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English-Chinese Bilingual Textbook

古今谈

Yesterday And Today of Qinghai Lake

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我是一个青海迷

——《西海古今谈》中英双文本序言

我是一个青海迷，醉心于对青海地方语言、文化和自然资源的研究和保护，而这些都象征性地体现在青海湖文化中。我是对青海痴迷的“老外”族群中的一员，和他们一样我也学了一点当地语言。在这方面做的最成功的首推我的美国老乡柏大卫（David Palmer）。他1931年出生在美国纽约，1932年随传教士的父母来到青海的湟源县，在那里一直生活到1949年。他于1987年重回湟源，其满口纯正地道的湟源话让当地居民惊讶不已。此后，当他往返于美国和青海之间，筹筹款项为扩大和装备湟源县的医疗设施而奔波之时，就牢牢树立了他在当地群众中的威望，赢得了人们的爱戴，被授予湟源县荣誉公民的称号。与柏大卫先生流利的青海话相比，我只能说一些“Alabala”（西宁方言的藏语借词，意为：马马虎虎或比较差）的青海方言。由于对当地方言的兴趣，我有幸结识了青海师范大学的都兴宙教授，都教授在地方方言方面已经发表了大量的学术论文。后来通过他，我又遇到了青海当地民俗学及方言学研究者朱世奎研究员，并与他结下了深厚的友谊。我拜读了朱先生所著的大量有关青海地方文化的文章和书籍，当然也包括这本《西海古今谈》，从中学到了很多有关青海湖地质、生态以及文化历史的知识。

“西海”是青海湖的旧称。在过去15年当中，我曾多次游览过青海湖：她烟波浩淼，一碧万顷，远处的皑皑雪山时隐时现，被公认居中国最美丽的五湖之首（包括新疆的哈纳斯湖，西藏的纳木措湖，吉林的长白湖及杭州的西湖），我认为这的确是名副其实，当之无愧的。然而，我过去观光青海湖时，只欣赏到她表面的美丽，读了这本书后，让我了解到青海湖畔以及湖中心岛屿上

丰富的文化遗产。例如，在湖的北岸已经发现了2000年前所建的军事指挥要地——著名的“龙夷古城”（现代称三角城）。在该古城遗址发现了一尊石虎（虎符石匮），这是在西汉时期为了显示朝廷帝国统治势力所到达的范围而颁发设置的信物。目前，在中国国内其他地方尚无发现与此相同的石虎，因此被确定为国宝。对这样的稀世珍宝，我们必须尽最大努力予以保护。

朱先生在书中还详尽地描述了青海湖畔持续了几个世纪的祭祀仪式。这些仪式起初是人们向大湖及环境保护神表达敬意的方式，很早被统治者所掌握，使之成为政府活动。这些祭祀礼仪在该地区政治生活中起着重要的作用。当今，这些祭祀仪式可理解为所有人类那种对大自然普遍崇敬，对江河湖水特殊情感的表达。如果我们失去对大自然的那种敬畏意识而继续进行不合理的开发和肆意破坏，我们将面临不堪设想的后果，欠下我们的子孙后代付出沉重的代价都无法偿还的孽债。的确，某种迹象表明这一切已经开始了：作者在书中描述了他20世纪60年代与一位鱼类学者在青海湖南岸的黑马河观看湟鱼从青海湖逆水而上，游往淡水河去排精产卵的壮观景象——洄游，这种景象不可能在近若干年内重现，因为青海湖的湟鱼已到频危的边缘。我们殷切希望尽快出台有效的湖区环境保护政策，这样，我们的后代就会有幸感受到青海湖带给世界的神奇活力。

感谢青海民族学院外国语学院刘雪萍副教授，经过努力已将该书译成英文，现即将以中英文对照的形式出版。在此，我以无比激动的心情向英语国家的人们推荐这本书，并希望通过书中令人愉快遐想的故事，让更多的美国人以及世界各地的友人成为“青海迷”。（李桐译）

Keith Dede

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2007年8月17日

于美国乐维斯·克拉科学院

Preface

I Am a Fan of Qinghai

—Preface for the Publishing of Chinese-English
Edition of *《Yesterday and Today of Qinghai Lake》*

I am a fan of Qinghai, devoted to the research and preservation of Qinghai's language, culture and natural endowment, which is emblematically represented in Qinghai Lake. I follow in a long line of 'outsiders' who have become fascinated with Qinghai and who have endeavored to learn a bit of its local variety of the Chinese language. The most successful to do so is certainly the American David Palmer (b.1931), who was raised in Qinghai's Huangyuan County. Along with his missionary parents he moved there in 1932, and stayed until 1949. He returned again in 1987, shocking residents with his perfect Qinghai Chinese accent. He became an honorary citizen of Huangyuan County and forever ensured his place among the hearts of the people there when he donated money for expanding and equipping the local medical facilities. Unlike Mr. Palmer's fluent

