

Huang Hua Memoirs

黃華
回憶錄

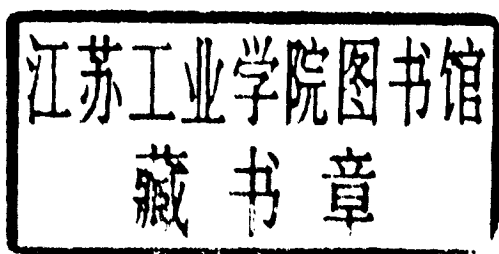


Contemporary
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Huang Hua Memoirs



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This EX LIBRIS was painted and sealed with red ink for the Chinese book of *Huang Hua Memoirs* by a famous Chinese traditional fine art master Lou Shibai in 2006, when he was 91 years old. The EX LIBRIS was printed on the rice paper and was attached only to the hardback book of *Huang Hua Memoirs*.

Huang Hua, I have known since more than 30 years. About two decades ago I published a big book, titled *Men and Powers*; it dealt with the three world powers Russia (Soviet Union at that time), USA and China, the 3rd world power. In that book I have described Foreign Secretary Huang Hua: “ ... a prudent, seasoned and at the same time agreeable diplomat. I have always valued highly my discussion with this detached man.”

These words have been published in the German language already in 1987. In the meantime I have met Huang Hua and his wife Liliang many more times, rather regularly once in every year. He represented the People's Republic of China inside the Inter-Action Council of the former heads of states and heads of governments in an impressive and at the same time serene style. Therefore I want to confirm today what I wrote about Huang Hua already in 1987. I would only add: In the meantime we have become personal friends.

Both of us have become too old to undertake great journeys and therefore we can't meet anymore in person, which I deplore very much. But my friend ought to see to it that a worthy person is representing China in the Inter-Action Council. Because it is not good that the USA and Russia are represented by highranking personalities in this private club, whilst China is absent.

— Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of the F. R. of Germany

I met Huang Hua on my first secret visit to Beijing in July 1971. After that we worked together when Huang Hua served his country as foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations. In all these capacities I came to admire Huang Hua's diplomatic skill, subtlety and tenacity—all these qualities combined with extraordinary human warmth and reliability.

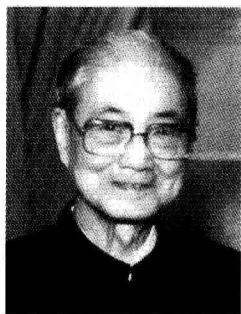
Huang Hua is one of the ablest public servants I have met anywhere. Beyond that I think of him as a trusted friend.

—Dr. Henry Kissinger

Huang Hua in his memoir has provided an intimate and authoritative history of how Chinese leaders beginning in the caves of Yanan propelled their nation to the center of the world stage. No Chinese leader, apart from his mentor, Premier Zhou Enlai, has been more closely involved than Huang Hua in the diplomacy affecting the momentous events of the post-World War II era. His memoir will be a lasting contribution to understanding China and one of its most outstanding citizens.

—Seymour Topping,
former managing editor of *The New York Times*

Foreword



Comrade Huang Hua and I are contemporaries. From the days of our youth, we have always followed the CPC. Our lives have been closely related to its struggles. Time has slipped by, and now we are old. We are gratified to see that China's economy is flourishing, the people's livelihood is improving steadily, and China's international status is continuing to rise.

I met Comrade Huang Hua during the December 9 Student Movement of 1935, when we were university students, he at Yenching (Peking), I at Tsinghua. Ardently patriotic, we fiercely opposed Japanese aggression, determined that China would never be enslaved. Together with students from Beiping (Beijing) and Tianjin, we held high the banner of resistance against Japan and for national salvation, and fought tenaciously against the reactionary government's troops and police.

The Chinese Workers and Peasants Red Army, led by the CPC, established a revolutionary base in northern Shaanxi Province. Like a brilliant rising red sun, it enthralled tens of thousands of noble-minded patriots. Huang Hua and I cast aside our pens and hurried to join the revolutionary forces in Yenan.

