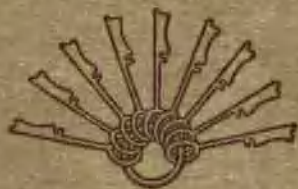


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英文致友人書

編者 葛傳槩



中華書局編印

LETTERS TO A FRIEND

By

HERTZ C. K. KÊ

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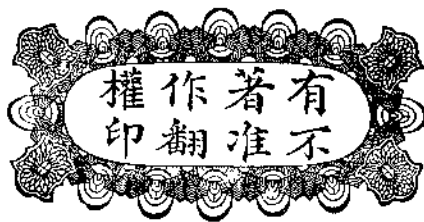
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PREFACE

This little volume contains all my letters to my friend Mr C. S. Chosen Tsou (formerly named C. S. Charles Tsou) from October 6, 1927 to January 9, 1930. They are here printed as I wrote them, except that all the slips of the pen have been corrected, and that here and there a proper name, a phrase, or a whole passage has for some reason or other been omitted.

Mr Tsou first wrote to me on October 4, 1927, and I replied to his letter two days later (see letter I). A frequent correspondence thenceforth followed. I was then on the English editorial staff of the Commercial Press.

As can be seen from letter XXVI, the idea of publishing my letters occurred to me as early as August 1928, though "when I talked of the publication . . . I was *not* serious." (see letter XXVII). However, as I wrote more and more letters to my friend, I considered the idea more and more in earnest, till on May 15, 1929 I wrote to request him "to send me, preferably by registered mail, *all* my letters to you, including this, ever since

the beginning of our correspondence." (see letter XLV). Somehow he did not comply with my request then. Things happened to him and to me. Our correspondence was suspended for a long time. It was not until November 2, 1933 that my friend carried to me the letters here published. We have so far met only twice.

It is but a few years since I wrote these letters, and I am not now twenty-eight. But many passages seem to me as if they had been written ten or fifteen years ago. Perhaps many of the thoughts were merely passing thoughts, and I do not think I can now think them any longer.

I am by no means proud of my epistolary style. But I hope that my readers will find in these letters the naturalness and sincerity with which one cannot be expected to write so long as one writes purposely for publication, but in which lies the chief charm of all friendly and familiar letters.

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

January 2, 1934

LETTERS TO A FRIEND

I

SHANGHAI

OCTOBER 6, 1927

MR C. S. CHARLES TSOU

SOOCHOW

MY DEAR MR TSOU:

Your good letter of October 4 is received. Thank you for it. Making friends through correspondence is all right. Let us be self-introduced.

I am very glad to know that you are keenly interested in the study of English poetry and have for your favourite authors such figures as Shakespeare,¹ Milton,² and Burns.³ I have not read Tennyson's "Maud"⁴ *in toto*,⁵ but I am sure that it is well worth so reading. Tennyson himself is said to have been fond of reading from the poem, and if it is not a masterpiece as a whole, it certainly contains a number of beautiful lyrics.⁶ With regard to its metre,⁷ you are quite right in saying that many lines are difficult to scan.⁸ Don't you know that both iambic and anapaestic metres⁹ are

used in the poem? Just read it according to its meaning, and you will detect its music. In all good poetry sound and sense are kept in perfect harmony, though its metre may not be regular.

My "To the Moon"¹⁰ was written several years ago. I have not written much poetry since, and of the little I have written, I do not think it worth while to publish a single stanza.¹¹ I am sorry that pressure of work does not allow me to practise the art very often.

I take great pleasure in hearing from¹² young earnest students of English literature like you. I am as young as you and perhaps also as earnest a literary student. I should like to have your Chinese name.

