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外国人 这样看 中国

*China Through
Foreign Eyes*

感悟生活之真，体味语言之美，
进步由此开始……

新华出版社

王编

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Through Foreign Eyes

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PREFACE

The foreigners in this book were assigned to write stories in native English, recounting their impressions of China before and after their arrival. As a result, stories about complex subjects, such as culture shock, social differences, personal revelations and life-changing epiphanies, are freely expressed through colloquial expressions, which are then footnoted. Within this context of tales, Chinese readers can learn native English that is often used in written and spoken form, while gaining insight into a little-understood reality in China—how the world in China is seen through foreign eyes. This deep cultural immersion and innovative language learning technique equips Chinese students with the empathy and linguistics to meet and talk with foreign guests in their home country.

The reader should remember that each person is unique as an individual, so each story here is also unique. The foreigners in this book come from various countries, ethnic groups, economic classes, and urban and rural areas. Indeed, even those who come from the same country have differences. There is no typical “laowai”. Therefore, each story provides a fresh new perspective and unforgettable experiences, some funny, some shocking and some endearing. You will read a story about a foreign boy who meets love at first sight, a foreign girl who feels treated like an exotic animal, and another who enjoys taking taxis because speaking with taxi drivers during the ride is a quick and inexpensive Chinese language lesson.

Foreigners in China are not new. From the time of Marco Polo to the Dutch Communist Henk Sneevliet who alongside Mao Zedong in July 1921 attended the 1st Congress of the CPC, foreigners have been an important part of China for a long time. Even one of the Xián Terracotta Warrior statues was identified as a foreigner. The only difference is now, at the beginning of the 21st century, a flood of



foreigners are coming to China all at once, and with diverse backgrounds and varied interests.

This book captures a glimpse of foreigners arriving, residing and adjusting to life predominately in Beijing, whether by purpose or fate, at a time marking China's arrival on the world scene through the WTO and the Olympics. The need to better understand the reality of foreigners in China and communicate more openly with them is of greater immediate importance to English learners in China. This book provides the essential regimen to satisfy that need.

Finally, beyond teaching English, this book brings awareness of both differences that separate Chinese and foreign cultures and similarities between peoples. Exposure to these will no doubt help develop better understanding and promote more open dialogue. Thus, the English language taught in this book is a tool to eliminate cultural and linguistic misunderstandings.

Regardless of whether you are "laowai" or "laonei", we are all "laopengyou". Jia you!

白若德

David A. Barrutia

前言

本书中收录的故事均是由外国人用地道的英语写成。这些故事记述了他们来中国前后对中国的认识 and 了解。虽然故事中涉及一些比较复杂的话题，如文化冲击、社会差异、人际关系、人生顿悟等，但作者们用口语化的语言灵活自如地表达了他们对此的看法。中国读者不仅可以领略到外国人眼中的中国图景，还可以学到地道的英语口语和书面语，可谓一举两得。这种深入的文化浸染和新颖的语言学习方式使得中国学生可以获得对文化和语言的双重感悟，从而使他们在与外国宾客的会面 and 交谈中显得更为轻松自如。

毋庸置疑，每一个人都是独立的个体，都有其独特性。这些故事的作者来自不同的国家、种族、社会阶层，彼此间有很多差异，即使是那些来自同一个国家的外国人也有不同之处。因此，本书中外国人所写的故事，篇篇内容独特、见解独到。每一个故事都从一种全新的视角讲述着难以忘怀的经历，譬如：一个外国男孩对某个姑娘一见钟情的经历，一个外国女孩被视为异国奇物的经历，还有一个外国男孩总喜欢坐出租车并通过和出租车司机交谈而学习汉语的经历。总之，这些故事或是滑稽幽默，或是令人震撼，或是风趣可人，篇篇都展示了独特的风采。

