



LET'S GET CLOSER

Selected Articles
About Women by Chinese
and Foreign Authors

World Press Women of China Magazine

LET'S GET CLOSER

Selected Articles About Women by Chinese
and Foreign Authors Published in
Women of China Since 1979

NEW WORLD PRESS WOMEN OF CHINA MAGAZINE

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

让我们彼此接近：英文/ 英文中国妇女杂志社编.
—北京：新世界出版社，1995. 8
ISBN 7-80005-287-7

I. 让…

Ⅱ. 中…

Ⅲ. 妇女-中外关系-友好往来-英文

让我们彼此接近

英文中国妇女杂志社 编

*

新世界出版社出版发行

(北京百万庄路 24 号)

北京大学印刷厂印刷

1995 年(英文)第一版

02500

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| To the Reader | 1 |
| Hopes for the Rebirth of "Women of China" | |
| <i>Soong Ching Ling</i> | 5 |
| Yugoslav Children and Parents Enjoy the Show | |
| <i>Feng Shuxiang</i> | 8 |
| The First Women's Delegation Visits the United States | 11 |
| American Women See Things in a New Light | |
| <i>Li Minhua</i> | 11 |
| A Common Language <i>Cedan Zhoima</i> | 13 |
| Prettier Than the Flowers <i>The Chinese Women's Delegation to the DPRK</i> | 16 |
| Four Hours at Taipei Airport <i>Zheng Minzhi</i> | 20 |
| Three Girl Trainees in West Germany <i>Xu Lin</i> | 23 |
| Two American Children in a Chinese Kindergarten | |
| <i>J. W. Roven</i> | 28 |
| Women in the West <i>Han Suyin</i> | 32 |
| China Today <i>Paulette Preud'homme</i> | 37 |
| Chinese Women as I See Them <i>Rose Smith</i> | 40 |
| Friends I Met in Canada <i>Li Zhongxiu</i> | 44 |
| What Should We Publishers Give to Children? | |
| <i>Zhu Yiyun</i> | 48 |
| Why I Study Art in China? | 56 |
| Here to Study Visual Arts <i>Jacqueline Jenson</i> | 56 |
| Writing with Ink and Brush <i>Eileen Truscott</i> | 57 |
| Getting Inspiration for My Painting <i>Maria Tupay</i> | 58 |
| Introducing Chinese Art to More People | |
| <i>Nancy Berliner</i> | 59 |
| Each Country Has Its Own System for Handling Birth Control | |
| <i>Ndugu Gertrude Mongella</i> | 60 |
| Thanks, My Indian Friends <i>Wu Jiani</i> | 63 |
| Chinese Roses <i>Xu Zhichang</i> | 67 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Our Sisters Around the World | 70 |
| Contact Between Two Continents <i>The Group of Wives of African Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Beijing</i> | 70 |
| Teacher and Traveler— Two Views of China <i>Dominique Maitrot</i> | 72 |
| Seeing Is Believing <i>S. Anna</i> | 74 |
| Learning and Sharing in Nairobi <i>Zhu Yiyun</i> | 76 |
| Working Women— East and West <i>Frances Chastain</i> | 81 |
| The Bookstore That Opened Its Doors to China <i>Chin Chi</i> | 86 |
| Gold from Britain <i>Liang Lijuan</i> | 90 |
| Tea and Sisterhood <i>Zhong Lu</i> | 95 |
| African Women Size Up Tianjin <i>Chen Yan</i> | 100 |
| Farmers Are Farmers <i>Dell Radcliffe</i> | 104 |
| A Chinese Director in a Novosibirsk Theater <i>Nai Xin</i> | 107 |
| Late Start, Quick Strides <i>Li Hailan</i> | 111 |
| Six Months in Beijing <i>Barbara Hutmacher Maclean</i> | 115 |
| What Will Become of the "Chinese Princess"? <i>Mary M. Wood</i> | 119 |
| From Mao to Mix and Match <i>Margo Leonetti O'Connell</i> | 126 |
| A Three-Pronged Attack on Illiteracy <i>Gwen Ryan</i> | 131 |
| A Joyous Meeting Between Chinese and American Women <i>Xiao Ming</i> | 137 |
| "Women of China" and I | 140 |
| I Am an Old Reader <i>Denise Ly-Lebreton</i> | 140 |
| Working Is a Pleasure <i>Amina Abba Dandago</i> | 141 |
| We Share Common Problems <i>Mahin Seddighian</i> | 142 |
| Readers Do Like Serious Issues <i>Betty Chandler</i> | 143 |
| Ask More and Study More <i>Ruth F. Weiss</i> | 144 |
| An Unforgettable Week <i>Shen Yantai</i> | 146 |
| Letters from the United States <i>Teresa Wilson, et al.</i> | 151 |
| Seeking a Better Future for Women and Children <i>Zhao Ning</i> | 155 |
| My First Three Months in Montreal <i>Terry Yu</i> | 161 |
| An English Pantomimist on the Peking Opera Stage <i>Zhang Fengru</i> | 164 |
| Fragments from a Diary <i>Govind Kelkar</i> | 167 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| My Trip to Xinjiang Alone <i>S. C. Phoebe Gray</i> | 171 |
| Impressions of Guangdong <i>Deirdre Godfrey</i> | 175 |
| Having My Daughter Go to China <i>Reiko Nojima</i> | 181 |
| Applauding for Peace and Friendship <i>Zhao Ning</i> | 185 |
| China Is a Part of Me <i>Carol Huang</i> | 191 |
| My Life in Beijing <i>Naomi Sekiguchi</i> | 195 |
| Teaching Chinese to Foreigners <i>Li Jihong</i> | 199 |
| What We Saw and Heard in Thailand <i>Gan Yun</i> | 203 |
| A Chinese Friend's Guest <i>Deborah L. Toy</i> | 208 |
| UNICEF's Work in China <i>Suomi Sakai</i> | 212 |
| Little East-West <i>Huang Xiaozhi</i> | 215 |
| When I First Came to China <i>Anna Eva Budura</i> | 219 |
| Thirty Days in America <i>Zhao Hu</i> | 225 |
| A Successful Exchange over the Straits <i>Zhao Ning</i> | 231 |
| Sweet and Sour <i>Monica Downer</i> | 236 |
| French Jewelry Company Employs First Chinese Designer <i>Chen Shanshan</i> | 242 |
| Canada Aids Chinese Women's Project <i>Zhao Ning</i> | 246 |
| Chinese and Foreign Students Debate Gender Equality <i>Man Sujie</i> | 251 |
| Partnership for Success <i>Lin Guanxing</i> | 255 |
| China-Canada Project Teaches Wuyi Women Tailoring <i>Xiao Jing</i> | 260 |
| Seeing New China at 45 with Their Own Eyes <i>Zhao Ning</i> | 264 |
| Chinese New Year's Prints Endure <i>Waltraud Timmermann</i> | 268 |

