

英语文摘

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Reader's Digest

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In Love with China's Spirit

陈 慰 选注

今年三月六日是中国人民的老朋友耿丽淑女士九十大寿。她于三十年代从美国来到中国，后与宋庆龄女士结下了深厚的友谊，多年为中国人民的革命事业奔波效劳；她于一九五一年定居中国后，更把中国的社会主义建设事业看作自己的事业，作出了十分有益的贡献。她对中国的感情之深沉，实在令人感动、令人敬佩。

Not many foreigners in China are as loved and respected by Chinese children as Talitha A. Gerlach, China Welfare Institute (CWI) adviser and member of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation.¹

At the turn of each year, young pioneers come to her home, singing "Happy New Year to You" and on March 6 each year, children arrive to say "Happy Birthday" and sing and dance for her. This week she will celebrate her 90th birthday.

Few foreigners love New China as much as Gerlach does — an American who has lived in China since 1951.

All her furniture is Chinese. Traditional paintings² by Chinese children hang on the walls. Even her wrist-watch was made in China, unlike many young Chinese who take pride in foreign watches and electronic appliances³.

Wearing a brown cotton-padded jacket⁴ and dark-blue trousers, the silver-haired Gerlach was vigorous and clear-minded⁵ when we spoke to her.

“Do you intend to go back to the United States?” I started my interview.

“No.” The answer was definite. “I am not homesick. I don’t have immediate family relations⁶ in the States. Since my brother died last November I do not have any close relatives⁷ there — only a cousin in Chicago. I have settled down⁸ in Shanghai. I enjoy living here,” she said.

Her answer is not surprising if one knows how her life has been linked with the cause of the Chinese revolution.

“China was a land of mystery⁹ to me when I was young,” Gerlach said. She said she had heard about the inauguration¹⁰ of a child emperor and then the 1911 Revolution.

“But what caught my attention was the situation of women in China. They could not leave their homes and were not allowed to marry after their husbands died. They were not free to choose their lovers. Not to mention their bound feet.¹¹”

She hoped to come to China. The chance came in 1926, Gerlach was sent to China by the national board of the YWCA (Young Women’s Christian Association) Foreign Department¹², to help with YWCA work in China.

In Shanghai, Beijing and Shandong Province, everywhere, Gerlach saw the suffering and humiliation of the average Chinese.¹³ She recalled a visit to an old man’s home. The man was lying in bed, sick. His boy stood by the bedside, telling her that nearly all their belongings had been sold for bread. The boy, barefoot and wearing thin ragged

clothes, was shivering in the winter cold.

Such scenes made a deep impression on Gerlach. Sympathy? Anger? Both. At the same time she sensed "the mighty revolutionary force of the oppressed." She gravitated to¹⁴ the side of the progressive and the revolutionary, and then she began to work for them.

Today, Gerlach is most authoritative as a witness to the vast change in social position of Chinese women. "They enjoy equal rights with men; no longer do they have to bind their feet. I would say that Chinese women today are the happiest women in the world."

The 1930s¹⁵ were dark years for the Chinese. Returning from a visit to the US, Gerlach came to Shanghai again. Together with Rewi Alley¹⁶ and Ruth Weiss¹⁷, she joined a study team on Marxism and Leninism and at the same time helped the progressive teachers and students with their national salvation work¹⁸.

After the Japanese invasion of China, Madame Soong Ching Ling founded the China Defence League (CDL)¹⁹ in Hongkong in 1938. Gerlach became secretary of the CDL Shanghai Branch.

"One of my jobs then was 'letter smuggling',²⁰" she remembered. Each week, Gerlach used to board an American liner anchored in the Huangpu River²¹. In the guise of²² a visitor she secretly dropped letters and top-secret material²³ into the letter-box on the ship.

"We also 'smuggled' money, medicine, and medical equipment—donated²⁴ internationally and domestically—into China's anti-Japanese bases at the risk of²⁵ being arrested or killed."

专题报道

Her friendship with Soong Ching Ling began in the fall²⁶ of 1940 when they met in Hongkong. In 1946, Gerlach was secretary of the China Welfare Fund,²⁷ successor of the CDL, which in turn has become the China Welfare Institute (CWI)²⁸ since the founding of the People's Republic.

