

A SELECTION OF INSCRIPTIONS  
IN MAO ZEDONG'S  
CALLIGRAPHY

*Compiled by*

THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES

PEOPLE'S FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE

ARCHIVES PUBLISHING HOUSE

## PUBLICATION NOTE

During his lifetime, Comrade Mao Zedong wrote large numbers of inscriptions many of which have become popular and have been passed around from hand to hand. We have selected some of them from our archives for publication to meet the needs of the readers. As far as possible, the dates and backgrounds of these inscriptions are given in parentheses.

The Central Archives

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| Work hard for the education of the new generation. (Inscription for the magazine <i>Teachers of the Border Region</i> published in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region. Spring 1938) . . . . .  | 1  |
| It is imperative, at the present stage, for China to accomplish the national democratic revolution, that is, to thoroughly defeat the Japanese aggressors and build a new, democratic republic. It is imperative, at a future stage, for China to accomplish the socialist revolution, that is, to establish a socialist republic which is more progressive and perfect. To complete these two revolutions, it is essential to adhere to the policy of the united front. Only by successfully uniting all the revolutionary forces in the united front can we achieve our objectives. (Inscription for Shi Fangbai. May 12, 1938) . . . . . | 2  |
| Train yourselves well in order to march to the front. (Inscription to mark the beginning of the fourth term of the Anti-Japanese Military and Political College. May 21, 1938) . . . . .  | 3  |
| Arise, children, and learn to be free and liberated citizens of China, learn how to win freedom and liberation from Japanese imperialist oppression, and make yourselves masters of the new era. (Inscription for the first issue of <i>Children of the Border Region</i> published in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region. June 1938) . . . . .  | 4  |
| Persevere in the War of Resistance, in the united front and in protracted war, and final victory will certainly be China's. (Inscription for the special issue of the weekly <i>Liberation</i> , Yan'an, marking the first anniversary of the anti-Japanese war and the 17th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. 1938) . . . . .  | 5  |
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| We should not only possess revolutionary enthusiasm but also be practical-minded. (Inscription for the Anti-Japanese Military and Political College) . . . . .  | 7  |
| No difficulty can block our way forward. So long as we stick to the correct principles, live simply and work hard, we will be able to achieve our goal. (Inscription for Dong Baicheng. 1938) . . . . .   | 8  |
| No difficulty can block the advance of the people. So long as we work hard and perseveringly, we will be able to overcome all difficulties. (Inscription for Miao Min) . . . . .  | 9  |
| Failure is the mother of success; difficulty is the basis of victory. . . . .   | 10 |
| The Anti-Japanese Military and Political College is a cadre school of the Eighth Route Army. Its spirit and work style are those of the Eighth Route Army. Comrades in the College should make it a point to emulate the spirit and work style of the Eighth Route Army. (Inscription for the Anti-Japanese Military and Political College) . . . . .   | 11 |
| Study hard, study effectively and never give up before achieving your goal. This is the primary task of the young people. (Inscription for Ai Sheng. 1938) . . . . .  | 12 |
| March forward resolutely, fight the Japanese aggressors and save China. (Inscription for the Second Congress of the Northwest Youth National Salvation Association. November 1938) . . . . .  | 13 |
| So long as we remain among the masses and never for a moment alienate ourselves from them, we can certainly win victory for the Chinese revolution. (Inscription for Yang Haiquan. February 2, 1939) . . . . .  | 14 |
| Let's use our brains more often. (Inscription for <i>New China News</i> , Yan'an. February 7, 1939) . . . . .   | 15 |
| Turn <i>New China News</i> into a vital new force in the anti-Japanese war. (Inscription for <i>New China News</i> , Yan'an. February 1939) . . . . .   | 16 |