An amusing incident still remains in my memory. In 1946 I was working for Vice-chairman Zhou Enlai at Meiyuan New Village in the city of Nanjing. Huang Hua was in Beijing with the Military Mediation Headquarters. The Central Command entrusted him with a mission to deliver 100 ingots of gold to Meiyuan New Village. Comrade Lai Zulie first checked them over. "How come there is one ingot too many?" he joked. "They must have given birth to a little one!" Huang Hua rejoined, straight-faced.

Huang Hua was involved in foreign affairs for several decades, starting in the 1930s in Bao'an, in northern Shaanxi Province, when he acted as interpreter for Edgar Snow. Later, in Yenan, he got to know quite a few foreign friends and journalists, as well as members of the US Army Observer

Group (popularly known as the “Dixie Mission”).

After the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, Huang Hua was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under the direct leadership of Premier Zhou Enlai and Foreign Minister Chen Yi, he took part in many important diplomatic activities. These developed in him the boldness of vision and talent for maneuver so essential to a skilled diplomat.

Deeply influenced by Zhou Enlai’s highly principled conduct in matters of diplomacy, and his serious yet relaxed charm, Huang Hua always bore in mind the Premier’s caution: “There is a limit to how much you can concede in foreign affairs.” Huang Hua was a modest and prudent diplomat, a man of steadfast principle with a firm grasp of policy, and a thorough professional with a pioneering and enterprising spirit.

I remember the end of May 1989, just before the outbreak of the political storm which followed in June. Huang Hua was about to leave for the US to attend a meeting of the Inter-Action Council. In strict observance of Party discipline, through Yao Yilin he checked with me on the stance of the Central Committee regarding this complicated situation. On New China’s long and difficult road, whenever the revolution hit a snag, Huang Hua stood rock-solid with the CPC Central Committee.

In addition to always remembering the foreign friends who devoted themselves to China’s revolution and construction, Huang Hua has always devoted considerable attention to making new friends. China has always—and will always—need the support and help of friends abroad. Several NGOs under Huang Hua’s leadership have done much to promote friendship and understanding among people all over the world.

I appreciate Huang Hua’s efforts at the age of 90 in writing a book of memoirs recalling his revolutionary and diplomatic experiences, revealing to us the stirring events of 70 momentous years.

宋平 Song Ping
June 2007

Editor’s note: Song Ping was a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 13th and 14th CPC Central Committees.

Preface



I was very pleased to read the *Huang Hua Memoirs*.

In his early years Huang Hua was active in the student movement of resistance against the Japanese invaders and for national salvation, and also served as secretary of the Communist Party Group of the Beiping (Beijing) Student Federation. After his graduation from Yenching University, Huang gladly accepted an invitation from the American journalist Edgar Snow to join him in traveling to the Chinese soviet region in northern Shaanxi Province. Rather than return to the capital, Huang stayed in the Red Army, and later began his unique career in external affairs.

The past seven decades—from the 1930s to the present day—have been a period when the Chinese people struggled valiantly in the cause of the people's democratic revolution, and made dramatic achievements in economic construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Joining in this great mission were tens of thousands of Chinese intellectuals. Huang Hua was one of them. He has often said that he was born at the right time, and his life has been a rich one.

In fact, Huang Hua did a lot of important work in foreign affairs for the CPC before liberation. During that period, he worked with the US Army Observer Group in Yen'an, and took a position in the Military Mediation Headquarters formed jointly by the KMT, CPC and US Army.

Under the direction of Vice-premier Deng Xiaoping, Huang Hua, as China's foreign minister, completed the negotiations for and signed the Peace and Friendship Treaty Between China and Japan, and masterminded

the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States. These two achievements were of great strategic importance for China, having been initiated by Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai but never completed in their lifetimes.

From 1983 Huang Hua served as vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and member of the Standing Committee of the Advisory Committee under the CPC Central Committee. He also participated in meetings with prominent international personalities, and promoted China's reform and open-door policies, its stand against Taiwan "independence" and its efforts to safeguard world peace. Huang Hua has also undertaken work for NGOs to enhance education, welfare, publicity and friendship with foreign countries.

Huang Hua has been my intimate friend and comrade-in-arms.

As long ago as in 1945 I worked with the US Army Observer Group in Yen-an as his associate. We have known each other well for many decades, and I feel that he is a person of honor, loyal to the Party, adhering to principles, diligent, frank, earnest and pragmatic.

