

綴言

梅郎天賦異稟。超越常流。藝事之美。有前不見古人。後不見來者之概。稱譽之聲。無間中外。同人譾陋。又何用爲之。揄揚惟念。歌曲繫於民風。戲劇歸諸文藝。歐洲文學史中。戲劇恆佔有重要位置。梅郎歌舞。足以代表時代。藝術此固舉世所公認者。不有專集。何以昭示來茲。同人不敏。竊願爲之。遂有斯刊之作。此書告成。珍重閣主人贊助。獨多。此同人所深致感謝者。美商務參贊安立德君。賜以敍言。徐小麟君。燼以照片。彌復可感。時日。匆促。書中謬誤。每出於預期。當代君子。幸進而教之。

民國十五年十二月

莊鑄九

楊君辛

趙君豪

潘毅華

序

綴玉軒主人以藝事之長樹文明之譽卓然茲世表溢瀛樞跡其發軔之由與夫陰樾之盛可得言之世變日亟鄭衛爭途宮聲不返早斷帝子之魂變徵無端已窮曠谷之管唐宋以降猶存樂章元明而後遂薄曲藝坐使漢卿實甫考訂彌艱晉叔琴川繡梓爲盛美人芳草難乎比興之詞白雪陽春遂奪簧鼓之席推風人之旨蹈履失其中和端氣化之先治亂與爲維繫道成之後俗競亂彈芳祖貽佳俠之名爲曲部之長縣駒高唐之俗軒翥上京竊年上皇之思衆諸人口就中變丁邊密劫遇紅桑羣從感綿袍之深主人篤廣廈之義厥謀燕翼代有知聞名父亦擅紅牙同工綠綺南風未就孫枝遂榮主人早歲通詞髻年理曲秉珠玉於九天溢芬菲於三疊氍毹甫展空巷萬人律呂初嫻騰響連邑此後又翻古調自炫新裝取法周昉之圖珮環可掬想見徐熙之妙花草增輝重以雲門久廢韶護無聞別專制禮之功以爲作樂之助更始興廢舉世咸欽絕開先宗門大剏於是九服萬里率繩上關之冠裳三島十洲已拜下風於節羽雍容者抒其文物導揚者善其威儀論功盟府述藝敦槃東朝命婦倒屣迂尊西方榛苓凝睇莫若天之驕子微斯誰歸不有紀盛之文曷廣播芳之賞遂有作者以策茲篇金箱玉軸盈篋詞新翠管牙籤傳神頰上被以僮儻之字藉爲弓衣之貽箋紙十番價勝洛陽之市滑稽六藝亦附名山之藏丙寅小春珍重閣

FOREWORD

During the autumn of 1915, the committee of the American College Club of North China, in its desire to get away from the traditional reunion program, me conceived the idea of featuring a Chinese play with Chinese actors in the banquet hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Peking's famous actor, who had for many years performed before the Empress Dowager, had a few years before passed away. There was no one in Peking who seemed to fill his place. Mr. C. S. Liu of the Ministry of Communications, who was a regular patron of the Chinese theatre, recommended to us that we secure Mei Lan-fang, who, although but twenty years old, showed promise of becoming a noted actor. Accordingly Mei Lan-fang put on for us "Chang O's Flight to the Moon." The three hundred American College men and women present upon that occasion were delighted with the performance and pronounced Mei Lan-fang a real success. This event served as a cue to Chinese official circles in Peking in plans for the entertainment of foreigners, and from that time forth Mei Lan-fang was retained at different times for special entertainments or receptions at the President's Palace or elsewhere, to which members of the diplomatic body and others were invited.