Qinghai dialect, I can only speak *alabala* (a local word meaning to speak stammeringly or poorly), but through my interest in the local dialect I was fortunate enough to meet Professor Du Xing-zhou, who has published numerous articles on the local dialect. Through him I met the local folklorist and dialect scholar, Zhu Shi-kui, with whom I have formed a deep friendship. Reading Mr. Zhu's extensive writings on Qinghai Lake, including this volume 《Yesterday And Today of Qinghai Lake》, I've come to learn much about the lake's geological, biological and cultural history.

“Western Sea” is an old name for Qinghai Lake. I've seen the lake several times over the last 15 years, marveling in its expansive vistas, deep blue water and distant snow-capped peaks. The lake is recognized as the foremost beauty among China's five most beautiful lakes (which include Hanasi Lake in Xinjiang, Namucuo Lake in Tibet, Changbai Lake in Jilin and West Lake in Hangzhou) and it is indeed worthy of the name. However, in my previous visits to the lake I only appreciated its surface beauty. Reading this book I became aware of the rich cultural heritage that surrounds its shores and even fills the island in its middle. For example, on the north shore of the lake 2000 years ago was founded the headquarters of a military commandary, the famous Longyi

Commentary(modern Sanjiao City). In that city, as a symbol of the reach of Han Dynasty (206BC ~220AD) imperial power. They set up a statue of a stone-tiger. This tiger is now recognized as a national treasure. There has never been anything else like this statue found anywhere in the country, making it a unique treasure that we must make every effort to protect.

Mr. Zhu's book also describes the elaborate ceremonies carried out over the centuries to pay respects to the local deities said to inhabit the lake and its environs. These rituals were eventually taken over by the political rulers of the area, so that they became state activities playing a significant role in the political history of the area. These rituals, in a modern context, may be understood to express all of mankind's respect for water in particular and nature in general. If we were to lose that sense of wonder and respect for nature, if we were to continue on a path of unreasonable exploitation and reckless destruction, we would face serious consequences, incurring a debt that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will struggle to repay. Indeed, there is evidence this has already begun. Our author describes his experience in the 1960s of visiting Black Horse Stream (Heimahe River) at the south side of the lake with an

Ichthyologist in order to observe the Huang-fish's swimming from Qinghai Lake to the freshwater rivers or streams for spawning. This experience will not likely be repeated soon, because the fish population teeters on the brink of extinction. We very much hope that appropriate environmental protection policies are implemented soon, so that future generations have the opportunity to experience the wondrous vitality that Qinghai Lake brings to the world.

Now, thanks to Associate Professor Liu Xue-ping's efforts to translate it into English edition, who is from Foreign Languages College of Qinghai Nationalities University. The Chinese-English edition has been published. I am thrilled to be able to introduce the English speaking world to the richness of this text, and through its delightful stories make Americans and others around the world fans of Qinghai Lake.

Keith Dede

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August 17th, 2007

楔 子

在号称世界第三极的青藏高原的东北，镶嵌着一颗蔚蓝色的巨大宝石，她就是名闻遐迩的青海湖。波澜壮阔、气象万千的青海湖，是一幅任何丹青妙手画不完的长卷；秋水长天、落霞孤鹜的青海湖，是一首任何骚人韵士吟不尽的长诗；朔气金柝、寒光铁衣的青海湖，是一出任何戏剧家也表演不完连续剧；慷慨激昂、柔情似水的青海湖，是一曲任何龙头琴手也唱不完的歌；人事有代谢、往来成古今的青海湖，是任何“天方夜谭”式的说书大王，也讲不完的故事……

Prologue

In the north-west of Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, which is known as “the third Pole” of the earth, a huge blue diamond is inlaid there— she is the well-known Qinghai Lake. Qinghai Lake, a surging and majestic lake, is a long picture scroll that no artist can bear to stop painting about; Qinghai Lake, with either autumn water and boundless sky, as well as the glow of sunset and lonely duck, is a long poem that no poet can compose it to an end; Qinghai Lake, with north wind and golden air, cold lights and iron clothes, is a set of dramas that no one can act in it to the end; Qinghai Lake, an impassioning and gentle lake, is a lasted song that can’t be finished by the dragon-headed instrument; Qinghai Lake, with a long miracle history and truly great men in different dynasty, is a wonderful story that is endless for any book-teller of “The Arabian Nights” pattern...

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