

对照

Talking About China

一个西方人眼中的中国

李莎（加拿大）

奇怪，中国人不
喜欢奶酪却
能吃这么臭
的豆腐。

Li Sha



出版社

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Lisa Carducci

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Talking about China

作 者 李莎 (Lisa Carducci)

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Talking about China

一个西方人眼中的中国



INTRODUCTION

What is the interest of publishing a collection of articles already published in the Chinese newspapers ? When I told the publisher about my dream, I aimed at reaching a larger family of readers, especially a different category of readers. Generally, foreigners read the China Daily while Chinese people read the *Beijing Qingnian Bao* (*Beijing Youth Daily*). Those who are interested in TV Guide are numerous, and small as this weekly is, it reaches Inner Mongolia, Yunnan, Tianjin, Hunan, and other parts of the country. Its readers are mostly Chinese who are learning English or want to improve their knowledge of this language. Classics and books rendered into English are often long to read, and their vocabulary and style may discourage readers learning English as a second language.

The publisher agreed: provide foreign language students with a study aid. As English is a foreign language for myself, my style is simple and accessible. Thanks

前言

为什么要将发表在中国不同报纸上的文章结集出版呢？当初我把自己的梦想告诉出版社时，是想拥有更多的读者，尤其是不同类型的读者。一般说来，外国人读中国日报，中国人读北京青年报。喜欢中国电视报外语版的人更是多不胜数。尽管这是一份很小的周报，但其影响遍布全国各地，远及内蒙古、云南、天津、湖南等地区；它的读者是那些想学英语或提高英语水平的中国人。译成英语的古典名著和书籍通常都是大部头作品，而且其词汇和风格令英语为第二外语的读者灰心丧气。

出版社答应我为学外语的学生提供一个学习工具。由于英语对我本人而言也是一门外语，因此我采用简洁易懂的文风。经过英文专家的修改，本书的

to the English polisher, the language level in this book is correct. The content is varied, and the readers will not feel they are studying a school manual. Learning with fun is an old pedagogical principle!

But, what is the interest of reading articles written between 1993 and 2000? In a country that changes overnight, the risk is probable that the articles will be outdated. This is absolutely true, and I would say that it's possibly the main interest to realize how much China has changed in a few years. Because, living here, we evolve with the city, the society, with communications, ideas and services, and we easily forget what yesterday's life was like. Readers should indeed keep in mind that these articles present the reality as it was three, five or seven years ago, and that what I say was true when I wrote it.

One of the reasons why I like this country is because China is so unpredictable! Every day is a surprise, every hour is unexpected. China is a country "in movement," as it can be felt in the following pages.

I'm grateful to Foreign Language Press for the opportunity they offered me to talk

语言达到了准确无误。内容方面也力求多样，文风避免类似教科书。寓教于乐是一个古老的教育原则！

那么，有什么必要阅读这些写于1993年至2000年的文章呢？在一个日新月异的国度里，这些文章很有可能过时了。事实也确实如此。在我看来，它的价值主要在于揭示中国在短短的几年间所发生的巨大变化。生活在这里，我们随着城市、社会、交通、思想、服务等各方面的发展而变化，很快就会忘记昨天的生活。因此，读者应该牢记：这些文章讲述的是三年前、五年前或七年前的事实，而且在我写作时它们是千真万确的。

我喜欢中国，其中一个原因是她难以预料！每天都有惊喜，每刻都有新鲜。中国是一个“不断变化”的国家。在后面的文章中你可以体会到。

感谢外文出版社给我这次机会，使我可以和那些没有看过我的小说、短篇

with readers that I don't reach through my novels, short stories and poems. May this reading offer you, now, a channel for reflection, communication and exchange.

Lisa Carducci
October 30, 2001

故事和诗歌的读者进行交流。同时，也希望本书能成为思考和交流的一个渠道。

李莎

2001年10月30日

CHINA IN MY EXPERIENCE

A big dark hole

It has been 16 years since my first trip to China. In 1985, as I looked from my aeroplane window, Beijing seemed like a desert to me. A big black hole in the night. "Strange," I thought, "for the capital of a great country to look like this!" At that time, buses stopped running after 9:00 p.m. There wasn't much nightlife either. Bars and discos were almost non-existent, and there were only a few film shows or plays. Only a few families owned television sets. Chinese people used to go to bed very early. In the early morning, they liked to practice *taijiquan* (shadow boxing) in the park or at their work units. People worked six days a week. Besides work, there wasn't much else to do. The concept of leisure travelling had not yet developed, as most travelled merely for work or to visit their families during the holidays.

The *danwei*

Before, the *danwei* (work unit) was very important in a person's life. It was the place

中国印象记

一个大黑洞

16 年前，我第一次来中国旅游。那是在 1985 年，当我从飞机的窗口俯望时，北京看上去就象是一片沙漠，或者是夜晚黑森森的一个大洞。“真奇怪，”我暗自想道，“一个泱泱大国的首都竟然如此寒酸！”那时候，公共汽车晚上九点就停车了，而且没有什么夜生活。整个城市几乎找不到什么酒吧和迪斯科舞厅，放映电影或者上演戏剧的地方也少得可怜。只有少数家庭拥有电视机。以前，中国人通常早早地就入睡了。清晨醒来，他们喜欢在公园或是单位练太极拳。人们一周工作六天。除工作之外，他们就几乎没有什么可做的事了。休闲旅游这一观念尚未发展起来，因为大多数人去外地只是为了出差或者利用假日探亲。

the concept of
recreation

of life. Each *danwei* had public showers, meeting halls, a post office, a clinic, and a public telephone that would often be out of service. On Friday nights, there were movies reserved for the people belonging to the *danwei*. I remember paying one *jiao* to see one. The *danwei* gave work, food, housing, recreation and education. People were its property and the *danwei* thus had a say in almost every part of its employees' lives, including marriage, divorce, education and going abroad.

Cost of living

In 1989, I spent three months at the Beijing Languages Institute (Beijing Yuyan Xueyuan), not really to study Chinese, but to write part of a novel. After paying room and tuition, I had very little money left. I calculated that if I spent no more than four yuan a day, I could live there for three months. I ate my meals at the institute. Breakfast cost 0.8 yuan, lunch and dinner cost 1.5 yuan each. These prices, set for foreigners, still seemed exorbitant to the Chinese students and teachers, who ate in their own canteen.