Yours truly,

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

[註] 1. Shakespeare (shāk'spēr), 卽 William Shakespeare, 英國大戲劇家亦大詩人, 生於一五六四年, 卒於一六一六年。 2. Milton (milt'ān), 卽 John Milton, 英國大詩人, 生於一六零八年, 卒於一六七四年。 3. Burns (bārnz), 卽 Robert Burns, 蘇格蘭大詩人, 生於一七五九年, 卒於一七九六年。 4. Tennyson's "Maud" (tēn'i-sūnz mōd), 按 Tennyson 卽 Alfred Tennyson, 英國大詩人, 生於一八零九年, 卒於一八九二年, "Maud" 係一長詩名, 亦卽時中女子名。 5. *in toto* (in tō'tō), 完全 (拉丁文)。 6. lyrics (lir'iks), 抒情詩。 7. metre, 詩律。 8. scan, 按音律而讀。 9. iambic (i-ām'bik) and anapaestic (ān'ā-pēs'tik) metres, 抑揚律與抑抑揚律。(例如 "before" 讀作 [bē-fōr'], 屬抑揚律。 "reappear" 讀作 [rē'a-pēr'], 屬抑抑揚律。) 10. "To the Moon," 余幼時所作英文詩名, 此詩曾刊在商務印書館出版之「英語週刊」。 11. stanza (詩之一) 節。 12. hear from, 接...之函。

II

SHANGHAI

OCTOBER 18, 1927

MY DEAR MR TSOU:

Your letter I found waiting on my desk on my return from home this morning. Many thanks for your card.¹

I am glad to learn that you have annotated Tennyson's "Enoch Arden"² and wish to publish it. I have consulted with the editor of the *English Student*³ and he says he should like to see your work before considering its acceptance. So you may send a few sample pages to him for inspection. Personally I shall be very much interested to read part of your work and, if possible, to recommend it to the Commercial Press.⁴

My native place is Kiating (嘉定). I have never attended any well-known school. I am not teaching.

Yours sincerely,

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

註 1. card, 名片. 2. "Enoch Arden" (ə'nɔk ər'dɛn), Tennyson 所著詩名, 亦即詩中人名. 3. *English Student*, '英文雜誌' (前商務印書館出版). 4. Commercial Press, 商務印書館

III

SHANGHAI

OCTOBER 29, 1927

DEAR MR TSOU:

Your letter of October 21 and your annotated "Enoch Arden" reached me several days ago. I read the poem and showed it to the editor of the *Student*. He has now given it back to me, saying that he cannot print it for some reason or other. Under separate cover I am returning it to you with its introductory note.¹

Regarding your notes, I have to say something that you may not like to hear. Though greatly interested in your work, I am not quite favourably impressed with it. For it seems to me that many of the difficult points of the poem you have left untouched, while most of your notes are merely Chinese explanations of words and phrases that can be easily found in a dictionary and which ought to be understood by all who have but a fair knowledge of English.²

Do you agree with me? If not, well,³ just destroy this letter and let us still be good friends.

I have simply given my opinion, my personal opinion, which may or may not be right. Of course, I do not mean to discourage you in the least.⁴ I wish rather to encourage you to study more of poetic technique and ever to try to introduce good English poems to Chinese students.

To my mind,⁵ in annotating poems we should pay special attention to such uses of words as suggest something in addition to, or quite different from, their literal senses.⁶ For example, the word "costlier"⁷ in the last line of "Enoch Arden" is used ironically, meaning *poor* or *miserable*.

Your English is very good, and I appreciate it the more because I know, as you have told me, that you study at home without a teacher. Self-study certainly pays.⁸ I myself have been a hard self-taught student for years past. But I wonder if you really study alone. Have you got any brothers or sisters or cousins to study with? Incidentally,⁹ what do you intend to take as your life work? I shall be only too glad¹⁰ to hear you talk about yourself and your plans for the future.

Yours sincerely,

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

P. S.¹¹ As requested, I have improved your notes here and there.

[註] 1. introductory note, 緒言 (按當時寄來之稿件中附有緒言一紙).
 2. have but a fair knowledge of English, 僅略知英文. 3. well, 語助詞.
 4. I do not mean to discourage you in the least, 我毫無使君敗興之意.
 5. to my mind, 由我看來. 6. literal senses, 字面上之意義. 7. "costlier,"
 按原詩末三行爲

So past the strong heroic soul away.
 And when they buried him the little port
 Had seldom seen a costlier funeral.