To the Reader

When I started editing this book I decided to call it "Let's Get Closer." I believed then and I believe now that this collection of works by Chinese and foreign authors will interest readers outside China, since the friendship between Chinese women and their sisters all over the world is deepening. I have managed to finish compiling and editing this book before the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995. Right now, thousands of people are preparing to come to Beijing, most of whom share a great interest in China and Chinese women in particular. I am hoping to receive comments about the book from them.

As an editor with the English magazine *Women of China*, I will never forget the beautiful spring day in 1991, when I took over the column "Friendship Exchanges" and left Beijing for Tianjin to solicit contributions from foreign friends living, working and studying there.

On that fine afternoon, I met Yasuko Nojima from Japan at her dormitory in Nankai University. She had long, straight hair, wore glasses and could speak fluent Chinese, as well as a little English. Our conversation was friendly and cheerful. She was studying Chinese history at the university, supported by her parents. She mentioned her mother, an educated career woman who had always shown concern for women's issues. So I asked Yasuko to ask her mother to write an article to contribute to our magazine.

Before long, Yasuko Nojima wrote to me, saying

that her mother, Reiko Nojima, had accepted my invitation. Yasuko offered to translate her mother's article from Japanese to Chinese for me, so that I could translate the Chinese into English for the magazine. For the next six months I communicated with Reiko Nojima through her daughter about her article— its content, style and the accompanying artwork. Finally the article "Having My Daughter Go to China" (see page 181 of this book) was published in the September 1992 issue of *Women of China* to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan.

