

# Xinye Village

By An Xu (安旭)

## An Ideal Sample of Clan Politics

Translated By: Xu Chenggang  
Luo Qingshi  
Huang Zhi xin  
Xiao Han  
Zhu Xinzi

翻译 徐成钢 罗青石 黄之芯  
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## PREFACE

In the recent years, many books regarding ancient villages have been published and well sold. This is a very good thing and this phenomena also elaborates people nowadays who are interested in ancient villages. I am an architect and I have worked in the field of city planning and designing for over 40 years. I love my career very much, and I have visited and studied many villages at home and abroad. The total number is no less than 300. There are no two indertical leaves. I dare to say that it is impossible to find two villages which are completely the same. Every ancient village has its own characteristics. Some are at the foot of mountains; some are near rivers, some are among valleys. Every village is well built. The scenery of the villages is very beautiful. When entering into these villages, we will wonder at the broad and profound of the architectural culture. We will also wonder at the local vegetables and wine. We will show great respect to the local people. These villages are very amazing.

However, the works published before Reform and Opening Up mainly described the structures of these amazing villages. The structure and size of the architectures are technical instruction and analysis. Professor Chen Zhihua from Qinghua University led a group of members to do many surveys and investigations on the ancient villages. He studied the history and culture of these villages and won

unanimous applause. It is a pity that the works published in recent years are mainly pictures with few words; they are more like "picture-story books". Some works are lack of evidence and they make wrong conclusions. For this reason, I called my tutor to consult this phenomenon and he answered this phenomenon was caused by flippancy, utility and profit.

"*History of Xinye Village in Jiande of Zhejiang*" written by An Xu, Liu Liangyong, Tao Lianzhen includes the content of technology development, deep research of history and wide national culture. The three authors are all very young, who teach in the Urban Planning Department of Zhejiang Normal University. In the materialistic age, it is admirable that they can calm down to write such a detailed book. Especially for An Xu, he has a good knowledge in the field of astronomy and geography. Although there is a few mistakes in some chapters, the book is very good in general. I recommend it to wide readers.

Hereby prefaced!

范金域

23th June 2010

In Jinhua

## 译者序

本人为浙江师范大学美术学院设计学系教师,视觉传达设计专业。从2009年开始从事农村景观文化的研究和设计事务,在6年多的农村景观文化项目研究和实施过程中,深知梳理和挖掘村落文化的重要性。

I am a teacher majored in visual communication design in the College of Fine Arts, Zhejiang Normal University. From 2009, I started to study the rural landscape culture and over the 6 years of studying and implementing the rural landscape cultural project, I found the importance of exploring the rural culture.

在2014年底,因为项目合作的机会认识了安旭老师,也有幸拜读了安老师的大作《宗族政治的理想标本——新叶村》。此书不仅具有古村落民俗文化的广度拓展,还具有古村落历史人文的深度挖掘,为我们团队的农村景观文化研究开拓了新的视野,也指明了新的思路。

I met Mr. An in 2014 in a project cooperation and had the chance reading the book written by Mr. An *The Xinye Village — An Idea Sample of Clan Politics*. This book expands the knowledge in the field of ancient village folk culture and it also deeply explores historic culture of the ancient villages, and it broadens our eyes and know better of the rural landscape culture.

团队里的同事均为安老师几年如一日的潜心研究精神所折服,几位志同道合的同事决定合力将此书翻译成英文,希望将来在我们出国交流学习时能够把安老师的大作带给热爱中国传统文化的国外研究者和设计师,把中国的文化发扬光大。

The members of the team and all the colleagues were so touched by the work done by Mr. An that we decided to translate this book into English, hoping that this book could be delivered to researchers and designers that interested in Chinese traditional culture when we have the chance to go abroad. We believe that Chinese culture could

be well spread somehow by this book.

在本次翻译工作中分工如下：徐成钢同志翻译了本书洪铁城同志的序言，同时翻译本书正文的第 01 页到第 50 页；罗青石同志翻译本书正文第 51 页到第 101 页；肖寒同志翻译本书正文第 102 页到第 156 页；黄之芯同志翻译本书正文第 157 页到第 210 页；朱欣子同志翻译本书正文第 211 页到第 262 页，以及本书后记。翻译小组分工明确，通力合作，每个小组成员都至少完成了五万汉字的翻译量，并且按时保量地完成了本次翻译工作。又经过多次修改校正，可能仍有疏漏之处，请读者见谅。

During this translation work, everyone made a contribution: XuChenggang translated Hong Tiecheng and he also translated the book from page 01 to page 50. Luo Qingshi translated the body part from 51 page to 101 page, Xiao Han translated the body part from 102 page to 156 page, Huang Zhixin translated the body part from 157 page to 210 page and Zhu Xinzi translated the body part from 211 page to 262 page, including the Postscript and the Appendix. The translation team made a specific division of labor and through the diligent cooperation; everyone at least completed a translation work of 50,000 words, making this job done in due time and good quality. Though correction was made for many times, the omission might exist still needs your tolerance.





