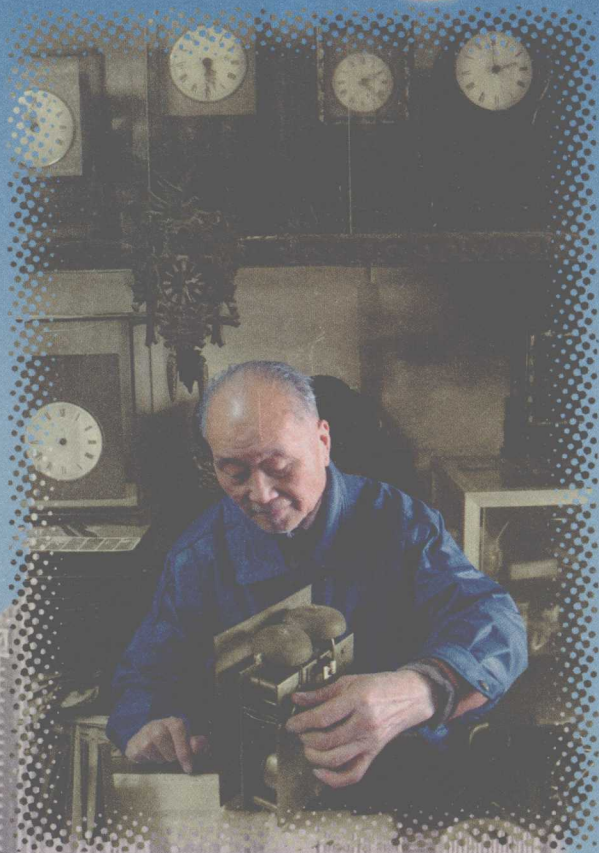


Private Collections in Shanghai



Foreign Languages Press

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by Lan Xiang



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Preface

This book introduces to domestic and worldwide readers over 50 private collections, five trade museums and five antique markets in Shanghai.

The private collections are small in scale, established in their own homes by collectors with an enthusiasm for curios. Generally, the display rooms are between 10 and 20 square meters in area, and serve not just as display space but as living rooms too. The owners have started display rooms in their homes because they want to share collecting experiences and discuss them with other people and, in so doing, perhaps becoming friends.

The biggest difference in visiting private collections and national museums lies in the formality of the latter and their ban on touching the items on display. In the former, by contrast, you may sip a cup of tea while you visit and, provided you get the owner's consent, you may touch the exhibits and consult with the owner.

Their collections are not as famous as those of national museums. But they are highly specialized and the atmosphere is warm, comfortable and easy. It is precisely because of the owner's hospitality that we should repay that hospitality with respect and appropriate behavior.

When visiting, please note these points:

1. Whenever you plan to visit such a collection, always call ahead and arrange a time before you turn up. This will avoid the nuisance of finding “service suspended.” Since these are privately run they do not have the official opening hours of national museums.

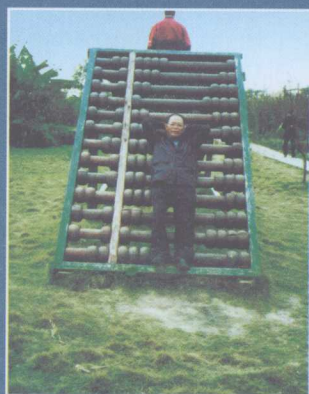
2. With a few exceptions, entry to these 50 collections is free or very cheap. If you want to take photographs, you need to negotiate with the owner because of possible intellectual property rights issues. The cost will be low.

3. After visiting for free, you may present a little gift to the owner. The gift itself may be small, but the goodwill deep. It is an expression of friendship.

4. You should pay the owner for documents, pictures and souvenirs you get from him or her. It is a long-term and expensive job for the owner to receive domestic and international visitors and such charges can be seen as defraying these costs. Of course, if the owner makes a present of or swaps such things with you, that is a different matter entirely.

5. It is not essential to book a visit to the trade museums. However, if you call beforehand, you can avoid “closed for urgent reason” situations. Generally, admission to trade museums is by paid ticket.

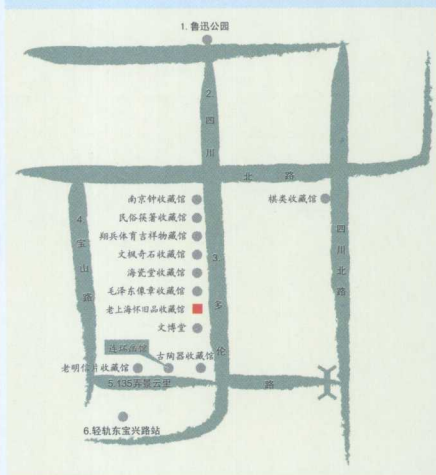
6. In the antique markets never handle the items before asking the price. If the price is acceptable, you may pick up the object, assure yourself it is genuine and then start bargaining. Being in too much of a hurry may get you entangled with the dealer and possibly ending up with a fake.



