



坐着火车看中国

〔德〕史岱帆·舒曼 Stefan Schomann

ON THE CHINESE ROAD



商务印书馆
The Commercial Press

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

坐着火车看中国=On the Chinese Road/(德)
舒曼(Schomann,S.)著. —北京:商务印书馆,
2011

ISBN 978-7-100-07401-8

I. ①坐… II. ①舒… III. ①中国—概况—
英文 IV. ①K92

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 189443 号

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〔德〕史岱帆·舒曼 著

商务印书馆出版

(北京王府井大街36号 邮政编码 100710)

商务印书馆发行

北京瑞古冠中印刷厂印刷

ISBN 978-7-100-07401-8

2011年4月第1版

开本 889×1194 1/16

2011年4月北京第1次印刷

印张 7¼

定价: 89.00 元



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Stefan Schomann, born in 1962, has been freelancing as a journalist since 1988, writing for *GEO*, *Stern* magazine, *DIE ZEIT*, *Frankfurter Rundschau* and *National Geographic*. He lives in Berlin and visits China regularly. He recently published a book about the Jewish emigration to Shanghai during World War II.

Publisher: Yu Dianli

Production Supervisor: Zhou Hongbo

Mastermind / Chief Editor: Cao Quan

Art director / Designer: Yuke Wang

Executive Editors: Wen Xuechun, He Hongtao, Huang Yuanjing

Proofreaders: Yu Libin, Zhao Yuhong

Special thanks to:

Zhu Xiaojian, H.R.Lan (USA), David N. Tool (USA), Li Bing,
Cui Yonghua, Andy Deemer (USA), Jonathan Heeter (USA),
Robert Lewis Livingston (USA), Nicholas Richards (Canada),
Tian Wenzhu, Zhao Zhankun, Ma Shirui

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From Lanzhou to Xining

A Journey in Tibet



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YZLI0890119289



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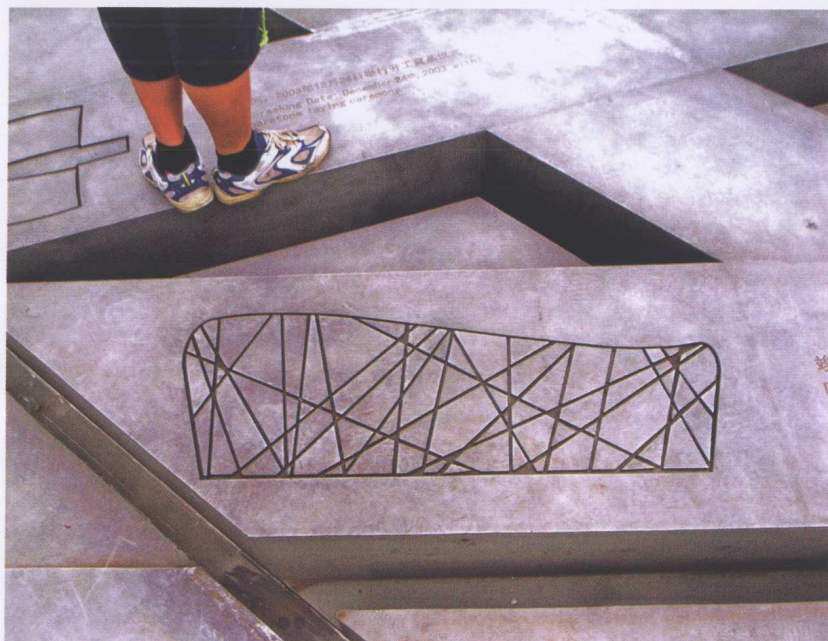
2011, Beijing