He always remembered Comrade Chen Yun's exhortation to eschew dogmatism and cleave to truth.

Huang Hua's record of his life, his revolutionary deeds and his diplomatic experiences are both interesting and useful for younger generations.

The December 9 Student Movement was a great event in the history of the modern Chinese revolution. Huang Hua was one of the leaders of the Movement, and his account of those years is a true monument to its development.

His relationship with Edgar Snow was uniquely close among the Party leaders. Snow's book *Red Star over China* spurred many young Chinese to go to Yen-an, and I was one of them. Snow's book was completed with the help of Huang Hua. His descriptions of Snow's visits to the soviet districts in Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia are an invaluable historical record.

Huang Hua was one of the leading figures in the semi-official diplomacy of the early years of the CPC. His memoirs contain detailed depic-

tions of the activities of the US Army Observer Group and the Beijing Military Mediation Headquarters, reminding us of their widespread influence at that time.

At the preliminary stage of liberation, the Military Control Commissions in Chinese cities were busy eliminating foreign privileges and foreign influence in China, and strengthening the state sovereignty of New China. Diplomatic relations between China and other countries had not yet been established. The work of foreign affairs was going through a complicated situation. Foreign affairs and foreign enterprises needed to be treated carefully. Huang Hua undertook this difficult task, serving as division chief of foreign nationals' affairs in Tianjin, Nanjing and Shanghai. In Nanjing, in particular, his contacts with Ambassador Leighton Stuart were an important part of China-US relations.

Huang Hua, as a spokesman and adviser of the Chinese delegation, participated in the Geneva Conference and the Asian-African (Bandung) Conference, which were the two most significant international meetings China took part in the early 1950s. He actively contacted foreign correspondents, sending news of New China to the rest of the world.

Huang's earnest work style was highly appreciated by the late Premier Zhou Enlai. Many initial diplomatic posts were assigned to him: ambassador to Ghana, ambassador to Canada and China's first permanent representative to the United Nations.

Moreover, he was the only Chinese ambassador not to be recalled to join the Cultural Revolution. Premier Zhou deliberately insisted in keeping him abroad as China's "contact point to the outside world." During the period of "ping pong" diplomacy, as assistant to Premier Zhou, he handled the delicate negotiations. He was also a member of the three-person group which held talks with Dr. Henry Kissinger during the latter's secret visit to China.

During the years when he was foreign minister he made many contributions of strategic significance in foreign affairs such as the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. These agreements—mile-

stones in the history of New China's foreign affairs were reached after long and arduous efforts.

The work of people-to-people friendship between China and other countries conducted by Huang Hua was rich in achievements. As a leading Chinese statesman, he had long-time contacts with many foreign friends. This implies that he was not only paying attention to official diplomacy but also fostering friendship with people of all walks of life of other countries.

The *Huang Hua Memoirs* is not only an enlightening account of the history of the rise and triumph of New China but a book of high educational value to the younger generation. I am confident that it will find a wide and enthusiastic readership.

 Ling Qing
July 2007

Ling Qing, a descendent of the 19th century Chinese national hero Lin Zexu, has served as China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Contents

Foreword	I
Preface	III
 Chapter One My Formative Years and the December 9 Movement	1
My Family and Schooling	1
Outbreak of the December 9 Student Movement	10
Activities of the Southward-Bound Publicity Team	17
Carrying a Coffin in our Demonstration and the Bulletin “Prison Flower”	21
 Chapter Two With Edgar Snow in His Reporting on Red China in Northern Shaanxi	30
Accompanying Snow During His Interviews in Bao'an and Meeting Mao Zedong	36
Witnessing the Joining of the Red Forces' Three Front Armies	46
The Xi'an Incident	51
Moving to Yen'an with the Red Army	54
Life in Yen'an	56
I Became Commander-in-Chief Zhu De's Secretary	61
 Chapter Three US Army Observer Group and Military Mediation Headquarters	67
China's War of Resistance Against Japan	67
US Joins the World War Against Fascism	70
US Army Observer Group Heads for Yen'an	72
Victory of the War of Resistance and End of the US Army Observer Group's Mission	91
Establishment of the Military Mediation Headquarters	95