To those who have been identified with the life of Peking during the past ten or twelve years, it has been setisfying to note the manner in which Mei Lan-fang has availed himself of the opportunities which he has enjoyed of popularizing the Chinese Drama among foreign audiences. Thus aside from the pleasure which he may have accorded his own people in his place on the Chinese stage, he may be proud of what he has done to educate the foreign public in China to a better appreciation of Chinese drama and Chinese acting. Incidentally he has elevated the position of the Chinese actor to one of greater respect among educated people generally, for the actor during past decades occupied a low position in the Chinese social scale. Thus we are interested in Mei Lan-fang, firstly because of his superb histrionic talents, secondly, because of his excellent work in elevating the Chinese drama and Chinese actor to a higher plane in society, and thirdly because he is a student possessed with initiative and a desire to improve the Chinese stage, so that it may more truly depict the art and culture of the Chinese people. We wish him every success, for whatever he does toward aiding Westerners in a better appreciation of Chinese art and culture, contributes toward a better mutual understanding between the East and the West.



AMERICAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE

Shanghai, November 29, 1926.

Mr. Mei Lan-fang, China's most famous professional entertainer, a native of Kiangsu Province, was born in 1823. His exceptional ability was inherited from father and grandfather, who were famous actors in the capital; and at the age of thirteen he made his first appearance on the stage, as a female impersonator. With years of experience and practice, he became a very skillful performer, mastering the art of impersonation to perfection. At the age of nineteen, he made his first appearance in Shanghai, and in a popularity contest won 270,000 votes from his admirers, thus becoming known as the "King of Actors", in China.

In ancient China, singing and dancing went together but after the Tan Dynasty, dancing was abolished so that only singing was featured by prominent actors. Mei Lan-fang, being well versed in old literature, succeeded in restoring the long-forgotten dance, and produced many plays with both songs and dances. His initiative has been followed by many impersonators in the country. He has won wide fame in his dance impersonation of the "Heavenly Maiden Spreading Flowers", and the sword dance in "King of the Chu Empire's Farewell to his Sweetheart."

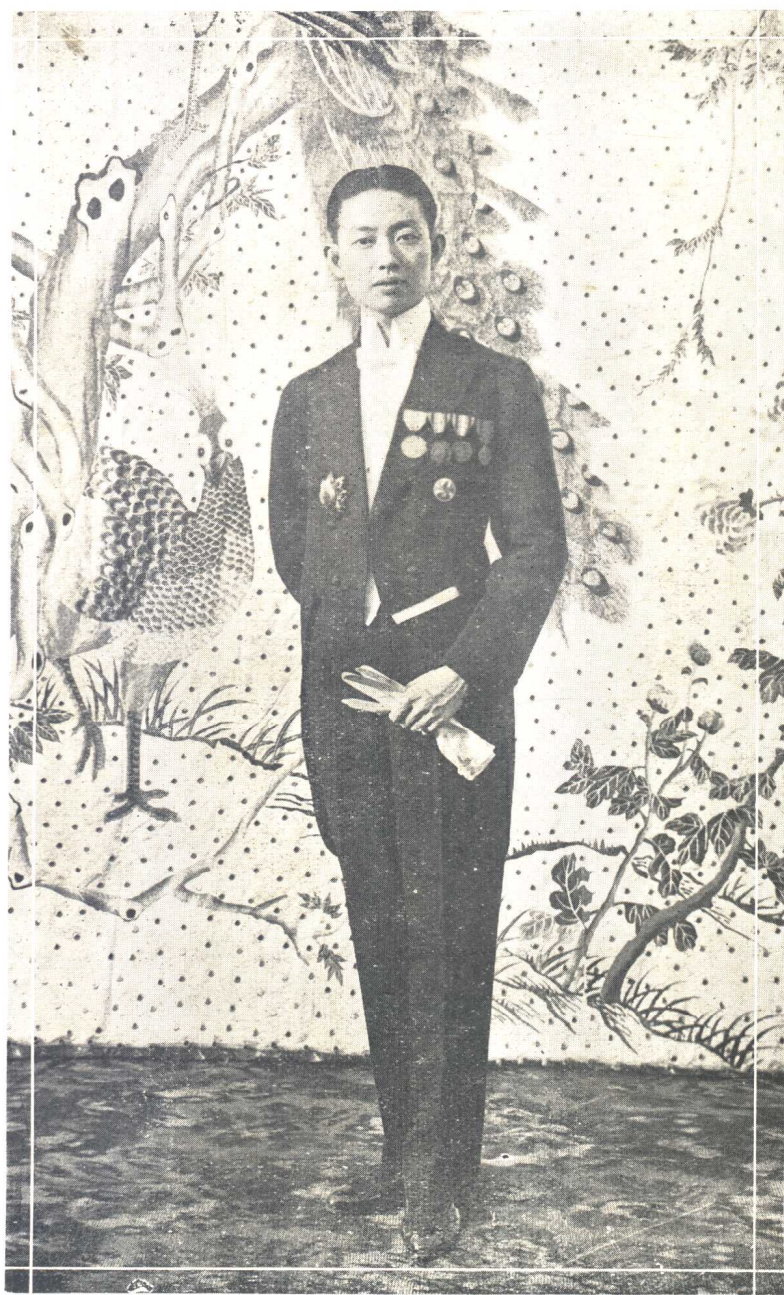
At the age of twenty-five, he was engaged by the Japanese Imperial Theatre, and was heartily welcomed in Japan, by all classes; this being the first time in the history of China, that a Chinese actor had appeared upon a foreign stage. Three years later he was engaged for a theatrical season in Hongkong. News spread widely of his arrival, and the Governor of Hongkong was so well impressed that he persuaded Mei Lan-fang to make a trip to England. At his departure, the Governor presented him with a silver shield with an inscription thereon both in English and Chinese; and the Hongkong University invited him to address its pupils.

