

1850-2010

A Photo Contrast of Past Glories and New Accomplishments

1850-2010 跨越世纪的上海城市影像

SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE

上海人民美術出版社

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主 编: 李 新 策 划: 汤德伟
撰 文: 郭常明 英文翻译: 梁瀚杰
英文审校: Edward Willoughsby 绘 画: 贺友直
摄 影: 韦 文 张文瑞 张国威 张 睿 陆元敏
 金石开 郑宪章 郭长耀 晓 易 倪维瑶
 徐正魁 梁财国 薛长命

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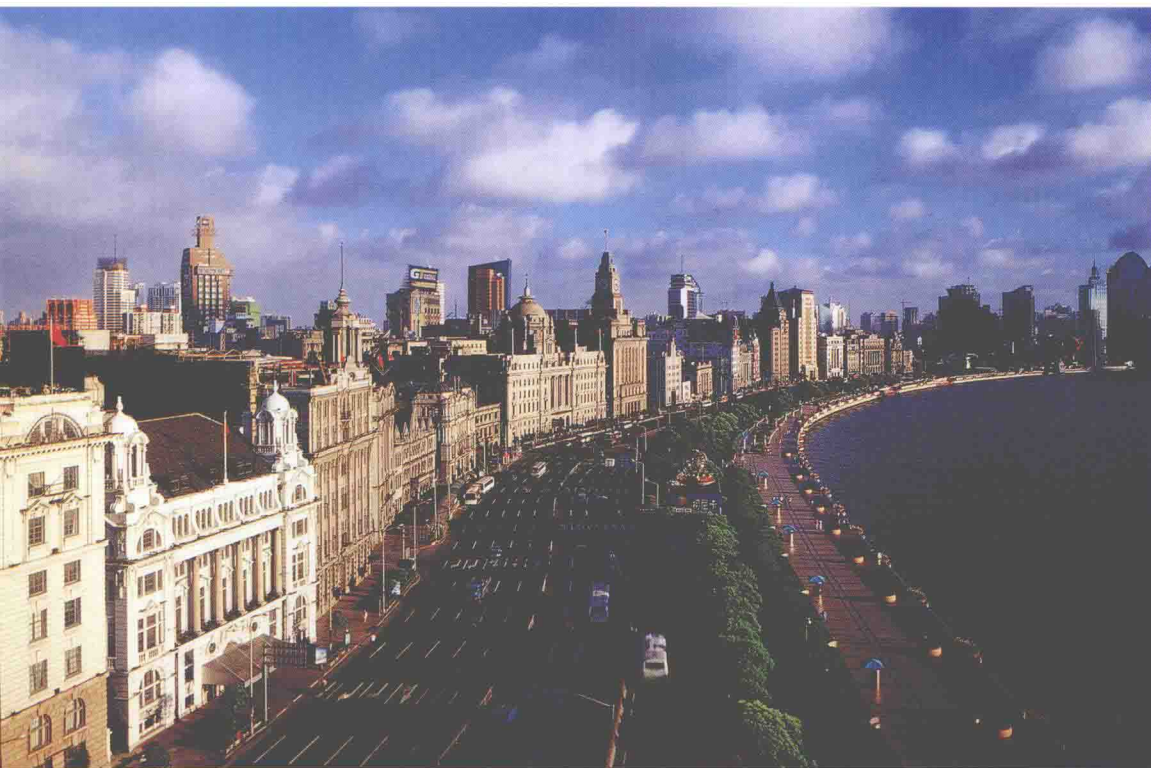
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Contents

Preface	4
Facets of Life	6
Scenes of City	20
Urban Development	58
Historical Architecture	76



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Contents

Preface	4
Facets of Life	6
Scenes of City	20
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Preface

■ While touring in Shanghai and taking in all its charming attractions, you may wonder how the city has developed into the East Asian metropolis as it is today. Shanghai has a recorded history of 700 years. However, it is since 1850 that Shanghai began to develop its urban construction under favorable conditions, thus exerting a profound impact on the general course of Chinese modernization. The tortuous yet progressive course of Shanghai's development from 1850 to 2010 is presented in these vivid photos which contrast the city's past with its present.

In a historical prospective, Shanghai's population was made up of emigrants from different parts of China as well as foreign "adventurers". The merge of people led to an exceptional openness in the local mentality and an eclectic line-up of Shanghai's culture. While the population grew in Shanghai, modern businesses like shipping, manufacturing, banking, medicine, entertainment, transportation, school education and municipal public services thrived in the pioneering modern city and brought great benefits to its residents. In the meantime, the city expanded rapidly after it became a Treaty Port in 1843, although there was hardly an overall plan for constructions in a city divided into different "Concessions". For a time, Shanghai was the prominent financial and trade center in the Far East. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, especially since the "reform and opening-up" initiative in the 1980s, Shanghai has enjoyed a high growth rate of economy and followed a scientific approach in its urban planning.

Today, the large collection of well-preserved heritage sites from the city's modern history have contributed to the wonderful cityscape of Shanghai. In the Old Town area, there are the classic Yuyuan Garden and characteristic old neighborhoods. Opposite the impressive skyscrapers in Lujiazui, there is the "showcase of world architecture" of the Bund. Beside the glitzy super-malls, there are temples, churches, European-style garden villas and Art Deco apartments built in the 19th century to the early 20th century.

This pictorial book hopes to give you some idea of how the city looks like in the past 160 years across 3 different centuries. With the knowledge in the city's past and present, maybe you'll find your Shanghai tour a meaningful and rewarding one.