BEIJING MOMENTS

Beijing Shunjian
北京瞬间

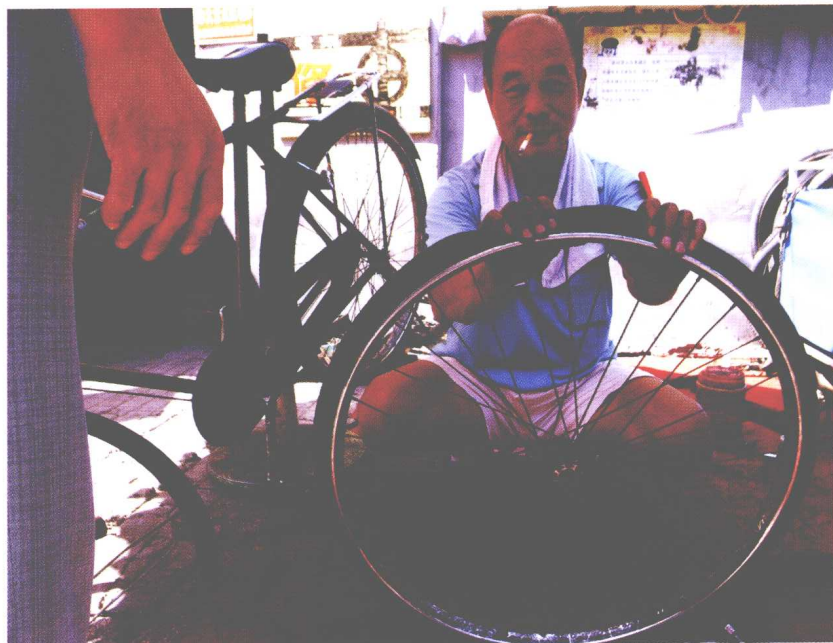
For a few weeks in August 2008, the whole world was focused on Beijing. The Olympic Games left their mark on China's capital, but now, life goes on as usual. German writer Stefan Schomann recently spent a few months in Beijing. Here are some of his impressions of a drastically changing city.

The unique structure of the Olympic stadium continues to arouse a lot of curiosity and admiration. It immediately became a major tourist attraction.

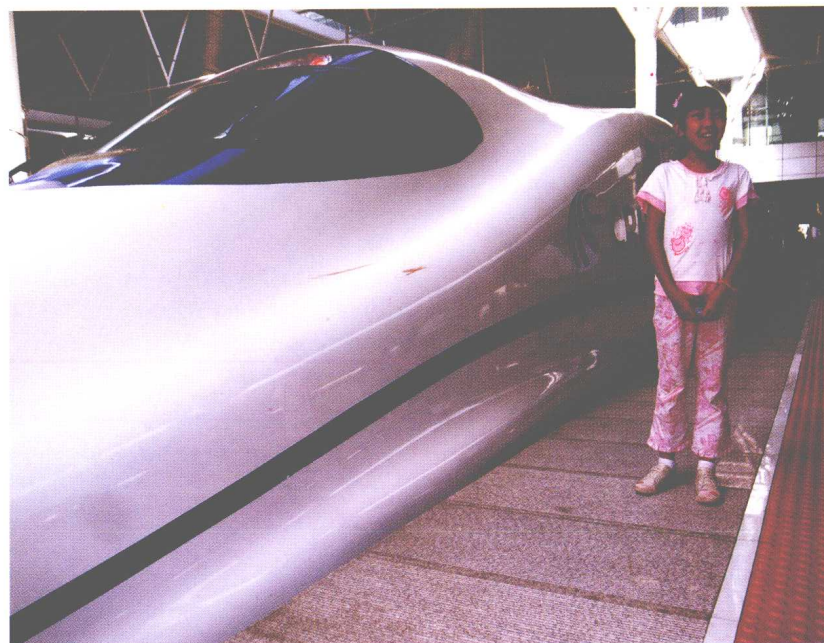


Old and new? In fact, both the pavilion and the apartment buildings are new. The location is old and historic. There used to be a bell temple here.





For forty years now, Mr. Liu has been repairing bicycles in a *hutong* in southern Beijing.



The high-speed train between Beijing South Station and Tianjin is currently the fastest regular passenger train in the world. It reaches 350 km/h.