Mei Lan-fang acts in over four hundred plays, about one-third of which are his own production. His wardrobe and ornaments are valued in excess of \$100,000. His movements and actions, in performing, are smooth and refined. He possesses a clear penetrating voice, and his appearance is very dignified. Though at the zenith of success, he is ambitious, and continues his study of art.

He is a Philanthropist, and has on many occasions offered his services to charity fair, his autographed Photograph was put to auction, and was purchased by a member of the Spanish Legation for \$500. Mei Lan-fang is kind and generous, and devoted to the old standards of morality. His leisure time is spent in the study of mechanics electricity and science. He is also a collector of old books on music and dancing. His hobby is gardening, and the raising of pet birds. He possesses an excellent knowledge of painting. At a Japanese exhibition his paintings were classed as special exhibits. He has many friends among famous scholars.

At a farewell banquet given by the President of China to the American Minister Dr. Paul Reinsch, the latter expressed the opinion that Mei Lan-fang should make a tour of America so that Americans could learn more of Chinese art: and at the time of writing this, he has idea to go American next year.

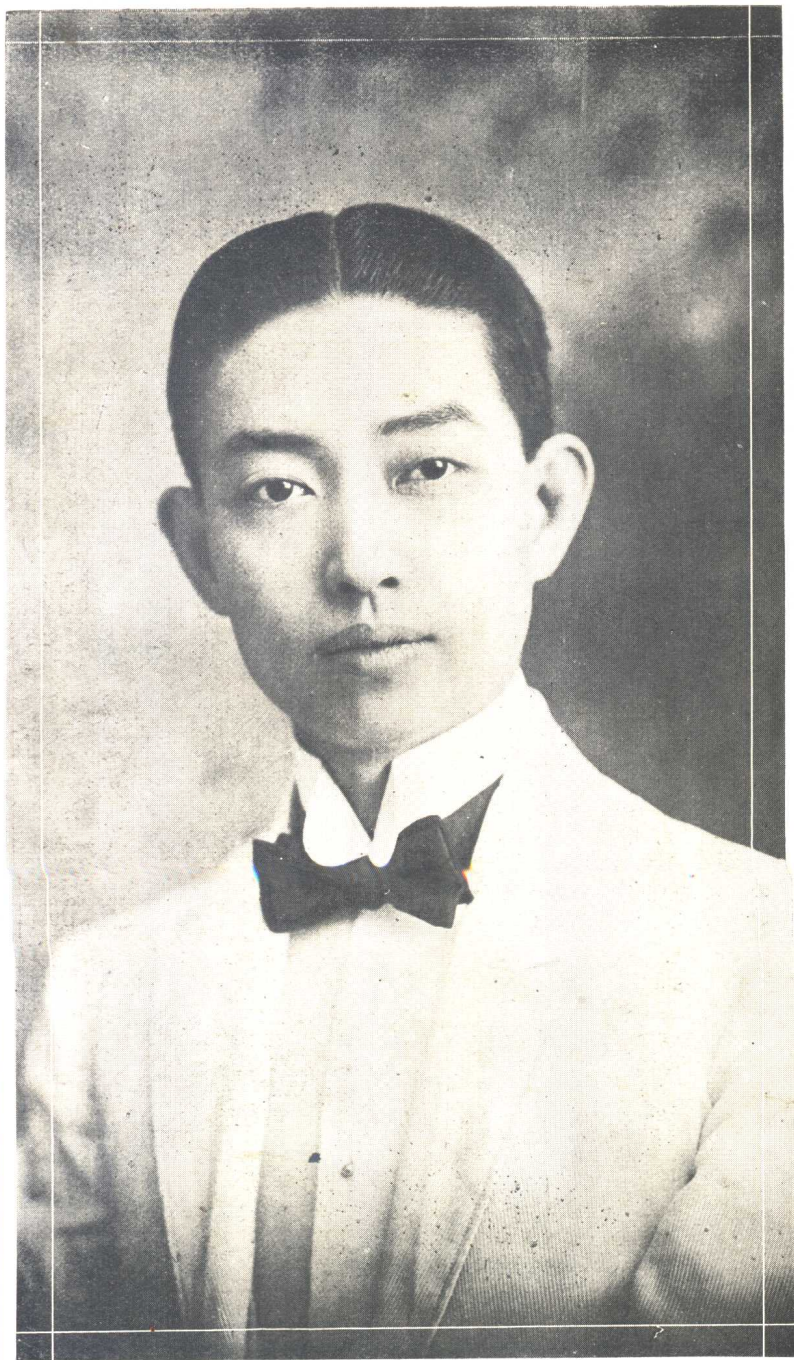
Mei Lan-fang is not only appreciated by the Chinese, but is considered one of the greatest actors in the world.