When I informed Yasuko Nojima of the news on the telephone, she had just completed her studies at Tianjin and was getting ready to return to Japan. "My mother will always remember this," she said with emotion.

However, my experiences are by no means unique to the staff of *Women of China*. In the past, senior editors have done this kind of work for many years and reports about friendship between Chinese women and their sisters all over the world have been regularly published in our magazine since it was established in January 1956.

The 60 articles that make up this book were mostly written in English. Some were written in Chinese and then translated into English by our staff members. Read as a whole, they illustrate the great changes that have been taking place in China—the result of the policies of reform and opening to the outside world implemented since 1979. The authors, both from China and from other countries and regions throughout the world, include a professor, an official, a writer, an artist, an athlete, a publisher, a journalist, a tourist, a college student, a social activist, an entrepreneur's wife, an ambassador's wife and others. Most of the authors are women, but there are also some articles written by men who are concerned with women's issues. Through the eyes of these people, readers will perhaps get a glimpse of how Chinese women have broadened their outlook during

this period of reform and opening to the outside world. Readers will come to understand how Chinese women are playing an increasingly important role in international affairs, how people outside China view modern Chinese women and how Chinese women and their sisters all over the world can learn from and support each other, accepting challenges together.

International friendship requires the help of the media. *Women of China* has attempted to cultivate this friendship for many years. I sincerely hope this book can contribute.

Zhao Ning

Spring, 1995

Hopes for the Rebirth of “Women of China”

Soong Ching Ling

Honorary President of
the All-China Women's Federation

It is with immense pleasure that I greet the reappearance of *Women of China* in this propitious spring of 1979 which finds an inspired people firmly embarked on a new Long March to modernize their country.

I recall with pleasure, too, the debut of *Women of China*. That was in 1956, only a few years after liberation had come to our people. People's China, then, was at once new and old; new in the sense of the people becoming masters of the country led by the Chinese Communist Party; old in terms of its long civilization. Beyond her borders China was little understood. The world wanted to know how our people fared, how they lived and worked under the new system, how, in other words, they would build China into a socialist country and cement the ties of friendship with the people of other lands.

Women of China, an English periodical, along with the foreign-language editions of other periodicals, each in their own way initially met that need with some success, and were improving.

But a curtain of silence descended over much of China's publishing world. Publication after publication, *Women of China* among them, folded up in the days when Lin Biao and the “gang of four” held sway. This power-drunk coterie had their own axe to grind, and not only reduced China politically and economically to shambles but blocked the advance of a several-thousand-year-old culture

as well. But the laws of history prove that the intrigues of such dregs of mankind always come to an ignominious end. In October 1976, the Chinese people got rid of the "gang of four" and this triumph led to a resuscitation of what had for a decade or so been a cultural "wasteland." Thus the way was paved for the rebirth of *Women of China*.

Today, a nation of 800 million strong is, to use our own popular phrase, launched on a new Long March. The emphasis has now shifted to socialist modernization to build a powerful socialist country with modern agriculture, modern industry, modern national defence, and modern science and technology. We are going all out to achieve this by the end of the century. Such a bold endeavour means bringing profound changes to the political, economic and cultural life of the country.

This new Long March calls for sustained political fervour and hard work. Like their menfolk, China's women, who account for half the population, do not spare themselves in the effort to realize the nation's modernization programme. Women workers, peasants, soldiers, cadres, scientists, writers, school teachers—women in all fields are dedicated to the task history has called on them to perform in China's new period of development.

Resuming publication at this juncture, *Women of China* is called on to carry a greater responsibility than ever before and to serve as a bridge to bring the women of our country and of other lands closer together. I am confident this magazine will convey the facts to its readers on how in the post-gang-of-four period the Chinese women live, work and study as they carry on the socialist revolution and construction.

As I write, China and the United States have agreed to normalize relations. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is a great step forward in the struggle for peace in the world. It will be welcomed by peace-loving people everywhere. I wish to extend

through this magazine my best wishes to our friends in the United States.

May the new *Women of China* strike deeper roots and flourish in the new historical period of the Chinese nation.