Back in the United States, Gerlach, with Israel Epstein²⁸, initiated the China Welfare Appeal²⁹ with Gerlach as chairman. They collected donations of medicine, medical equipment and books and delivered them to China's liberated areas via³⁰ CWI.

In the early 1950s, she was harassed during the general anti-Communist hysteria sweeping the US. At that time a telegram reached her from Soong Ching Ling, saying: "Immediately back to China." Late in 1951, Gerlach came to Hongkong by way of Europe. There she hid in the luggage compartment of a car and thus passed through customs and entered China without a valid passport. The "letter smuggler" became a smuggled item herself³¹.

Over the years she has worked for *China Reconstructs*,³² taught at Fudan University and Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute and served as adviser to the CWI.

"I have done nothing important," Gerlach said. "I do not propose programmes.³³ I just sit aside, observing and advising."

Gerlach is happy about the achievements China has made. "I am all for China seeking advances in its economy and culture." She hails the policy of opening to the world as³⁴ "a positive measure for the development in cities and in the country. I believe it will benefit the people."

Gerlach's home is on the ground floor of a villa³⁵, and includes a sitting room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Outside the sitting room is a garden with trees around a green lawn. There is also a small greenhouse where tropical plants grow.

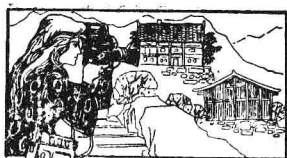
Although the high brick walls and the black iron gate shield her from the outside noise, she maintains contact with the rest of the world and has a clear understanding of international political geography.

"What do you think of the normalization of relations between China and the United States?" I asked.

"Excellent," she said. "It is very wise and realistic for China and the United States to have good relations."

(From *China Daily*, March 3, 1986)

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1. Talitha A. Gerlach, ... Foundation: 中国福利会顾问、宋庆龄基金会委员耿丽淑。 2. traditional paintings: 国画。
3. electronic appliances: 电子器具。 4. cotton-padded jacket: 棉袄。 5. clear-minded: 头脑清楚、思维清晰的。 6. immediate family relations: 直系亲属。 7. close relatives: 近亲。
8. settle down: 定居。 9. a land of mystery: 神秘的国土。
10. inauguration: (皇帝)登基典礼。 11. bound feet: 缠过的脚、小脚。 12. the national board of ... Department: 基督教女青年会对外部全国理事会。 13. average Chinese: 一般的中国人。 14. gravitated to ...: 倾向于……。 15. 1930s: (二十世纪)三十年代。 16. Rewi Alley: 路易·艾黎(新西兰国际友人。早年即同情与支持中国革命事业, 现仍在中国为我国社会主义建设而工作)。 17. Ruth Weiss: 露丝·韦斯。 18. national salvation work: 救亡工作。 19. the China Defence League (CDL): 保卫中国同盟。 20. 'letter smuggling': "信件走私"。 21. to board... the Huangpu River: 登上停泊在黄浦江里的一艘美国班船。 22. in the guise of ...: 伪装……。 23. top-secret material: 绝



外国人看中国

Discoveries and Inventions A Review of Science and Civil- ization in China— by Joseph Needham²

Maud Russell

王跃汉 选注

本文节选自M·罗素就英国著名学者、中国人民的老朋友李约瑟的专著《中国的科学与文明》撰写的评论。文中列举了我国劳动人民早期的部分发明创造以及对世界经济文化的发展所作的杰出贡献。叙述生动，又多与欧洲文化作平行对比，读来饶有兴味。作为炎黄子孙，我们决不沉缅于过去的伟绩，而要放眼未来，大展宏图，为人类文明作出更大贡献。

The Chinese preceded the Greeks in many important scientific and technical discoveries; they kept pace with³ the Arabs who had access to⁴ all the treasures of the