其实，外国人来中国早就不是什么稀奇事了。早在元朝，意大利商人马可·波罗就曾来到中国。之后，又有很多外国人到过中国。荷兰共产党人亨克·斯内夫利特曾参加 1921 年 7 月举行的中国共产党第一次代表大会，当时他就站在毛泽东身旁。就连西安秦始皇陵兵马俑中也有一个雕像被认为是外国人。可见，外国人早已融入了中国的文化和历史。不过与以往不同的是，在 21 世纪的今天，许多背景不同、兴趣不同的外国人涌入中国。

本书一窥外国人在中国的经历。他们在中国以加入世贸组织和承办奥运会为契机登上世界舞台的伟大时代，不管是出于个人目的还是命运的安排，来到中国，定居下来并逐步适应这里（主要是北京）的生活。对中国的英语



学习者来说，更多地了解外国人在中国的现状并且敞开心扉同他们沟通是学习英语的较为直接有效的方法。而本书也正是满足了英语学习者在这方面的需要。

最后，本书在教给读者地道英语的同时，还使读者认识到了中外文化的差异和共通之处。这无疑将促进我们的理解与交流。因此，可以说，本书中所教授的英语知识是消除文化误解和语言误解的一种工具。

当然，不管你是“老外”还是“老内”，我们都是“老朋友”。加油！

大卫 · A. 白若德

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Dreams Come True

美梦成真

Ben Hanson 本·汉森

Dear Reader,

My name is Benjamin Hanson. I am an Australian who has lived in China for nearly two and a half years. The first two years I lived in a small city in Hebei Province called Xingtai. I love China very much, even though I have found many cultural differences between our **respective**¹ countries. Before I came to China I studied Chinese language and culture for three years, mostly from books, teachers and talking with Chinese friends in Australia. However, I really did not truly come to understand her beauty and depth till I came to be living here.

About two and a half years ago when I was finishing my degree in Australia, my Chinese teacher **presented to me the idea of**² going to China to work. He said that if I

亲爱的读者：

我叫本杰明·汉森，澳大利亚人，来中国差不多有两年半了。前两年一直在河北省邢台市。虽然我们两个国家之间有很多文化差异，但我很喜欢中国。来中国之前，我花了3年时间学习汉语和中国文化，大多是通过看书、上课和与中国朋友聊天学到的；但真正体会到中国的魅力和内涵，却是在我来到中国之后。

两年半前，在我大学毕业时，我的汉语老师建议我去中国工作。他说，如果真想学习汉语和中国文化，我就应该到

¹respective: 分别的, 各自的。注意不要与 respectable (值得尊敬的) 或者 respectful (有礼貌的) 混淆。e. g. The truce agreement calls for withdrawal of the arm forces to their respective countries. 停火协议要求各自的武装力量撤回本国。

²present to sb. the idea of: 介绍, 为某人提供建议。



truly wanted to learn Chinese language and culture, I should spend some time in China. My university had at this time an **exchange program**³ with Xi'an University and Guilin University. But I was doing a double major, and could not afford to **take time off**⁴ to study in China. My studies in Australia were focused though primarily on Chinese, and therefore I always hoped to have a chance to go to China.

There are many lifestyle differences in our respective countries, which can also be seen in college and university life. In my country we have very few classes, and are expected to learn how to learn, to read widely in search for the truth in our **discipline**⁵, not just to expand our knowledge. In my country we believe that knowledge is useless unless it is being used in a practical way. Therefore we are constantly being assessed on our abilities, not just on how well we take exams. Our practical abilities are just as important as our knowledge. Of course we too have to pass our exams to demonstrate to our schools we

中国去。那时候，我的母校同西安大学和桂林大学有交流项目，但当时我在修第二学位，抽不出时间来中国。由于我的学习内容大都跟汉语有关，我一直希望能有机会来中国。

中澳两国在生活方式上有很多差异。这在大学校园里也有所体现。在澳大利亚，大学生要上的课很少，因为大学教育更侧重于让学生掌握学习方法，并鼓励学生通过大量阅读探求真理，而不仅仅是扩大学生的知识储备。学生们都认为，知识只有被应用于实践中，才能体现其价值。所以，我们评价一个学生是否优秀，更多的是看他的能力，而不是考试成绩，学生的实际能力和学识水平同等重要。当然，我