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| So long as we fear neither difficulties nor setbacks, make unremitting efforts and study hard, we will be able to make progress and achieve success. (Inscription for Chen Xingmin. April 18, 1939) . . . . .   | 17 |
| Strive to wipe out illiteracy. (Inscription for <i>New China News</i> , Yan'an. April 1939) . . . . .   | 18 |
| The dividing line between revolutionary intellectuals and non-revolutionary or counter-revolutionary intellectuals is whether or not they are willing to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants and actually do so. This is the only dividing line. (Inscription for the Anti-Japanese Military and Political College. April 19, 1939) . . . . .  | 19 |
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| The liberation of women means the emergence of a new force and the rise of two hundred million people. Having men and women advance side by side means having a force like the sun rising in the east. Is there any enemy who could survive such a force? Hard struggle ensures the achievement of our goal, for where there is a will, there is a way. Women have proved their ability to help administer state affairs since long, long ago. They yearn for liberation like people in a drought-stricken area look forward to the sight of clouds. I write all this in the expectation that your magazine will have an ever greater influence throughout the country. (Inscription for the inauguration of the magazine <i>Women of China</i> , Yan'an. June 1, 1939) . . . . . | 21 |
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| Make medicines, heal the wounded, and defy the blockade — these are one of the conditions for defeating the enemy. (Inscription for the first group of graduates of the pharmaceutical training class organized by the Pharmaceutical Factory of the Eighth Route Army. April 1940) . . . . .   | 34 |
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| The work of nurses is of great political importance. (Inscription to mark Nurses' Day. 1941) . . . . .  | 42 |
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| A revolution against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism waged by the broad masses of the people under the leadership of the proletariat. (April 1948) . . . . .                                       | 97  |
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| Unite and take part in production and political activities and improve the economic and political status of women. (Inscription for the first issue of the magazine <i>Women of New China</i> , 1949) . . . . .   | 105 |
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| Never be infected with the bureaucratic style of work. (Inscription for the Songjiang Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, February 27, 1950) . . . . .   | 112 |
| Develop production. (Inscription for the Harbin Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, February 27, 1950) . . . . .  | 113 |
| Do well in your advanced studies, and best wishes for many more years of active life. (Inscription for Zhang Huizhou, March 14, 1950) . . . . .   | 114 |
| Having won the first battle, you should immediately consolidate your ranks in preparation for the second battle and strive to gain a complete victory. (Inscription for a work unit, April 10, 1950) . . . . .  | 115 |
| A major task at present is to restore and develop the educational work of the people. (Inscription for the first issue of <i>People's Education</i> , April 1950) . . . . .   | 116 |
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| Keep in contact with the masses. (Inscription for Zhang Zijing, 1950) . . . . .   | 119 |
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| Strive to defend the motherland and uphold world peace. (Inscription to mark the tenth anniversary of <i>China Daily News</i> [USA], July 1950) . . . . .   | 121 |
| Unite in a solid united front all sections of medical and public health workers, veteran or new, Chinese- or Western-trained, and strive to promote the great work of public health for the people. (Inscription for the First National Conference on Public Health, 1950) . . . . .        | 122 |
| Combat heroes, you are the model members of the People's Liberation Army. I hope you will make further effort to improve yourselves and strive to build a powerful army for national defence. (Inscription for the National Conference of Representatives of Combat Heroes, 1950) . . . . . | 123 |
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| Comrade Qu Qiubai died fifteen years ago. During his lifetime, many people did not understand him, or even opposed him. But he never faltered in working courageously for the people. In the difficult years of the revolution, he stood firm as a hero and preferred to walk to his death under the butcher's knife than yield to the enemy. This spirit of his as demonstrated in working for the people, this unyielding will of his as shown in the face of the enemy, and his thinking as recorded in his writings—all these will live forever. They will never fade in brilliance. Comrade Qu Qiubai was diligent in using his brain to think over problems, and he was a man of ideas. The publication of his works will benefit the youth and the cause of the people, and our cultural work in particular. (Inscription for the <i>Collected Works of Qu Qiubai</i> . December 31, 1950) . . . . . | 128 |
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| Get mobilized, pay attention to hygiene, reduce disease, improve health conditions and smash the enemy's germ warfare. (Inscription for the Second National Conference on Public Health, 1952) . . . . .   | 145 |
| In order to oppose imperialist aggression, we must build a powerful navy. (Inscription for a navy unit Chairman Mao inspected. February 21, 1953) . . . . .  | 146 |
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| The Haihe River must be brought under permanent control. (Inscription for an exhibition on the anti-flood struggle of Hebei Province, November 17, 1963) . . . . .   | 166 |
| Study diligently and train hard to serve the people. (Inscription for working personnel of the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, 1964) . . . . .  | 167 |
| Strive to do broadcasting work well and serve the people of China and the world. (Inscription for the Central Broadcasting Administrative Bureau, September 15, 1965) . . . . .  | 168 |

*Translated by*      WEN XIANSI