晚華才多藝舉世所欽又復樂善好施痾瘵在抱演劇助振無間中外人多德之平生所得勳章蓋疊也此爲佩章攝影之一



人 閨 其 及 華 晚



影 之 日 夏 華 晚



影攝時壽十八母祖其侍華晚

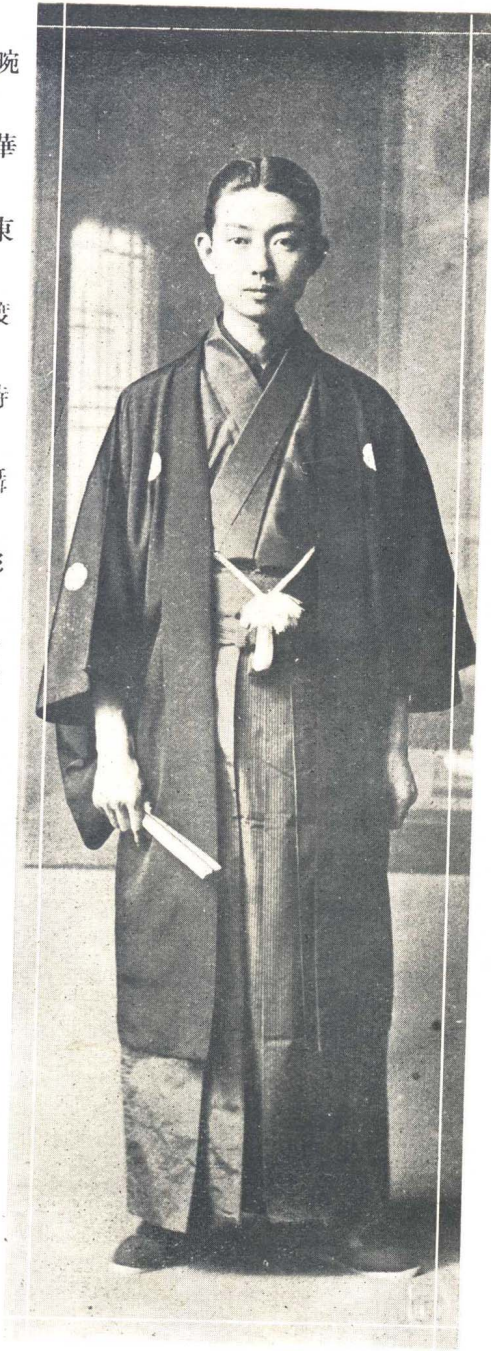


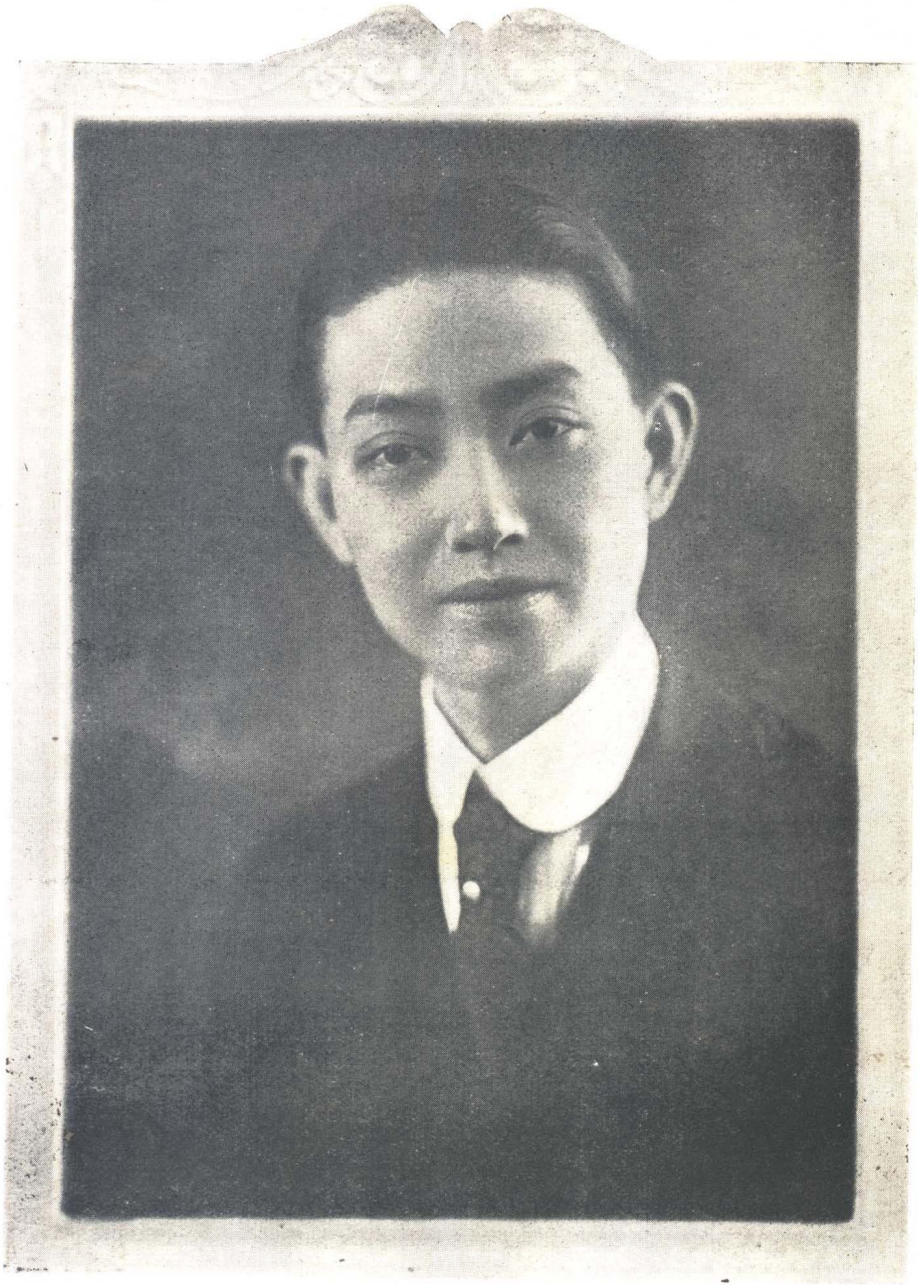
晚 華 中 服 之 攝 影



(一) 影 攝 時 渡 東 華 晚

晚
華
東
渡
時
攝
影
(一)





(三) 影 攝 時 渡 東 華 晚

梅郎曲

梅○郎○才○調○本○天○成○十○五○年○前○已○享○名○紅○氍○毹○上○試○歌○舞○雛○鳳○清○於○老○鳳○聲○赤○松○爲○鼓○湘○靈○瑟○郝○素○爲○
 調○趙○女○箏○一○曲○陽○春○驚○四○坐○九○天○咳○唾○動○公○卿○風○前○玉○樹○想○丰○神○羣○許○梨○園○第○一○人○滿○腹○宮○商○角○徵○
 羽○多○少○名○優○步○後○塵○翠○花○能○舞○不○能○歌○小○雲○能○歌○不○能○舞○筱○衡○歌○舞○稱○並○擅○貌○似○戚○施○吾○不○取○海○上○
 新○聲○久○寂○寥○祇○今○何○幸○聞○六○么○應○是○元○音○未○消○歇○從○茲○不○復○羨○雲○韶○

豁公



(一)影攝近最華晚



