



英语文化驿站系列



Here They Come! Are You Ready?

—An American's Perspective on
Hosting the Olympic Games

有朋自远方来

(美) Michael D. Knapp 著
郭 岗 注



机械工业出版社
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本书从一个在中国生活了近 10 年的美国人的视角出发, 针对 2008 年北京奥运会期间将有大量的国际友人涌进中国的现实问题, 介绍了中西方文化和习俗中存在的共性和差异, 从社会秩序、行为处世、人际关系等方面提出了一些与他们交往中的注意事项和具体做法, 告诉我们应该怎样更好地做好奥林匹克运动会的主人和接待工作, 以来访者有盼而来, 满意而归, 并给他们一个关于中国和谐、文明的美好印象。

全书语言简洁、明快, 叙述生动、诙谐, 多处以讲故事的形式展开话题, 让读者在轻松、有趣的阅读中自然地了解西方文化和习俗。

该书不仅适合奥运会的志愿者和其他有机会接触外国访客的工作人员阅读, 同样可供广大英语爱好者学习西方文化使用。

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PREFACE

他的眼光敏锐犀利、他的分析入情入理、他的体察饱含深情、他的笔触直率细腻。他从社会秩序、民族性格、人际关系、行为方式到人生观、价值观，甚至第二语言的学习等方面剖析了中国人与西方人的不同，对中国人与世界各地人交往中应注意的事项提出了中肯的意见。我很讶异于他走笔的深入浅出，对于中西方文化习俗及由经济基础制约的生活习惯等共性与差异这一博大精深的主题，对于指导作为东道主的我们如何迎接 2008 年奥运会这一严肃热点话题，他却讲述得如松间明月、石上清泉般浅澈清透、活泼灵动，娓娓道来间浸润着一位外国友人对中国土地的热爱、对中国人民友好殷切的期盼，告诉我们应该怎样让外国游客有盼而来、满意而归。

每天站在三尺讲坛上的我，面对莘莘学子求知的眼神心跳不已，数十载如一日，但我从未像接到奥运工作任命那天一样激情澎湃，真有种“赢得生前身后名”的释然。纵然我不堪经天纬地之才，也还是一块有用之玉，哪里需要哪里砌，砌到哪里便添光彩。关于奥运的书籍我读了不少，但有时看着床头芸芸众书，却不知道该捧起哪一本，而当出版社的编辑将《有朋自远方来》送到我手中时，它立刻成为我书架上的宠儿。这本书突出的主题、珍贵的视角、精美的语言在第一时间便吸引了我的眼球，让我不禁细细品读。

这是一本能激发奥运志愿者、英语爱好者和中西方文化探索者阅读兴趣并给他们以深刻启迪的书籍。也许您会对作者个人的观察不屑一顾、对他的评论不尽赞同、对他的观点诘难责问、对他的指导充耳不闻，但您却不得不被字里行间流淌的亲切自

然所感动、被他沁人肺腑的恳切之言所震撼：他在比较中赞扬我们的人民、在差异中寻求文化的精髓、在记述中直陈生活的琐细、在喟叹中捍卫求同存异的友善。这本书不仅仅是一部以外国人的视角看中国的生活手记，它还向我们昭示，全球化的今天，中国已健步成长为经济强国、政治大国。中国的和平崛起已吸引全世界人民投来惊叹赞赏的目光，甚至中国的发展已经成为一种现象、一种模式，引起他国的关注和研究。随着改革开放的不断推进、伴着经济腾飞的隆隆脚步、和着民族复兴的急促节拍，中华文化已完全摒弃了靠“闭关自守”的妄自尊大来维系民族文化的独立，而是在落落大方地拥抱其他文化的同时彰显自身文化的成熟，并以其独特的魅力促进着世界文明、影响着全球每个人，不论他/她的性别、国籍、种族、民族和信仰。作者从生活中的点点滴滴管窥文化差异这一主题，他衷心地希望我们这个文明的国度能更好地在世界面前展现她的风采。

宋官雅

(宋官雅，毕业于东北师范大学，曾任中国人民大学附属中学副校长、北京航空航天大学附属中学校长，现任北京航空航天大学后勤集团副总经理、2008年北京奥运会北航举重场馆运行团队语言服务经理。)



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CHAPTER 1

THE CHINESE CULTURE IS AMAZING



越来越多的外国人来拜访中国的原因是因为这个伟大的国家有那么多可以向世界展示的地方。中国有美妙绝伦的食物，风格独特、有趣的景点，以及友好的国民。在这一章中你可以了解到有哪些中国的食物是大部分外国人爱吃的，有哪些地方是他们向往一游的。通常，人们来中国是想看看那些他们本国没有的东西，即有中国特色的事物。他们会喜欢了解中国奇妙的文字、中国悠久的历史，也喜欢在中国购物。但是他们最大的兴趣还是去了解你们——中国人。你们将是最具代表性的，也会给外国游客留下最深刻的印象。



intriguing *adj.* 迷人的

China: an intriguing people and land, now being enjoyed by masses of people from all over the world. I love telling people in America that I work in China. Their eyes light up. They ask me all kinds of questions and listen with delight to my exciting stories.

