

V 再访英国

——西方的教育和习俗拾零

Visiting Britain Again

——Titbits of Western
Education and Custom

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走近英國
了解人生

吳昭珍

代 序

曾经培养造就出牛顿、瓦特等许多著名的科学家和工程师的英国大学,在培养学生扎实的理论知识,解决问题的动手能力,以及激发学生科学研究的创新精神方面,有着悠久的历史 and 独到的传统。

本书的作者是一位中国留学生。

中国留学生的学习生活是既紧张忙碌,又有相当的压力,他们既要学习现有的知识,又要进行创新的科学研究工作。作者在英国皇家工程院院士 Williams 教授和 Dupont 博士的指导下,以严谨的科学作风,经过辛勤的努力,终于在研究工作中获得重大的进展。她以自己的亲身经历,细致地介绍了利兹大学贯穿在研究生培养过程中的教育思想和具体的措施,以及与社会发展紧密结合的特点,使我们从中获得有益的借鉴。

在紧张的学习生活之余,作者在与西方人民接触中,对西方风土人情进行了考察。探索了情人节和感恩节的起源和对社会生活的影响,发掘了其深刻的宗教文化内涵。在观察行进在街头巷尾,嬉戏于房前屋

后的草地上的加拿大野鹅时,抒发了人与野生动物和谐相处的真谛。在游览名山大川,在天高云淡的洛基山顶上,追溯了自然界的变迁,以及人与自然界这一生物圈的密切关系。

由于本书是作者亲身经历和感受的记录,因而内容生动,情真意切,读起来令人感动,发人深省,这是本书的特点。愿读者从本书中获得一些有益的启示。

张 济 忠

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Research in the University of Leeds

In Oct. 1998 I arrived at University of Leeds in England to pursue my PhD research of Catalytic Combustion under the supervision of Dr. Valerie Dupont and Prof. Alan Williams (CBE).

The University of Leeds has an international reputation for the high quality of its teaching and research. Excellent teaching facilities have been developed, including modern, well-equipped lecture theatres and laboratories. The University has a reputation for being a very friendly place. There is always a warm welcome for students from other countries.

Prof. Williams has been elected to Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering. His election was in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the science of the utilisation and conversion of fuels, particularly for the better understanding of combustion and environmental aspects of plant and engine performance in practice.



In the beginning of that term we were invited to the welcome reception in the Conference Auditorium for new research students with Prof. Andy McIntosh, the postgraduate tutor in our Department, in the afternoon of 7th October 1998.

The programme included an Opening Address by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research. Then, the directors from the following units respectively introduced their work to us. This was an excellent social occasion and provided useful information, for example, on the Library; the University Computing Service; the Language Centre; the Staff and Departmental Development Unit; the Postgraduate Representative Council; Welfare Services, the Leeds University Union; the Adviser to International Students Office; the Careers service and the Research Degrees and Scholarships Office.

After the end of the formal talks all students and staff present were invited to meet over drinks and nibbles on the Balcony of the Conference Auditorium. A number of the units present had their representatives on the balcony. So when we drank we could have the opportunity of meeting senior University officers, staff concerned with the formal provision of training and support, members of the Postgraduate Representative Council and other new research students.

Before long, a welcome party in our department



was held to new research students. The secretary, Mrs. Ogden entertained us with traditional English refreshments because these students from all over the world may feel lost and lonely at first.

Initially, Valerie told me about my proposal research in her office, then she gave me many relevant papers and a book to read. So I had to do my best to understand them in my laboratory. Sometimes Valerie came and explained complex concepts and experimental phenomenon. My research was to investigate the heat transfer efficiency, stability and pollutant emissions characteristics of ultra-lean methane-air combustion in some precious metal based honeycomb monoliths.

After two months like this, Valerie asked me to know the inner-structure of Catalytic Honeycomb Monolith Burner well. Meanwhile, She introduced me to the technicians Mr. Brier and Mr. Cole who are responsible for the safety and technological direction to the experiments. So I started to separate the burner into its different parts, wash the parts and re-build it by using a suitable monolith, with another PhD student who also wanted to measure some data for his project.

The monolith was about 10 cm in diameter and 5 cm long, with 400 square shaped cells.

Subsequently, Valerie showed me step by step how to ignite the mixture of methane-air above the mono-



lith, adjust the flow rate of the mixture and measure the temperatures inside the monolith with two different diameter thermocouples inserted in central channel separated by three clear channels.

I measured 20 points along the channel for every flow rate. I did this test everyday although the local surface temperature of the monolith was higher than 1000°C . During all the runs under stable combustion conditions, We found that only extremely small amounts of CO, NO_x and unburnt hydrocarbons were detected. Thus the operating conditions verified "near zero" pollutant emissions that only a catalytic combustion process can achieve at present. When I put all the data into the computer and drew the curves and graphs we found that the reaction zone inside the catalysts ended at about 1 cm from the monolith entrance. So, we asked the monolith to be cut by the technician, Mr. Hainsworth down to 2.5, 2, and 1.5 cm, each time repeating the measurements. The effect of monolith length was investigated and a reduction of 70% in the original length was found possible for the first time.