Chapter Four	Contacts with John Leighton Stuart in Nanjing.....	104
	From Yenan to Xibaipo, Preliminary Headquarters of the CPC.....	104
	Contacts with Leighton Stuart in Nanjing.....	113
	Zhou Enlai Consented to Stuart's Return to Yenching University.....	120
	The <i>Ametheyst</i> Incident	124
	Transfer to Shanghai	126
Chapter Five	Geneva Conference—the First High-Level International Conference New China Attended.....	129
	Talks in Preparation for the Political Conference on Korean Peace	129
	Preparations for the Geneva Conference	135
	The Question of Korea at the Geneva Conference.....	139
	Discussions on the Question of Indochina	143
	The Press Work of the Chinese Delegation.....	147
	Contacts Between China and the US During the Geneva Conference ...	149
	Joint Communiqué on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence Issued by China and India, and China and Burma	152
Chapter Six	Participation in the Asian-African Conference (The Bandung Conference).....	153
	Convening of the Asian-African Conference (The Bandung Conference)	153
	The Remarkable Diplomatic Talent of Premier Zhou Enlai at the Asian-African Conference	158
Chapter Seven	Appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Ghana.....	166
	Establishment of Diplomatic Ties with China Right after Independence.....	166
	Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, President of an Emerging Nation.....	170
	The Attempted Assassination of President Nkrumah	177
	Premier Zhou's Successful Visit to Ghana	179

Negotiations for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations with Tanganyika.....	181
President Nkrumah's Second Visit to China and the Coup d'etat in Ghana	184
Chapter Eight Serving as Ambassador to the United Arab Republic....	190
The Cultural Revolution's Influence on the Embassy	192
The June 5th Arab-Israeli War.....	197
Premier Zhou Enlai's Message of Support for Nasser.....	200
Nasser Complains about Soviet Aid	202
Special Envoy to Mauritius.....	205
Chapter Nine Snow's Third Visit to China and Kissinger's Secret Trip ...	209
Snow's Third Visit to New China	209
The Situation Before Kissinger's Secret Visit to China	219
Kissinger's Secret Visit.....	223
Secret Contacts with Kissinger in New York.....	234
Chapter Ten The First Chinese Embassy in North America	237
The Establishment of China-Canada Diplomatic Relations Draws Extensive Attention from the International Community	237
Unforgettable Welcome	241
The Official Opening of the Chinese Embassy in Canada	242
Lining up to Apply for Visas to China	244
Permanent Embassy Premises	246
China Holds Its Head High at the General Assembly.....	247
Farewell Call on Prime Minister Trudeau	248
Chapter Eleven Five Years at the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN....	251
Historic Victory for the Third World.....	251
Activities of the Chinese Permanent Delegation to the UN.....	256
The War Between India and Pakistan, and Related Debates in the Security Council and General Assembly.....	262

The Security of Our Delegation	264
The Exercise of the Veto	266
Hong Kong and Macao Removed from List of Colonies	268
Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping's Attendance at the 6th Special Session of the UN General Assembly	270
China Supports Third World Candidates for the Post of UN Secretary-General	273
The Question of the Naming of "Taiwan"	275
Cooperation with UN-Related Financial Organizations	277
Chapter Twelve As Foreign Minister.....	280
Bringing Order out of Chaos at the Foreign Ministry.....	280
Restoring the Vitality of China's Diplomacy.....	285
Deng Xiaoping's Thinking on Foreign Policy	287
Restoring Party-to-Party and State-to-State Relations with Yugoslavia.....	295
Reform of Diplomatic Protocol	298
Accompanying the French President on a Visit to Tibet.....	301
Team Spirit at the Foreign Ministry	303
Chapter Thirteen Signing of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship.....	308
Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai Pay Special Attention to Japan-Related Work.....	308
Restoration of Diplomatic Relations with Japan	311
Twists and Turns in the Talks of the Peace Treaty	314
The Talks Take a Dramatic Turn	317
"It Takes Only a Second to Sign the Treaty"	319
Frank Talks with Sonoda.....	323
The Significance of the Treaty	327
Deng's Visit to Japan and Exchange of Ratification Instruments.....	331
Calling on the Japanese Emperor.....	333
An Unexpected Apology.....	334