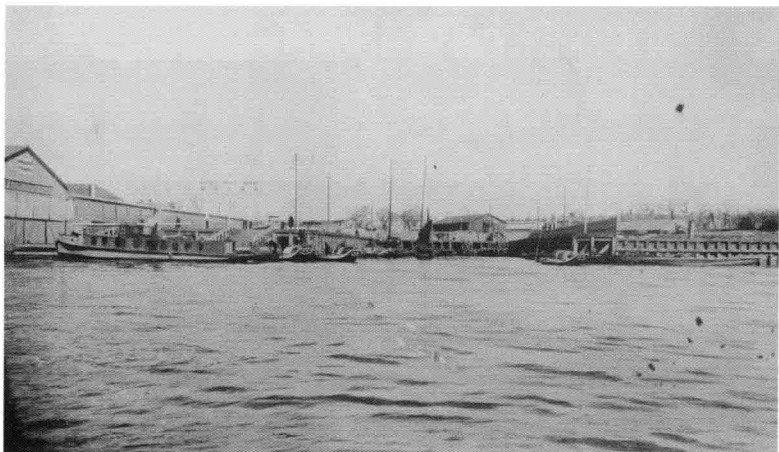
In the 1920's and 1930's, the culture celebrities such as John Dewey, Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein, David Bohr, Rabindranath Tagore, Guglielmo Marconi, George Bernard Shaw, Sir Charlie Spencer Chaplin Jr. Lanngevin Paul etc visited China one after another. Those visitors were fascinated by the east culture, and have great interest in the transformation of the Chinese society. There was also someone like John Dewey, who visited China because of the affection of his students. The reasons of visits were various, and mostly were for lectures, or stopped over as a tourist. Many of them just passed through on their way to the other countries.

And Shanghai, was always their first stop in China of the visit.

I From the West to the East

1. Lecture in Shanghai on Invitation

In May 1920, Mr. Liang Qichao extended the invitation to William Russell for lecturing in China,



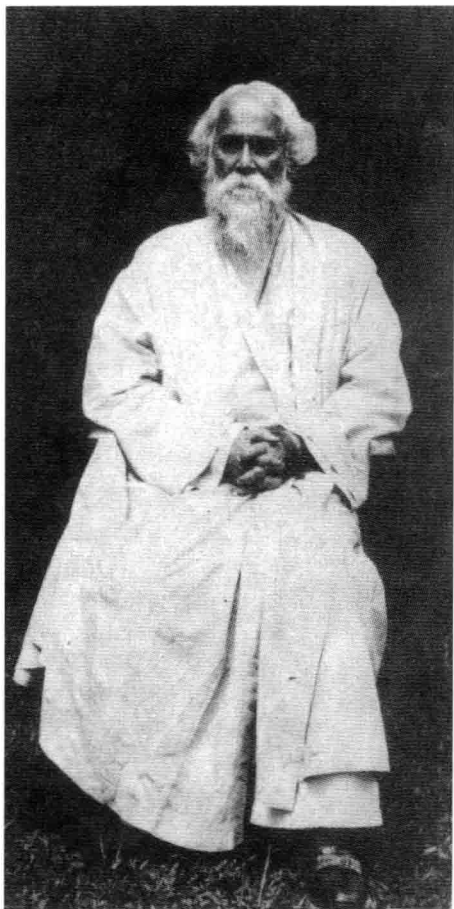
A distance view of Huishan Dock. Einstein, Rabindranath Tagore and so on set foot on Shanghai from here

after that, Shangzhi Institution, Beijing University, the Xin Institution and the China Public School sent the offer to William Russell for lecturing in China for one year. On October 12th 1920, William Russell and his girl friend Dora Black arrived in Shanghai at 9 am by ship. Then, he spent 10 months traveling in China, brought the fresh air to the New Culture Movement, which has just been started in China.

Tagore's in Shanghai

Helen Porkhurst, the well-known American educator and the founder of the Dalton Plan was also invited for visit. In 1924, on the way to Japan, Mrs. Porkhurst met two staffs of the *Shanghai Express*, Mr. Yao Shulai, and Mr. Li Youchen. After a nice conversation with them, Mr. Yao and Li informally invited Mrs. Porkhurst to visit China, however, nothing really happened afterwards. Until she received the form invitation letter from the China Education Improvement Association, she then traveled from Vancouver through Japan by ship, and arrived at Shanghai Xinguan dock at 9:30 am on July 14th.

The reason of Paul Monroe's visit was slightly different from the others. Monroe was one of the founders and organizers of the China Culture and Education Foundation, the foundation which was in



charge of the second remitting boxer indemnity. As the vice president of the foundation, he visited China more than 10 times between 1921 and 1937 for different activities, including educational research, lectures and culture events.