During Christmas time of first year Prof. Andrews and family invited the staff and students in our Department to the annual Christmas Party at their home. This was a social occasion where students were asked to bring food typical of our home country, to sample in a buffet



type of meal in the kitchen. All were asked to let the secretary, Mrs. Strachan, know that we were coming and whether we would bring food or drink. This was only to get an idea of the quantity of food that might be required. But if someone just turned up he/she also was welcome. There was Music, darts, table football, beer and snooker in the cellars as well as wine and refined conversation upstairs.

At Christmas people think of Jesus, the King of Kings, coming into the world. There was a 'Carols by Candlelight' service at the church(C. E. C.) where Mr. Scully is one of the elders. The service followed a traditional pattern of carols and readings. Mrs. Scully etc, helped with the children's programme which was a Nativity play showing baby Jesus lying in a manger being worshipped by three wise men guided by a star. Shepherds spread the word about this child.

In the bible, the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph. But before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. While Joseph went his own town Bethlehem to register with Mary, she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in

the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the field nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said to them, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

In the end of the first year I presented my work for the transfer of my PhD at a small oral examination meeting which Prof. Williams, Prof. McIntosh and Valerie attended. When Prof. McIntosh asked me some questions I did my best and tried to explain them clearly in English. At last Prof. McIntosh said "well done" to my work and I have passed my transfer. After this meeting Prof. Williams said to me with humour "you should speak English everyday but Sunday, on Sunday you may have a rest and speak Chinese".

In our department, for every academic year all research students are expected to attend PhD colloquia in a Lecture Theatre of the Houldsworth building. These take place on every Thursday at 1:00 – 2:00 PM. I got a note in my pigeon hole from Prof. McIntosh one week before the date of my presentation.

Reminder!

To: S. H.



This is a reminder that you are due to give your colloquia at 1:00 PM.

in Houldsworth Lecture Theatre H next Thursday (9th March).

ACM

2nd March, 2000.

We are encouraged to give constructive feedback to these presentations. This will also help broaden the experience of our work while in the department.

Following is the feedback:

Feedback on Research Colloquia Presentation

Good = 1 Average = 2 Below Average = 3

Name of Presenter.

1. Quality of slides
2. Audibility of speaker
3. How clearly was the content of the talk presented
4. Was the presentation well structured-Beginning-Middle-End
5. Was the written summary useful, relevant to the presentation
6. Did the presentation run to time
7. How were the questions handled
8. Overall impression of the presentation

In the second year, Valerie told me to use the Stagnation Point Flow Reactor (SPFR) to help interpret the combustion chemistry occurring in the monolith. So I studied the combustion of lean $\text{CH}_4/\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2$ mixture on a polycrystalline platinum foil in the SPFR at atmospheric pressure and in steady state, experimentally and also by using a numerical code to simulate the results. Meanwhile, Daniel and Owen, two undergraduate students were under my supervision for their final year project. Usually I made an appointment with them by email, then, they come to my laboratory.

Initially, I spent one afternoon to explain the content of the research and show the experimental rig to them. I also remember that I asked them to calculate some amounts of the research as homework that time.

Subsequently, We started to do the experimental tests together every afternoon. When they measured the data they were happy to not only ask some questions about the research , but also to have a chat with me as well. They said that they would plan to travel around the world when they graduated from the University. After they finished their experiments Daniel often came to discuss some results with me for his thesis.

The technician, Mr. Wheeler showed me how to use Eisappearing Filament Pyrometer to measure the surface temperature of our catalyst. This Pyrometer is



very old and looks like an antique. Today it is still used to measure furnace temperatures and can measure up to three thousand Degrees centigrade. Because two different objects have the same temperature, they should have exactly the same colour when viewed through the same filter. When adjusting the electrical power to a tungsten wire at the forefront of the surface of interest, the wire appears dark if its temperature is lower than that of the surface, and bright when it is higher. While I adjusted the power so that both wire and surface were at the same temperature. I could not find that wire, which was disappeared against the background of the surface.

Finally, the experimental reactor, which used a small square foil, proved that the approach taken was valuable for mechanisms validation and that very good agreement between experiments and predictions could be found. But it also highlighted the importance of the reactor's scaling by the necessity of introducing a correction factor accounting for radial expansion of the flow. After that, I started to make a poster reporting our scientific findings.

In August 2000, Prof. Williams supported me to present my work at the Twenty Eighth International Symposium on Combustion in Edinburgh of Scotland as shown in Fig. 1.

During the Symposium Valerie and I attended ev-