³exchange program: 学校之间互派学生的交流项目。

⁴take time off: 放假，请假。e. g. During these days, many people take time off to watch the games. 那段时间，很多人为了看比赛连班都不上了。

⁵discipline: n. 此处是“专业知识”(a branch of knowledge or teaching)的意思，而不是“纪律”的意思。

are continually studying and working hard toward our goals, just like students in China do. When seeking a job in my country, one must demonstrate knowledge of their discipline, but also a solid background of practical experience.

In my university we had a bar, where I would spend a considerable time, drinking, eating, talking and of course studying. Meeting new people, and socializing are an important part of our university experience. The books we were given in class, and those we found in the libraries are certainly important for the *attainment*⁶ of a degree, but my experiences were an integral part of learning too. We had many organizations in my school, where we could meet with people of like interests and enjoy our favorite hobby, sport, and social interest, all in an environment outside the classroom. In China I have met some excellent students. In fact I can honestly say that Chinese students are as diligent, and in many instances more diligent than many Australian students. Despite China's huge population, most people receive a decent education. It is, of course, very difficult to make comparisons between

们也跟中国的学生一样，必须通过考试向学校证明我们一直都在努力学习，为自己的目标奋斗。在澳大利亚，找工作时既要展现专业知识又要具有丰富的实践经验。

我上大学的时候，学校里有个酒吧，我总是在那里吃饭、喝东西、聊天，当然还有学习。结交新朋友、参加社交活动也是大学生活的重要组成部分。课本和图书馆里的书对于取得学位自然很重要，但个人阅历也是学习的一部分内容。大学里有很多学生组织；在那里，我们在课余时间能和爱好相同、喜欢同一种运动或集体活动的同学聚到一起。来中国后，我遇到了一些很优秀的学生。老实说，中国的学生都很勤奋，多数情况下都要比澳大利亚的学生勤奋得多。虽然中国人口众多，但大多数人都能受到良好的教育。当然，中澳两国很难进行对比，因为中国人口是澳大利亚人口的许多倍：单单河北一个省的人口

⁶ attainment: 成就，造诣。e. g. scholastic attainment 学业成绩。此处为“取得学位”。



my country, Australia, and China, as China has many times the population of Australia. In fact, in Hebei Province alone, there are more than three times as many people as my entire country. China's system of examination is certainly very suitable for her vast population, providing an adequate method of determining who should go on to higher learning and in which disciplines.

While I studied at university I met and talked with many students from Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Through these experiences I came to *learn of*⁷ China, its people, history, traditions and culture. In my mind though, the picture I had of China at that time was quite *different than*⁸ the picture I have now, since living here for over two years. Many Chinese students are eager to travel abroad to study. I believe this is a positive thing for the student as an individual and for China's development as a whole. For hundreds of years China has been closed to the outside world, especially to those in the West. This, of course, has its advantages, as China has developed her own deep, lasting culture and tradition, which is of great im-

就是澳大利亚全国人口的3倍多！中国现行的考试制度在决定什么人接受高等教育、学什么专业方面是一种行之有效的制度。对于这个人口众多的国家来说，这个制度无疑是很适合的。

我在澳大利亚上大学时，遇到过很多来自中国内地、台湾和香港的学生并同他们进行过交谈。就这样，我慢慢地对中国的人民、历史、传统和文化有了一些了解。但那时候对中国的想法跟我现在——在中国生活两年半之后——的想法大不一样。很多中国学生想出国留学，我觉得无论对学生个人还是对整个国家的发展来说，这都是一件好事。在过去的几百年里，中国一直都不曾对外开放，尤其是不对西方国家开放。中国这样做当然有一些好处，比如借此形成了自己独特、悠久、影响深远的文化

⁷ learn of: 了解。e. g. What happened here will take a while for outsiders to learn of. 这里发生的事情局外人要过一段时间才能了解。

⁸ different than: 意思与“different from”相近，表示“与……不同”，两个词组可相互替换。

portance to her future. But it has also meant that Chinese people know little of other cultures, especially western cultures, except for what they read about in books and magazines, or have seen on TV.