- 密材料。 24. donated: 捐赠的。 25. at the risk of ...: 冒……的危险。 26. fall: 秋天。 27. the China Welfare Fund: 中国福利基金会。 28. Israel Epstein: 伊斯雷尔·爱泼斯坦(国际友人,中国人民的老朋友之一,现任《中国建设》杂志主编)。 29. the China Welfare Appeal: 中国福利基金筹集会。 30. via...: 经由……。 31. became a smuggled item herself: 她本身成了一项走私品。 32. *China Reconstructs*: 《中国建设》杂志。 33. propose programmes: 提方案。 34. hails ... as ...: 把……欢呼为……。 35. villa: 别墅。

ancient Western world; they maintained between the third and thirteenth centuries a level of scientific knowledge unapproached in the West. The weakness of China in theory and geometrical systemization⁵ “did not prevent the emergence of technological discoveries and inventions often far in advance of⁶ contemporary Europe especially up to the 15th century,” says Needham. And he points out that these technological inventions poured into Europe in a continuous stream⁷ during the first 13 centuries of the Christian era....

Some of the basic, everyday things that have come to us in the West from China are rice, tea, porcelain, silk, the umbrella, eye-glasses, the printing press,⁸ the mariner's compass,⁹ paper, paper money, the finger print system of identification,¹⁰ water-tight compartments¹¹ in ships, kites, etc.

Paper was invented in the first century A.D. by Tsai Lun,¹² but it was at least six hundred years before it passed to the West. And in China colored paper began to be used in the seventh century.

Printing had begun in China at least by the eighth century. The earliest block printing¹³ known is that of a Buddhist charm¹⁴ of 770. The Chinese had long used ink and paper and they knew how to make seals of metals, stone and clay; the time was ripe for such an invention as printing. Text books were needed by the thousands for the civil service system,¹⁵ and charms for warding off evil spirits and diseases were desired by the Buddhists and Taoists.¹⁶ In the tenth century Confucian classics were printed from wooden blocks in 130 volumes and were

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widely distributed throughout the country. By the end of the century Taoist books had become fairly common in the far western province of Szechuan.

China gets the credit for inventing gunpowder. "Cracking and exploding staves," say the chroniclers, were used in the Wei Dynasty (220-265 A.D.) and fireworks were used in the Sui Dynasty (605-617 A.D.). Their use for war is not proven, though experiments along those lines¹⁷ were carried out. In 1161 "thunderbolt projectives"¹⁸ made of paper filled with lime and sulphur were used in battle; when they touched the water the fire leapt from them and the dense fumes that arose confused the enemy. And there were "fire-stones" thrown a considerable distance by a "fire-drug" made of nitre,¹⁹ sulphur and willow charcoal. Arab traders brought the secret of this combination²⁰ to the West and it was adopted for warfare...

Chinese embassies made presents of *Chinese silk* to the Parthians in the first century,²¹ and it was they who introduced silk into Western Asia (though caravans from China to Iran date from 106 B.C.) and it was then that the trans-Asian silk trade was regularized.²²

Domestication of the silk worm²³ and the development of the silk industry had taken place at least as early as the Shang period, in the 14th century B.C.

True porcelain was not only made as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) but had already become articles of overseas trade by that time. Proto-porcelain which is pottery with elements of porcelain²⁴ had been made in Han times, just before the dawn of the Christian era. It was the 18th century before Europe was producing true

porcelain.

It was not in 19th century Europe but in second century A.D. China that the *automatic clock-drive* of the astronomical telescope first appears.²⁵

It was China, not Europe, that was responsible for the development of the *mechanical clock*.²⁶ "Indeed," writes Dr. Needham, "the mechanical clocks of China built between A.D. 700 and 1300 have revealed at last the missing link between the very ancient water-receiving and water-giving vessels (clepsydras) of Babylonia and ancient Egypt and the purely mechanical clocks and watches of later ages."²⁷

Our *potato*, with its claim of American ancestry²⁸ was known and eaten by the people of China in the Liang Dynasty (907-923). *Sugar* was already mentioned in records dating back to²⁹ the 2nd century B.C. The Book of History³⁰ (24th-8th century B.C.) mentions a fermented beverage of millet or rice;³¹ the straining of liquor from lees³² is mentioned in the Book of Odes³³ (23rd-6th century B.C.). The first reference to *coal* in China was made about 100 B.C. called "ice charcoal,"³⁴ and was probably discovered about the same time in Europe, though Marco Polo³⁵ (13th century A.D.) noticed its use in China and described it in such a manner that it seems it was utterly unknown to him or his contemporaries. The Chinese had perfectly developed *cooking stoves*³⁶ by the time of the Han Dynasty and were also acquainted with the principle of the *chimney*. And it was the Chinese who introduced the washboard to the United States....