(*March 1979*)

Yugoslav Children and Parents Enjoy the Show

Feng Shuxiang

A Chinese Male Puppetry Artist

The puppet show *Monkey Makes Havoc in Heaven* interpreted in Esperanto, was given the "Best Art Award" when the Chinese Puppet Art Troupe, during a friendly visit to Yugoslavia, made its debut last October at the 12th International Drama Festival in Belgrade and the 11th International Puppet Show Festival in Zagreb.

"I Hope You'll Get the Prize"

The Chinese mythological show is based on an episode in the classical novel *Journey to the West*, popular among the Chinese people since it was written in the 16th century. The hero of the show is Sun Wukong, a clever and daring monkey who challenges the authority of the deity and overcomes the heavenly warriors sent to suppress him. The Monkey King appears on stage as a rod puppet and also as a hand puppet made of rubber, and the little monkey soldiers are glove puppets. This is an attempt to break down the barriers between the various puppet media and incorporate them into the rod-puppet show. The climax of the show is a scene where an actor, playing the role of Sun Wukong, appears on the stage. Brandishing his "magic gold staff," he hurls the heavenly warriors away with a magnificent display of acrobatic skill. The scene highlights the power of the humanized monkey, greatly enhances the effectiveness of puppet show and adds vividness to this fantasy drama. The Chinese art-

ists make full use of lighting, decor and other techniques of the modern stage to enrich the artistry of the presentation. Zlatko Zlatko, the Yugoslav sculptor whose work *Meeting* was presented the "Best Art Award" at the Puppet Show Festival, told the Chinese artists before the awards were given, "I do hope you'll get the prize." His wish was realized.

Traveling 200 Miles to See the Show

The troupe's performances were well received by Yugoslav audiences. Tisljar Zlatko, manager of the International Drama Festival, congratulated the Chinese artists, saying, "This is the first time that I've ever seen such a big, highly artistic and comprehensive puppet show. You've certainly put on a good performance."

Our friends from the Sarajevo Puppet Troupe drove 200 miles to attend the performance. After the show, they said, "It is hard to believe that they are puppets. The characters are so life-like." The Chinese artists also met Borislav Mrksić who has made a deep study of the theory and presentation of puppet shows and written many articles and a number of books on the subject in addition to directing many Yugoslav and foreign puppet shows. After seeing the performance, he said to his Chinese friends, "I've worked in this field for many years. This is the first time I have seen a Chinese performance. You've opened up new horizons for the art." As a token of appreciation, he presented the troupe with a copy of his book *Puppet's Smile*, which discusses the history and theories of this art.

"Please Sign Your Name on My Shirt"

During our three-week stay in Yugoslavia, the Chinese Puppet Art Troupe gave 13 performances in Belgrade and Zagreb. Special performances were given to about 9,000 workers and children. Our troupe was given

a cordial welcome everywhere we went and, when we walked in the streets, many Yugoslavians raised clasped hands and greeted us with cheers.

On one occasion, several members of our troupe were surrounded by a group of pupils clamoring for our autographs. They beseeched us to sign our autographs in notebooks, on sheets of paper, and even on their arms and the palms of their hands. A number pulled up their shirts and urged the visitors to sign on their bare backs. One little boy took off his shirt and asked, "Please sign your name on my shirt. I'll hang it on the wall of my room as a souvenir."

(July 1979)

The First Women's Delegation Visits the United States

In May 1979, the first Chinese Women's Delegation from the People's Republic of China, headed by Huang Ganying, visited the United States as guests of the National Committee on US-China Relations. The following are some of the impressions of two members of the delegation.

— Ed.

AMERICAN WOMEN SEE THINGS IN A NEW LIGHT

Li Minhua

A Chinese Woman Scientist

“Are there many women scientists in China?”

“How do working women take care of their children? Are there day-care centers? How much do they pay for them?”

I was happily surprised to be asked these and other questions during my second visit to the United States. As I looked into the inquisitive eyes of my friends around me, I said to myself, “How American women have changed! They see things in a new light now!”

This would never have happened in the United States when I studied and worked there back in the 1940s and 1950s. In those days, most American women thought they were born to be housewives, tied down to the endless, tedious chores of home-making and baby-care. Day-