Since Deng Xiaoping's "open door policy" of the late 70's and early 80's, China has seen some terrific, if not incredible, growth in both her economy and society. China, for the first time in her 5,000-year history, is truly a part of the global village. With this gift comes responsibility, the need for young and old alike in China to learn of others' ways, values and norms. My knowledge of the real China was very insignificant until I came here to live among the real Chinese. In fact, right now I *am engaged to*⁹ a beautiful young Chinese girl, who can truly teach me of the real China.

A year or so ago, I was living in Hebei Province, when I met this wonderful and beautiful young woman. In Australia I had had several girlfriends since my high school days,

和传统。但这也导致了以下情况：除了在书籍、报刊上读到或是在电视上看到的国外信息，中国人对其他文化，尤其是西方文化，知之甚少。

自从 20 世纪 70 年代末、80 年代初邓小平实施对外开放政策以来，中国社会和经济都发生了翻天覆地的变化。中国 5000 年来第一次真正成为“地球村”的一员。伴随着这样一个天赐的良机，每个中国人的身上也就多了一份责任，那就是：要对不同文化的行为方式、价值取向和道德规范有所了解。在我到中国生活之前，我对中国的实际情况还谈不上什么了解；而现在我已经跟一位中国姑娘订了婚。我相信，通过她我能更多地了解真实的中国。

一年前，我在河北生活时遇上了这位年轻美丽的姑娘。在澳大利亚时，从高中开始我也谈过几个女朋友，但没有一

⁹be engaged to sb. : 订婚，与……订婚 (to)。e. g. The news that the princess was engaged to a commoner raised eyebrows all over the kingdom. 得知公主与平民订婚的消息后，举国上下为之震惊。



none of whom moved me the way this particular girl did. I had never believed in fall in love at first sight until I saw this girl. I knew from the first moment I met her that she was the one who I would marry. Many people search for a lifetime to find "*the One*"¹⁰. I felt lucky and blessed that day, as I had finally found her. My search was over. Dear reader, when you have this chance, do not let it go — regret can be a horrible emotion. You may be asking, how did we meet and fall in love? It is an interesting story.

My fiancée was a teacher in an English school for little children. We met at an English party and became friends. Later we were at a club together, eating and drinking and dancing. We were talking about our past and boy-friends and girlfriends we had known in the past. When she heard about my past she seemed to be jealous. So I asked her whether she liked me or not. She just smiled and *leaned*¹¹ toward me and kissed me. It was like *heaven was smiling on me*¹² that day. I was

个能像她那样让我为之动心。遇到她之前，我从不相信一见钟情。但跟她第一次见面，我就认定：她就是我未来的妻子！很多人一辈子都在苦苦寻觅“那个人”，而我记得那天有如神助，很幸运地遇到了“她”。而我的寻觅也终于圆满地画上了句号。亲爱的读者，机会来了可千万别错过，后悔是一种很痛苦的感受。你可能要问：你们是怎么相遇、相爱的？这说起来很有趣。

我的未婚妻是一所幼儿英语学校的老师，在一次英语聚会上我们成了朋友。后来，我们一起去了酒吧，一起吃饭、跳舞；我们回忆过去，谈论各自以前的感情。我谈到以前的女朋友时，她好像有点儿“吃醋”。我就问她是不是喜欢我，她只是笑了笑，然后就靠过来吻了我。我那时的感觉就是老天对我格外垂青。我的幸福就

¹⁰“the One”：此句为：有些人用尽毕生都没有寻找到一个合适的伴侣。the One 指合适的伴侣，与下文的 true love 和 soul mate 意思一样。

¹¹lean：向（我）靠近，lean 指“靠，依靠”。e. g. She leant against him and listened quietly. 她靠着他，静静地听着。

¹²heaven is smiling on sb：老天给予某人青睐。

so happy, and have been every day since. When I was 16, I dreamt of a girl I would meet and fall in love with. This girl was from another country. She was to be my soul mate, my one true love. My dream has come true, and because of this I believe in fate and love.