The most popularly known fact about the Chinese

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is that they use chopsticks. Westerners are often apt to look down on this as a crude method of eating; they should remember that the general use of the fork in Europe dates back no farther than the late 16th century, before which time our ancestors used only knives and their fingers.

European table-manners³⁷ at the end of the 15th century indicate clearly that table forks were not then in general use in Europe. It was “manners” to reach for a piece of meat with only three fingers and not to leave the hand unduly long in the bowl.³⁸ Another point of good behaviour was not to wipe the nose with the same hand you used in taking a piece of meat. The Chinese, on the other hand, had been using chopsticks for one thousand years—delicately and hygienically moving the food from the central bowls to their individual bowls, and easily and neatly “cutting” fish and fowl, not with knives or daggers, but with chopsticks. The Chinese people long antedate Europeans in refinement in eating!³⁹

(From *China Yesterday and Today*)

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1. a review of: 评论, 回顾。 2. Joseph Needham: 英国著名学者、中国人民的老朋友李约瑟博士。 3. kept pace with: 并驾齐驱。 4. had access to: 得接近。可接触到。 5. geometrical systemization: 几何体系。 6. far in advance: 遥遥领先。 7. in a continuous stream: 源源不断地。 8. the printing press: 印刷机。 9. the mariner's compass: 航海罗盘。 10. the finger print system of identification: 指纹鉴定法。 11. water-tight compartments: 防水密封舱。 12. Tsai Lun: 蔡伦。 13. block printing: 刻版印刷。 14. Buddhist charm: 佛教护符。 15. the civil service system: 文官考试制度。

16. Taoists: 道士。 17. along those lines: 在这方面。
18. “thunderbolt projectives”: “霹雳抛射丸”。 19. a “fire-drug”
made of nitre: 用硝石制成的“火药”。 20. combination: 混合物。
21. Chinese embassies ... in the first century: 中国使节在
公元一世纪就把丝绸作为礼物送给(伊朗北部的)帕提亚人。 22. it
was then that ... was regularized: 就在那时候,横贯整个亚洲的丝
绸贸易经常地开展起来了。 23. domestication of the silk worm:
家庭养蚕。 24. proto-porcelain which is pottery with elements
of porcelain: 含瓷陶器。 25. It was not in ... first appears.: 天
文望远镜的自动发条传动装置最早不是出现在十九世纪的欧洲而是出
现在二世纪的中国。 26. It was China ... mechanical clock:
是中国而不是欧洲发展了机械时钟。 27. “the mechanical clocks
of China ... of later ages.” 在公元七世纪和十三世纪之间中国制造的
机械时钟,终于填补了在巴比伦帝国和古埃及非常古老的漏壶和后期
纯机械钟表之间的空白。 28. with its claim of American ances-
try: 据称原产美洲的(马铃薯)。 29. dating back to: 追溯至,
(年代)远在。 30. The Book of History: 《书经》。
31. fermented beverage of millet or rice: 用小米或大米酿酒。
32. the straining of liquor from lees: 从酒糟中滤酒。 33. the
Book of Odes: 《诗经》。 34. ice charcoal: 冰炭。 35. Marco
Polo: 马可波罗 (1254?—1324), 意大利著名旅行家。 36. cooking
stoves: 灶头。 37. table-manners: 用餐方式。 38. not to
leave ... in the bowl: 不要把手伸在碗中过久。 39. The Chinese
people ... in eating: 中国人吃东西的雅相大大早于欧洲人。

(上接第96页)