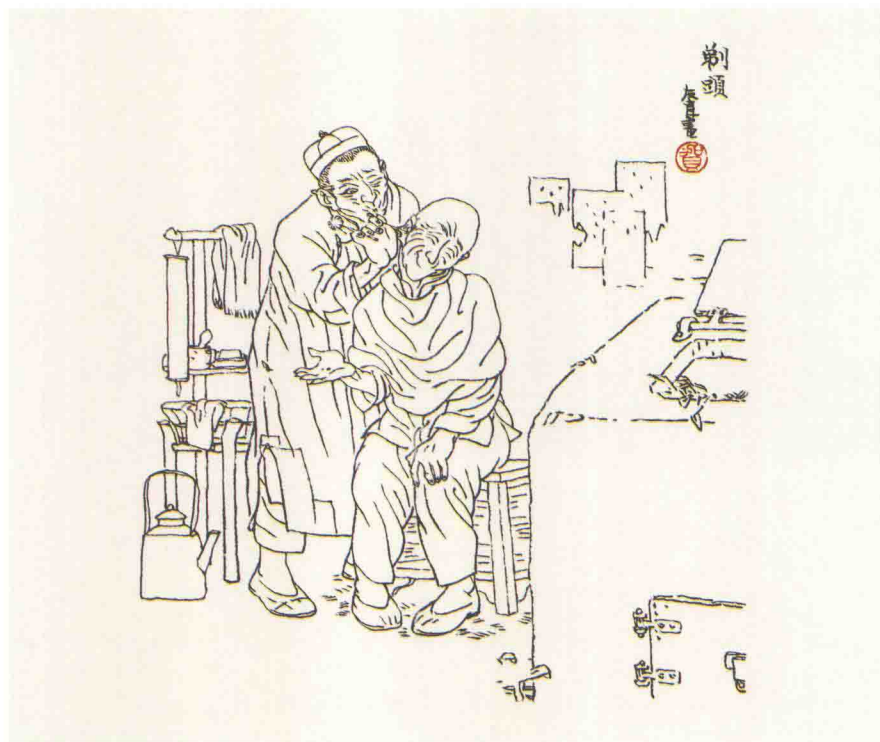
Facets of Life

7

■ After Shanghai became a Treaty Port in 1843, people from neighboring provinces as well as foreign countries poured into Shanghai to seek their fortunes. They brought their individual living habits with them, which gradually merged to form a characteristic lifestyle of Shanghai.

The old way of life in the Old Town was at first no different from any other Chinese towns. People bought food and necessities, traveled around for visits, held wedding ceremonies, had their haircuts, tailored their clothes, strolled on streets, threw home parties, celebrated the traditional festivals and generally entertained themselves with a modest yet satisfying life. However, when Shanghai developed into a modern city, Western trends and formalities were introduced into the circles of trade, literature, music, filmmaking and fine arts. As a result, Shanghai's culture has embraced a high level of openness.

Today, Shanghai is in many ways a cosmopolitan city with an up-tempo lifestyle of the 21st century, as you might have already experienced!



A breakfast booth in old Shanghai

6 In the old time, a typical breakfast in Shanghai comprised a pancake and a scrambled flour roll, which were cooked on a roadside coal stove and served in tin or wooden plates. The picture shows a pancake booth beside a boiler.

A breakfast booth today

7 Today, most of the breakfast outlets are indoors, though some outdoor booths are still open during the morning rush hour, providing those hurrying to work with a quick treat of palatable snacks.



A hairdresser's booth in the early 20th century

8 In the old times, individual hairdressers often opened up their booths by roadside. A hairdresser's booth comprised a washing basin, a stool and tools like scissors and combs. The hairdressers were most from Yangzhou in nearby Jiangsu Province and offered an additional service of ear-cleaning.

A hairdresser's booth in a Shikumen neighborhood today

9 Today, although there are a lot of swish hairdressing salons in the city, the old-style outdoor hairdresser's booths are still popular among senior citizens due to good service and affordable prices.



▲ A teahouse in old Shanghai

10 The teahouses were popular entertainment venues in old Shanghai and attracted customers with premium teas as well as storytelling sessions.

▼ The teahouse in the Pavilion in the Lake Center in Yuyuan Garden

10 Teahouses today play the same role as cafés and bars. However, there are still some old-style teahouses such as the Pavilion in the Lake Center in Yuyuan Garden, featuring classical interiors and performances of storytelling and traditional operas.



- ▲ A roadside food market in old Shanghai

11

In the old days, raw foods were sold in the open. Food venders brought baskets full of vegetables and meats into town at 5 o'clock, and by 7 o'clock the business had come to a good start.

- ▼ A roadside vegetable vender in the 1990s Shanghai

11

Today, raw foods are sold mostly in large indoor markets. Sometimes roadside venders can still be seen, though they have already replaced the old steelyards with electronic scales.



▲ A tailor shop in old Shanghai 12

In the old days, well-heeled families had their clothes tailored for them instead of buying ready-to-wear. A skilled tailor was hired to do the job at the home of the client and got paid at a daily basis.

▼ A tailor shop in the 1990s 12

The tailor shops today are a welcome complement to the expensive boutiques and shopping malls, as clients can have their clothes custom-made for them at reasonable prices.





◀ A wedding in old Shanghai 13

During a wedding in the old times, a traditional music band was often hired at the scene to add boisterous fun to the festivity.

▶ A wedding in a Shikumen lane in the 21st century 13

The old Shikumen lane, complete with stone-framed gates, brick walls and slab-paved floors, makes a perfect setting for a stylish and joyous wedding.