I was the only foreigner in the first school I worked at in China. In January 1998 the Inner Mongolia Electric Power College had no international students and I was the only foreign teacher. The school was located on a beautiful campus about ten kilometers outside of the city of Hohhot. I enjoyed the fresh air and preferred to avoid the crowded bus into the city, so I spent most of my time on campus. I loved my students and Chinese colleagues, but I also experienced some loneliness. There were some foreigners in the city, but the only China I was experiencing was the neighborhood around the school. Sometimes I felt like I was the only foreigner in China.

Hohhot *n.* 呼和浩特

Today China has more foreign visitors than ever before in history. Maybe it's because of the move toward globalization of the world, but I don't think this is the only reason. China is a very special place in the world. Where else can you find a wall over a thousand miles long, more than fifty unique ethnic groups, and people willing to extend hospitality to the whole world? This is a country some people only dream of seeing, but for those who are given the opportunity, it is a dream come true.

ethnic group *n.* 少数民族

diversity *n.* 多样

The huge diversity of people now coming to China is only a small preview of the Olympics. The summer of 2008 will be unique because of the *number* of people coming to this country. Many people will come to see sports competi-

tion. Citizens from every nation will be here to cheer for their teams. China has worked very hard to assure these events will be the best ever. Magnificent facilities have been built. China has prepared an excellent setting for the 2008 Olympics.

magnificent *adj.* 宏伟的

facilities *n.* 设施

However, I don't believe soccer and tennis will be the main attractions. Nor will they come just to enjoy the variety of international food. I think many people will come to see *China*.

People from western countries won't buy an airplane ticket to China just to see McDonald's and Starbuck's. They will cross the sea to enjoy real China, Chinese culture and Chinese people. Their visit will be made more convenient by Beijing's attempt to put English on signs and menus, but visitors will be even more fascinated by Chinese characters. They don't want to come to China to see the west. They will come here to enjoy China just because she is China.

Starbuck's 星巴克咖啡馆

China has so much to enjoy. Most of the foreign guests who come to Beijing in 2008 will want to see the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square, the Imperial Palace, the Summer Palace, and Temple of Heaven. They will certainly shop at Silk Alley, the Pearl Market, San Li Tun, and some of Beijing's department stores. Hou Hai and the city's historical alleys will be the favorites of many. They will enjoy Beijing's night life, including trying the tasty snacks on the street. Most of the foreign visitors we have hosted in Beijing loved the mutton sticks and malatang. People come here to

Imperial Palace 故宫

Summer Palace 颐和园

Temple of Heaven 天坛

Silk Alley 秀水街

Pearl Market 红桥

mutton stick 羊肉串

be dazzled¹ by something they don't have at home.



1. Yummy!

It was my first night in Beijing. On this pleasant mid-1990s spring evening, five curious young men decided to go for a walk through one of the city's older neighborhoods. **Vendors** were selling all sorts of things I had never seen before. We decided to buy some **sparrows** on a stick. Each of us, one by one, **crunched** the bones of these tiny birds with our teeth, while trying to smile for pictures. We didn't know we were supposed to spit the bones out. None of us got seriously ill, but we returned to our hotel wondering if we would die in our sleep.

vendor *n.* 小贩

sparrow *n.* 麻雀

crunch *v.* 嘎吱有声地吃

tofu *n.* 豆腐

appealing *adj.* 吸引人的

vanilla *n.* 香草

Not only did we survive the night, but the next day for lunch our tour group of twenty Americans decided to try a fast food restaurant across the street from our hotel. I had eaten some dishes with **tofu** in Hong Kong, and thought they were pretty good, so I decided to go all out for my first lunch in the capital city. I ordered a whole plate of plain white tofu! This time I did get a little sick. Nobody told me I should order side dishes to mix with the tofu, and under the glass counter it looked as **appealing** as **vanilla** ice cream. I have never again ordered plain tofu.

China has the most interesting variety of food in the

1 **dazzled** (*adj.*): In the dictionary this word appears to have a negative meaning, but in modern English it can be used to mean the feeling we have when we experience something that is *amazing, wonderful, marvelous, or very remarkable*. 让人头晕目眩的

world. Most of my Chinese friends who go abroad tell me the food in their host country is boring. I've eaten American food all of my life, so it suits me well, but I can see why Chinese would find it a bit tasteless. Visitors to China may not feel comfortable trying every dish, but most appreciate the diversity. When your guests come in 2008, there are some dishes you can feel confident introducing to them.