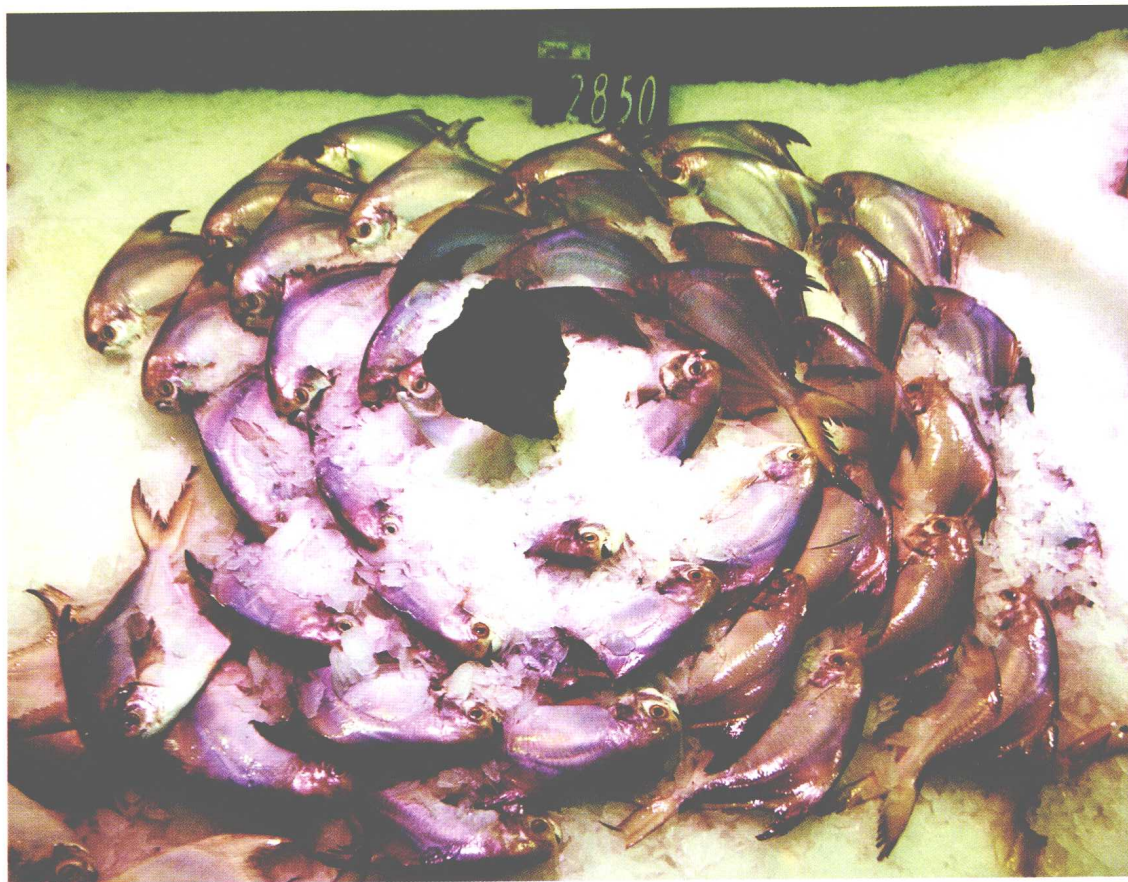


That's a classic dish: Peking Duck. Most people find it irresistible – be they Chinese or foreign.

“Lan Club” is one of the craziest designer bars and restaurants in the city.



It always amazes me to see the abundance of fresh fish in the city. I have never had a bad experience with fish and seafood in China.



Water is a key resource for every city, both practically and aesthetically. Beijing could make better use of this simple treasure. It immediately changes and enriches the urban landscape.



▶ This is the main building of the Communication University of China (CUC), the most important higher learning institution for media and TV in the whole country. When visiting Beijing, I usually live here on campus.