- of a paddle-blade: 形状象桨片。 8. rudder: 船的舵。
9. using his ... propeller: 把它的尾巴当作一种推进器使用。
10. mate: 配偶; 交配。 11. young: 崽,仔。 12. community
life: 群居生活。 13. colony: 聚居地; 群体。 14. birch,
poplar or willow trees: 白桦树、白杨树或柳树。 15. A dome-
shaped ... this “floor”: 然后在这个“地板”上空用树枝和大量泥巴建
造一个圆拱形的屋顶。 16. Wood that ... with stones: 藏在水
下的木头可能被塞在泥里或者用石块压住。 17. can fell ... in dia-
meter: 能伐倒一棵直径为八英寸的树。 18. with the ... upstream:
将曲线的外部朝向上游。 19. to allow ... run off: 让多余的水
流掉。



POST HASTE

〔英〕COLIN HOWARD

晓 京 选注

辛普森先生深夜寄信发请柬，发现信封上未贴邮票，碰巧遇到了“我”，经过一番折腾之后，仍是未贴邮票把信发出。结果该信原来就是寄给“我”的，“我”哭笑不得，只好罚付双倍邮资。

“I say, I *am* pleased to see you!” declared the little man standing dejectedly by the pillar-box.

“Oh, hullo!” I said, stopping. “Simpson, isn’t it?”

The Simpsons were newcomers to the neighbourhood, and my wife and I had only met them once or twice.

“Yes, that’s right!” returned Simpson. He seemed quite gratified by my ready recognition.¹ “I wonder if you could lend me threepence?” I plunged an investigatory hand into my pocket.² “You see, my wife gave me a letter to post, and I’ve just noticed it isn’t stamped.”

“They never are,” I said, sympathetically.

“It must go to-night—it really must! And I don’t suppose I should find a post-office open at this time of night, do you?”

The hour being close upon eleven,³ I agreed that it seemed improbable.

"So I thought, you see, I'd get stamps out of the machine," explained Simpson, not without pride in his ingenuity,⁴ "only I find I haven't any coppers on me."

"I'm awfully sorry, but I'm afraid I haven't either," I told him, concluding my explorations.⁵

"Oh, dear, dear!" he said. Just like that. He was that sort of little man.⁶

"Perhaps somebody else—" I put forward.

"There *isn't* anyone else."

He looked up the street, and I looked down. Then he looked down the street, and I looked up. We both drew blank.⁷

"Yes, well!" I said, and made to move off. But he looked so forlorn, standing there clutching a blue, unstamped envelope, that I really hadn't the heart to desert him.

"Tell you what,"⁸ I said. "You'd better walk along with me to my place—it's only a couple of streets off—and I'll try to hunt up some change⁹ for you there."

"It's really awfully good of you!" said Simpson, blinking earnestly.

At home, we managed to run the coveted pennies and halfpennies to earth¹⁰. I handed the sum to Simpson, who, in the most businesslike way,¹¹ made a note of the loan in his pocket-book, and departed. I watched him take a dozen steps up the road, hesitate, and then return to me.

"I say, I *am* sorry to trouble you again," he said, "The fact is, we're still quite strangers round here, and—well, I'm rather lost,¹² to tell you the truth. Perhaps you'd direct me to the post-office?"

I did my best. I spent three solid minutes¹³ in explaining to him exactly where the post-office was. At the end of that time I felt as lost as Simpson.

"I'm—I'm afraid I don't quite—" he blinked.

"Here, I'd better come along with you," I said.

"Oh, I say, that's awfully kind of you!" he assured me.

I felt inclined to agree with him.¹⁴ I led the way to the post-office. Simpson inserted a penny in the automatic stamp-machine. The coin passed through the machine with a hollow rattle. Its transit¹⁵ failed to produce the desired stamp. Simpson looked at me with a what-do-I-do-now sort of expression.¹⁶

"It's empty," I explained.

"Oh!" said Simpson.

Experiment revealed that the stock of ha' penny stamps was also exhausted. Simpson, in his agitation at this discovery, dropped his letter face downwards on the pavement, whence he retrieved it with the addition of a large blob of mud.¹⁷

"There!" ejaculated Simpson, quite petulantly. "Jo it's got *mud* on it!" He rattled the empty machines spitefully. "Well, what can we do now?"

I gathered that I was definitely a member of the posting party.

"I suppose it *must* go to-night!" I said.

"Dear me, yes! My wife was most insistent about that. She said I wasn't to— It's—well, I don't know that it's extraordinarily important, but—but I'd better post it, if you know what I mean."