She has taught me much about myself, and much about love. I believe, although she is from a small town, from a simple family, she can teach me a lot about the world. And learning is the most important gift we can give each other. I hope to teach her of my country, and to show her the beauty of my culture, just as I have discovered the beauties of Chinese culture. Next year we will be married and will return to Australia together, where both of us will continue our studies.

Last month I met her parents, and it was certainly an **enlightening experience**¹³. Her mother and father are both simple Chinese peasants, who are loyal to China and to their daughter. So when they met their future son-in-law, a foreigner, they were a little nervous. All they had known of foreigners had come from the TV or from the newspaper, so

从那一刻开始,一直持续到现在。我16岁时,就曾梦想有一天能同一位外国姑娘相遇、相爱。她将会成为我的知音、我的最爱。现在梦想成真了,我不得不相信命运和爱情了。

她让我对我自己和爱情有了更深刻的认识。我相信,虽然她出身于小城镇上的普通家庭,却能让我开阔眼界。知识是我们俩都能给予对方的最好礼物,我希望自己能像她帮我认识中国文化之美那样帮助她了解我的祖国、欣赏澳大利亚的多彩文化。我们计划明年结婚,然后我带她回澳大利亚并继续我们的学业。

就在上个月,她带我去见了她的父母。那次经历就很让我大开眼界。她的父母都是质朴的农民,深深地爱着中国和他们的女儿。乍一看到我这个未来的“洋”女婿,他们还有点儿紧张。除了在电视和报纸上,他们从没见过外国人。

¹³ an enlightening experience: 开眼界的经历。



they were afraid that I was a monster, who had come to steal their child. They asked me some very strange questions:

"Will you sell our daughter when you go to Australia?"

"How many wives do men have in your country?"

I tried to explain to them that I was raised in a good family, a Christian family, and anyway this kind of thing is illegal and wrong in Australia. My fiancé's (Yang Fang) parents just laughed. "Ha Ha, we do not believe in the same things as you, our countries and cultures have different beliefs," they replied, "we believe in Mao Zedong and the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China."

I did not know what to say. We believed in different things, although *our hearts felt the same way*¹⁴. We both love Yang Fang, and we both want to take care of her. I told them I loved their daughter and would do so till the day I die. I certainly would not sell her, or marry another woman. Of course not all people in China are like Yang Fang's parents, but today there are still many people who do

所以他们似乎担心我是个来抢走他们女儿的妖怪。他们问我的问题好生奇怪:

"你回了澳大利亚,会把我们的女儿卖掉吗?"

"在你们那里,男人会娶几个老婆?"

我努力给他们解释:我们家信奉基督教,都是好人;他们担心的这类事在澳大利亚是违法的,人们也认为是道德的。我未婚妻(她叫杨芳)的父母只是笑笑,回答说:"咱们的信仰和文化都不一样,我们相信毛泽东和中国共产党。"

我不知道该说点什么。我们的确有着不同的信仰,但是我们的感情是相通的。我们都爱杨芳,都想好好照顾她。我跟他们说,我爱他们的女儿,至死不渝;我当然不会把他们的女儿卖掉,也不会再娶别的女人为妻。虽然并不是所有中国人都像杨芳的父母那么想,

¹⁴ our hearts felt the same way: 我们的感情是一样的。作者说他自己和对方的父母都爱同一个人。