Private Collections

Old Shanghai Nostalgia Collection

老上海怀旧品藏馆



1. Lu Xun Park
2. Sichuanbei Road
3. Duolun Road
4. Baoshan Road
5. 135 Alley, Jingyunli
6. Dongbaoxing Light Rail Station

Owner: Guo Chunheng 郭纯亨

Contents: 5,000-plus items

Established: July 1998

Address: 181 Duolunlu

Cultural Street

多伦路文化街 181 号

Tel: 021-56963948

Buses: 18, 21, 47, 70, 79, 939

Duolunlu in Hongkou District is an ancient street of Shanghai. It was home in the early 1900s to a number of famous writers like Lu Xun, Mao Dun, and Ding Ling. While developing it as a cultural street, the advertising slogan puts it "One Stretch of Duolunlu--One Hundred Years of Shanghai History." It is here that Guo Chunheng's Old Shanghai Nostalgia Collection is located.

Initially the collection first concentrated on newspapers, and Mr. Guo collected more than 2,500 types of newspapers

Old Shanghai cigarette advertising posters





The interior of the collection

established during the period of late Qing Dynasty and early Republic of China period, including *Shenbao* (established in 1872), *Hubao* (established in 1882), and *Xinwenbao* (established in 1894).

Perhaps due to his overall affection for those times, Mr. Guo expanded his collecting beyond newspapers to include everyday life items from old Shanghai and established this showcase for his collection.

Inside is a vast variety of things relating to the way of life in bygone Shanghai. One wall is hung with clinging *qipao* dress-

Old Shanghai radio console and vintage heater



Private Collections



Old Shanghai biscuit tins, thermos flasks, cigar boxes, cigarette tins, and old Shanghai house numbers.

es, robes and hats; on another hang old Shanghai cigarette advertising posters of different sizes. The cupboards are filled with coffee pots, knives, forks, spoons and foreign wine bottles of the British and French Concession period. In corners are old hand-operated phonographs, radio consoles, and a kerosene heater of the Republic of China period. On a rack are biscuit tins, cigar boxes and cigarette tins. Next to the rack

is a fishing pole of the Republic of China period. Alongside these objects, movie stars of old Shanghai smile winsomely from black-and-white photographs...

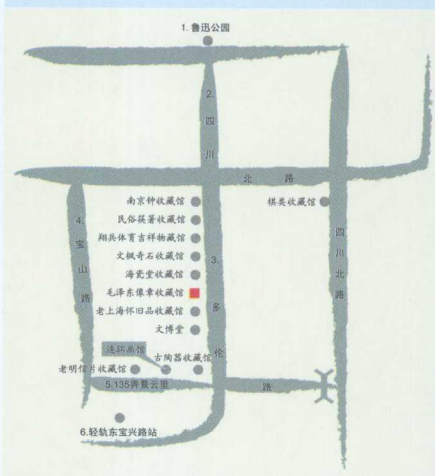
Then there is a batch of Cultural Revolution objects, a legacy of that unique period of history. Being surrounded by Little Red Books and bowls printed with Chairman Mao quotations, Red Guard caps and backpacks, rebel faction arm-bands and scripts and pictures from the Eight Revolutionary Operas is like returning to those unstable times.

A treasure trove of collections



Mao Zedong Badge Collection

毛泽东像章收藏馆



1. Lu Xun Park
2. Sichuanbei Road
3. Duolun Road
4. Baoshan Road
5. 135 Alley, Jingyunli
6. Dongbaoxing Light Rail Station

Owner: Huang Miaoxin 黄淼鑫
 Contents: 11,000-plus items
 Established: October 1999
 Address: 183 Duolunlu Cultural Street 多伦路文化街183号
 Tel: 13916548343
 Buses: 18, 21, 47, 70, 79, 939

Mao Zedong badges are a unique product of the 1960s, itself a unique period in Chinese history. This period was unprecedented for the number of factories producing Mao Zedong badges, for the multiplicity of types and designs and for the countless numbers of badge-wearers. However, as that period receded in time, gradually the badges

The interior of the collection



The Chinese character *cang* (meaning "to collect") made up of Mao Zedong badges.