(二) 影 攝 近 最 華 晚



(三) 影 攝 近 最 華 晚

觀天女散花

秋水

至。美。原。來。空。色。相。人。間。文。字。總。
 如。塵。維。摩。不。是。無。言。說。玄。妙。難。
 傳。物。外。真。
 一。片。空。靈。月。照。人。光。明。看。虛。衆。
 心。明。羣。生。苦。惱。方。無。已。欲。乞。華。
 鬘。證。夙。因。

響屧廊

陳蒙庵

嬌。雲。繫。住。綽。約。凌。波。步。多。恐。浣。紗。人。解。妒。商。略。玉。顏。今。古。本
來。傾。國。傾。城。梅。花。更。是。神。清。珍。重。瑤。台。月。下。萼。華。證。取。三。生。
鴛。吭。宛。宛。簌。簌。梁。塵。滿。丰。采。嘉。榮。今。幾。見。消。得。錦。甃。珠。幔。舞
裙。着。意。留。僊。天。花。散。遍。人。間。誰。省。滄。江。風。雪。眼。前。金。粉。湖。山。
衆。芳。無。色。點。斷。春。消。息。仙。尉。高。華。稽。譜。帙。况。有。江。郎。綵。筆。巡
檐。索。笑。何。人。誰。家。檀。板。金。尊。說。似。香。南。俊。約。分。明。絮。果。蘭。因。
一。枝。仙。桂。金。粟。休。輕。比。爲。余。畫。桂。花。使。面。精。妙。絕。倫。紅。杏。碧。桃。
爭。得。似。依。約。素。娥。芳。意。幾。回。側。帽。聞。歌。將。離。可。奈。愁。何。後。約。
彩。鸞。延。佇。吳。天。寸。碧。雲。羅。