Besides mutton sticks, there are some favorites I've seen foreigners ask for again and again. Those who like spice always enjoy spicy shredded potatoes, peanut or cashew chicken, and roasted mutton. Those who prefer mild will like beef and potato dishes, garlic broccoli, and some of the eggplant dishes. Before I came to China I didn't like mutton or eggplant, but Chinese know how to cook them much better than most Americans.

spicy shredded potatoes 香辣土豆丝

cashew *n.* 腰果

garlic broccoli 蒜绒西兰花

eggplant *n.* 茄子

Although I have met people from my own country who are open-minded enough to try almost anything, most of them need some time to get used to things that look "weird" to them. Try not to lose face when they wrinkle their noses at some of the foods they have never seen before, and don't be surprised when they photograph these unusual dishes and the vendors who sell them. This is part of the foreign visitor's unique Chinese experience. They aren't looking down on your country, but enjoying something their own country doesn't offer them. Don't spoil it for them by whisking them away to the nearest western looking restaurant.

weird *adj.* 不可思议的, 奇异的

wrinkle *v.* 皱

whisk away 匆匆带走

When I first moved to China, it took me some time to get used to eating hot pot. Now it is one of my favorites and I miss it every time I am outside of China. Some westerners like it right away, but for most of us it's an acquired taste.

hot pot 火锅

acquired taste 学来的嗜好

Nevertheless, I would not hesitate to take first-time foreign visitors to a hot pot restaurant. They may or may not like the taste, but they will surely enjoy the cultural uniqueness of it, and their cameras will certainly come out. Some of my American guests have sat and watched me gulp² down hot pot, while they just nibbled³ between taking pictures. They probably stopped at McDonald's for a hamburger on the way back to their hotel, but the hot pot experience was still a highlight of their visit.

Chinese breakfast has always been the hardest thing for

porridge *n.* 粥

fried cruller 油条

greasy *n.* 油的

dumpling *n.* 包子

me to get used to, maybe because breakfast is my favorite meal. I find porridge too plain and fried crullers too greasy. I like steamed dumplings, but to me they just aren't breakfast food. In America I rarely go to McDonald's before noon, but in Beijing I take my daughter there for a "breakfast date" once every week. There are, however, a few exceptions to my distaste for Chinese breakfast.

jian bing 煎饼

hold *v.* 别在里面放

Many of us western people in China particularly like jian bing, probably because it is similar to our omelet. If you order this for your foreign friend, be sure to ask him if he likes spicy. If not, ask the vendor to hold the hot peppers. I really like tea eggs, especially when my wife makes them, but you'd better have your friend try just one bite be-

- 2 *gulp (v.):* This is a modern English word used to describe eating something too quickly, usually with a negative meaning. It has the feeling of eating something without taking the time to chew it well. We can express the same meaning by saying *some eats like a pig*. However, it can also be used as a positive word to express eating something very fast because it is delicious. 狼吞虎咽地吃东西, 通常有贬义, 指吃东西不加咀嚼。然而有的情况下, 也可以用来表示食物很可口, 所以让人吃得很快

- 3 *nibble (v.):* To eat something slowly by taking very small bites, and eating very little. 一小口一小口地吃

fore ordering a bunch of them. Chinese fried eggs are similar to western ones, and if they aren't too greasy, westerners generally find them acceptable. The nice thing about most Chinese breakfast foods is that you can see them before you order. Your foreign friend will appreciate this benefit, and according to how open-minded he is, may surprise you by what he orders.

I have to have my morning coffee. Call it an addiction or just a liking, but the first thing I do when I drag⁴ myself out of my bedroom in the morning is to put on a pot of coffee. After the first delightful sip, I'm ready to start my day. When I'm traveling, I stumble outside the hotel looking through blurry eyes for a place with a picture of a coffee cup on their sign. If they don't have it, I go back to my room and settle for a cup of instant, which I carry everywhere as an emergency supply. Not all western people drink coffee and many come to China expecting to have to give it up for a few weeks, but those who are coffee drinkers will be your friends forever if you can help them start their day with a cup of real coffee.

addiction *n.* 瘾

sip *n.* 一小口, 啜饮

instant *adj.* 速溶的



Most western people don't like instant coffee.
Try to find the real thing⁵.

- 4 *drag* (*v.*): In the dictionary is, “拖, 拉”, but we can also use it to refer to making ourselves move when we feel too tired to move. 在这里指因为疲劳而磨蹭着走
- 5 *the real (adj.) thing* (*n.*): A colloquial word that means it is real, not fake. Instant coffee is real coffee, but because most people don't like it as well as the kind made in a coffee maker, we can use “real thing” as a kind of slang to emphasize we don't like instant. 喜欢喝咖啡豆磨的咖啡的人会觉得速溶咖啡不是真正的咖啡