Usually, those famous visitors all have great interest in China and Chinese culture. For instance, Tagore was really amazed by China, before he left, he wrote as "When I was young, I always thought how China looks like, that's the country I imagined as I was reading 'Arabian nights', since then, this gorgeous heaven had become my dream country." He always hoped he might have chance to visit China. Driven by this strong will, he tried his best to make the connection with Chinese. In April 1923, his assistant made the contact with the Beijing University, however, due to some issues in Beijing university at that time, the reception for Tagore was not able to be made. Later on, with Mr. Xu Zhimo's introduction, the Lecture Club made all the arrangement for Tagore's visit to China.



New school gate of Jiao Tong University after rebuilt in 1935

The purposes of the celebrities' visits were mainly for lectures, and Shanghai was always the first stop of their visits. Most of them devoted into the busy lecturing right after arrival. Driesch's stay in Shanghai was inseparable with the lectures, in the morning on Oct 20th 1922, with Zhang Junli as the interpreter, Driesch lectured of "the Life Philosophy" in the National Business University on Xia Fei Road. The lecture investigated "Can we use the dead substance to prove the live phenomenon, or, Can the biological phenomenon be explained by physical and chemical phenomenon," about 500 people attended. In the afternoon, Driesch had the similar lecture at Tongji Medical University, and then another one at Nanyang University the next day.

During the stay in Shanghai, most of the celebrities spared their time to Hangzhou or places around. John Dewey, Driesch, Porkhust, Rabindranath Tagore all visited Hangzhou, later on, such trips became the typical reception for the foreign celebrities.



Bohr's portrait

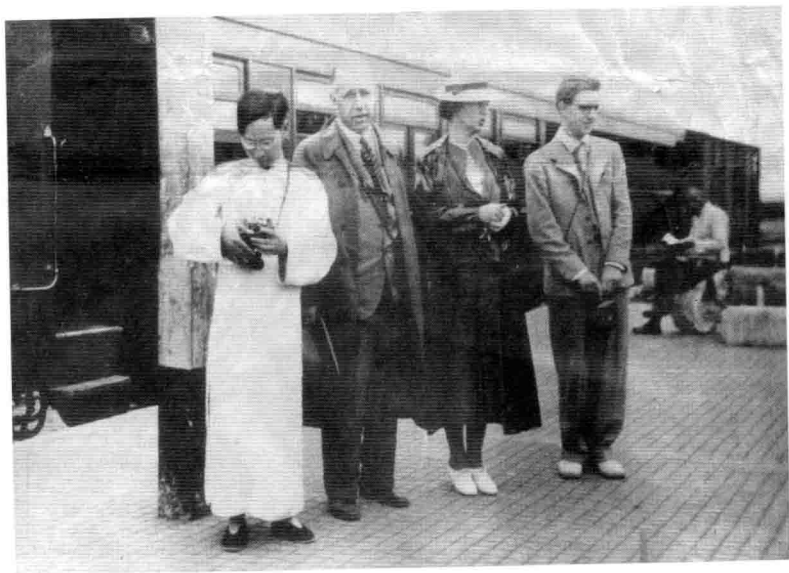


Photo of Boht, his wife and second son during their visit to China



Marconi and his wife visited Shanghai



Mei Lanfang's photo with Chaplin when visiting America in 1936

2. Through Japan

John Dewey, Albert Einstein and David Bohr all came to China after their lectures in Japan. The Chinese intelligentsia extended the invitation once they heard about their lectures in Japan, expressed their wishes for having them in China for lectures as well.

During that time, the first scholar who came to visit was the famous American philosopher and educator, Mr. John Dewey.

In February 1919, Dewey and his wife Alice were invited to lecture in Japan by his student Doctor Ono. Meanwhile, professor Tao Rumeng from Beijing University, the acting principal Guo Bingwen of Nanjing Normal University and professor Tao Xingzhi were also in Japan, when they heard of Dewey's lectures in Japan, they then reached the agreement for inviting him to China for lectures. The invitation letter was sent to Dewey while he was still lecturing at Imperial University of Tokyo, under the name of Mr. Hu Shil, since Mr. Hu was Dewey's student at Columbia University in 1915. Afterwards, Tao Mengru and Guo Bingwen went to see Mr. and Mrs Dewey in person and invited them more formally on behalf of Beijing University, Nanjing Normal University, the Education Association of Jiangsu Province, Shangzhi Institution and Xin Institution. Of course, Mr. Dewey was very pleased to accept the invitation.

Similar to Dewey's visit, Denmark scientist and physicist, the winner of the Nobel Price in physics, Mr. Niels Bohr (1885-1962) also came after his Japan visit. Bohr accepted, very merrily, the invitation letter from the Chinese Academia for lecturing in China, and on May 20th 1937, he arrived in Shanghai with his wife Margaret and son Hans Bohr. A warm welcome was given to them by lot's of the famous Chinese educators such as Mr. Ding Xielin, the dean of the