8. pays, 有效. 9. Incidentally, 順便談及. 10. only too glad, 却甚欣喜;
 不勝欣喜. 11. P. S. = postscript, 附啓; 再啓.

IV

SHANGHAI

NOVEMBER 15, 1927

DEAR MR TSOU:

I have just read your letter of yesterday, which tells me you will start for Tsingtao¹ before long.² Are you going there on a mere pleasure trip? I have never been there, and so hope you will let me know something worth knowing about this famous seaport when you get there. By the way,³ if you will write some travel sketches and send them to me, I shall be glad to arrange⁴ to print them in our magazine, for it welcomes contributions of this nature.

I wonder if you will stay at Shanghai for one or two days on your journey. If you please, you may call at my office at any time between 9 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. on any weekday, for I should like to see you and have a chat with you. In case of⁵ your calling, however, be sure to⁶ let me know beforehand.

Your previous letter was duly received.
Thank you.

Yours sincerely, -

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

[註] 1 Tsingtao (tsing'tou'), 青島 2 before long, 不久之前,
不日. 3 by the way, 順便談及 4 arrange, 設法 5. in case of, 若
6. be sure to . . . , 務須

V

SHANGHAI

DECEMBER 1, 1927.

MY DEAR MR TSOU:

Your letter of November 28 describing your pleasant voyage and its impressions on you has been received and read with great interest. I believe you are rather poetically inclined.¹ I am somewhat so, and am very much pleased to know that you are much more so.

Having received your previous letter from Soochow on Friday morning (a fortnight ago), I waited for you at my office till twilight that afternoon, but was sorry that you did not come at all. Did you go on board that very night or the following morning? How long did you stay at Shanghai? I should like to know the purpose of your visit to Tsingtao. Are you staying there with your family or quite by yourself?²

Your present letter is not faultless. But with a few slight changes made in its wording, it will serve as a good specimen of friendly correspondence. I may make use of it in an article on

letter-writing in my "Chitchat with Language Students"³ as serially published in the *English Weekly*. You have no objection?⁴

Yours very sincerely,

HERTZ C. K. Kê.

[註] 1. poetically inclined, 秉性中有詩意. 2. by yourself, 獨自.
3. "Chitchat with Language Students", 曩日余爲 英語週刊; 所撰文稿
之雜題, 共五十篇. 4. You have no objection? 願君不至不允也.

VI

SHANGHAI

DECEMBER 23, 1927

MY DEAR MR TSOU:

Both your letter of December 19 enclosing a Christmas card and the book *Poems and Essays* by E. A. Poe¹ came to hand this morning. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for them. I am sorry I do not know if my reply to your last letter reached you duly, for your letter does not mention receiving it, nor say anything about its contents. Please let me know in your next.²

I am very much delighted with Poe's *Poems and Essays* though I fear I shall meet with many difficult points in reading it. I shall read it with the more pleasure because it came from you. I have had a very slight acquaintance with the author; for while I have never read any prose of his, neither³ have I read much of his poetry besides such short easy pieces as "Eulalie"⁴ and "Annabel Lee."⁵

Except my colleagues, I have not a large circle of friends, and of the few I have, there is

none so "literary" as you. I wish to know more of you and so hope you will hereafter write to me more freely and "familiarly". As I am suffering from a cold, I have to stop here.

Your loving friend,

HERTZ C. K. KÊ.

P. S. 1. I do not as a rule⁶ send Xmas⁷ or New Year cards to my friends, and relatives, so I shall not send one to you.

2. I am sending back to you a 1ct stamp,⁸ which I have found in your letter without knowing its "mission".⁹

註. 1. E. A. Poe (pō), 即 Edgar Alan Poe, 美國詩人亦短篇小說家, 生於一八零九年, 卒於一八四九年. 2. your next, 君之下次來信. 3. neither=nor. 4. "Eulalie" (yū-lā-lē), 詩名, 亦即詩中女子名. 5. "Annabel Lee" (ān'ā-bēl lē), 詩名, 亦即詩中女子名. 6. as a rule, 習以為常. 7. Xmas (kris/mās)=Christmas. 8. stamp, 郵票. 9. "mission," 使命 (意即目的).