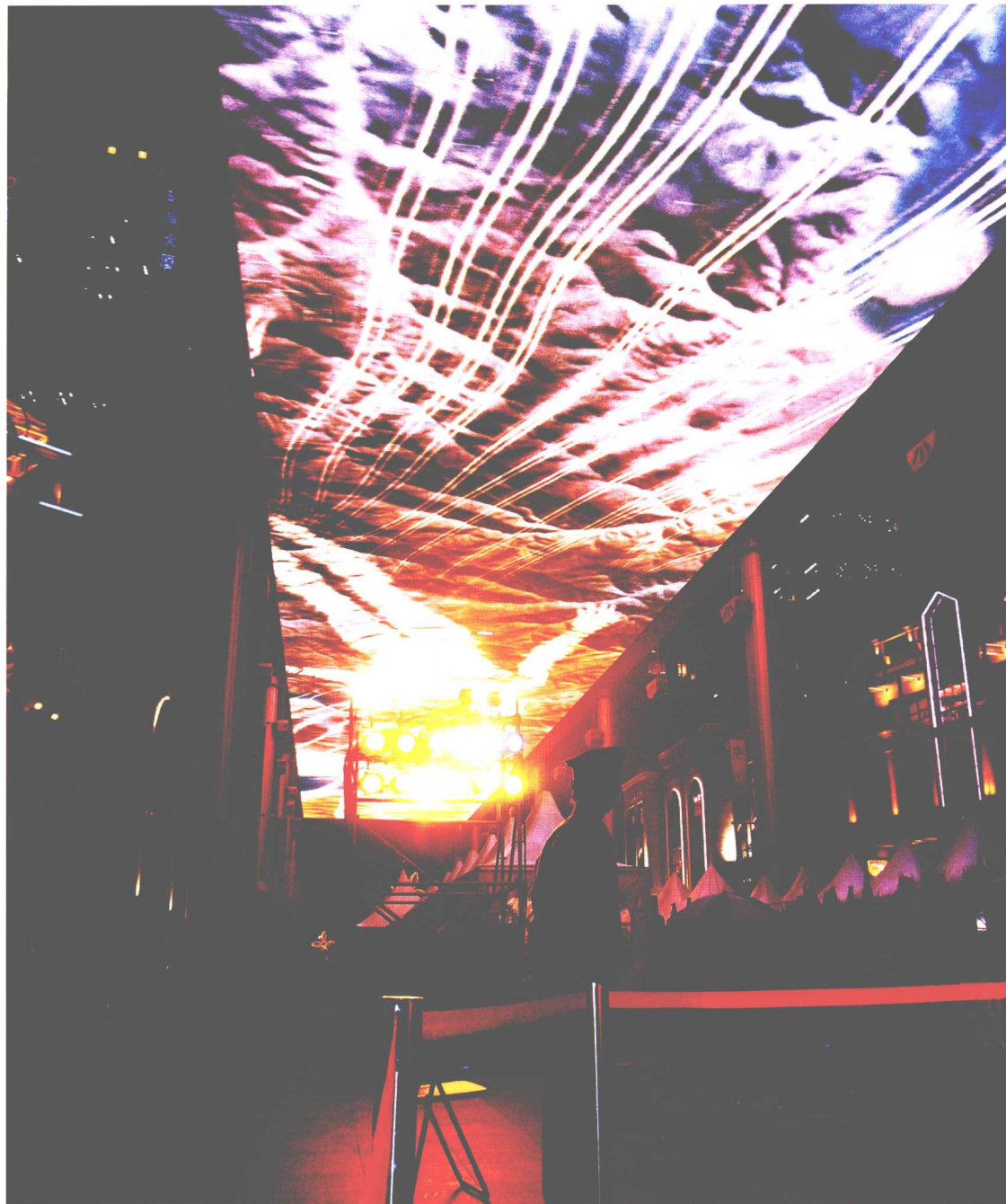
▶ Taking the subway is always an experience. Shortly before the Olympics, several new lines were opened; another one will start to operate soon.





What a sweet team! I took this picture from a taxi – a quick snapshot, a funny moment in the life of the city.

A spectacular new shopping center has been opened in Chaoyang District. Special films are projected on the roof of the atrium.





Qianmen Dajie, an old commercial street, has just reopened after massive reconstruction. It recalls the Beijing of the '20s and '30s.



Having a rest. Despite Beijing's fast pace, its people have kept a special talent for relaxing.



AN ILLUSTRATIVE GLIMPSE

Datong and Ningbo were once China's
cultural and trade capitals, respectively

Shuāngchéng Tújì
双城图记

Two cities of great historical significance provide insight into
China's past, present and future.

NINGBO 宁波

Long before Shanghai, Ningbo was known as the most important harbor on China's East Coast. Ships came from the neighboring countries of Korea and Japan, as well as distant lands surrounding the Arabian Sea, to conduct trade with Ningbo natives. Moving forward in time to the 16th century, it was not uncommon to see early European traders from Portugal or Holland pull onto the city's bustling blue shores. Today, Ningbo's fame has since faded, but its beauty remains intact.



Coffee tables on a terrace along the Yong Jiang. Elements of Europe are scattered throughout the city, this being one of the more breathtaking scenes.



The gate to Xikou, an old town about 60 kilometers south of Ningbo. The location has proven itself to be a popular destination amongst tourists, thanks largely in part to its charming mountain environment.