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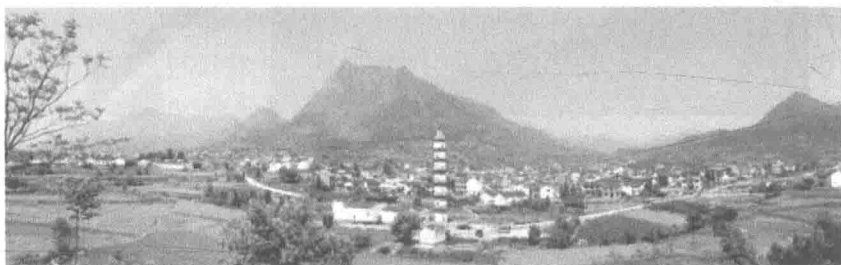
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Flowing water washes the sands without stop,  
fetch a spoon of water



Panorama of Xinye Village

I was born and grown in North of China. If not for the chance, the ancient villages in Jiangnan even will not appear in my dream. When I study Xinye Village, there may be some northern atmosphere since I am grown in North of China.

In 2005, when I came to Xinye Village for the first time, we encountered the heavy rain. We were led by the Villagers to Shuangmeitang. Therefore, the first impression on Xinye Village is that the people live in yards and patio yards. In the rain, I found the difference between them, maybe it was my feeling. Patio yard is not bright and is a good place for people in bad and sad mood. But in the yard, there are pumpkin vines and luffa vines, round wells, the wells are the "fridge" for Xinye Villagers. In summer, people hang the leftovers in the well. They also hang the watermelon and beer to ice in the well. The yards are good places to obtain happiness.

The paths in Xinye Village are narrow and twist with high walls at both sides. When you enter into any old house, there is a flavor of



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wood. Although the house may not be very old, the impression of its history will appear in the visitors.



White-washed houses in Xinye Village

Xinye Village lies in the mountain area, and the water there is relatively less. While in fact it doesn't lack of water, but the shortage of water is caused by the contest between water and residents. The villagers' living habits are changed and a lot of water is destroyed by their action. It happened to rain every time when we visited Xinye Village just like an arrangement by the God. We walked in the rain and felt the Village seemed separate from the noisy world.

"In the late Spring of March, flowers and grass are in full blossom, the trees turn green and birds fly freedom in the sky", this poem written by Du Mu describes the spring scenery in Jiangnan. This scenery described in this poem make us daydream the beautiful Jiangnan. This is the beautiful view of Xinye Village. When people were in the drizzle, they feel very peaceful. Xinye Village is a mysterious place and it made me think all about its history. Jiangnan may be a dream for everyone. The primitive and simple nature and the ancient paths attract many poets and visitors.

I like "Waves wash the sand" written by Liu Yuxi. In order to write the history of Xinye Village, I do some reading, visit and investigation to know more about this Village. This poem arouses my historical feeling—sad or happy. The reminiscence feeling is obvious



among Chinese people. There is a saying “forgetting the past means rebellion”. I know reminiscence means the love to past and dream for future.

I also think reminiscence is a kind of feeling. When people think out the past, they will awe to the history. People will get more reasonable. Jiangnan must be reminiscent place, otherwise why does it always rain in Jiangnan? These rainy days are best for reminiscence.

History needs reminiscence and reminiscence increases history culture. The history of Jiangnan is already deep. Every place is just like a thick history book. It seems that I have obtained some treasure in Jiangnan History. I have predestined relationship with Xinye Village.

To remind the respected readers: the names of “Baixia, Baixiaye, Baixialiye, Xinye Village, Xinye”<sup>①</sup> are all refer to current Xinye Village. The change of the names is only due to the history. The change order is as above.

---

① The name “Baixia” is referred to P86 of “Family Tree of surname, Ye.” And it is also called “Baixia”, Baixia refer to the surname of Bai and Xia. Later, when the surname of Ye came, it referred as “Bai Xia Ye”. Baixia refer to “foot of Baiya Mountain”. “Xinye” is the abbreviation of this Village.

## ■ Chapter I Preserving and Hardworking Life

In the past, Xinye Village belonged to Lanxi<sup>①</sup> County of Zhejiang province<sup>(1)</sup>. In July 1951 it was regulated to Shouchang County, and in November 1958, it was regulated to Jiande County. Jiande county belongs to Hangzhou City. So the complete name is Hangzhou Jiande Xinye Village. To study the history of Xinye, we should investigate the relative history of Lanxi County.



Nantang Night Scenery of Country Marketplace on 3rd March

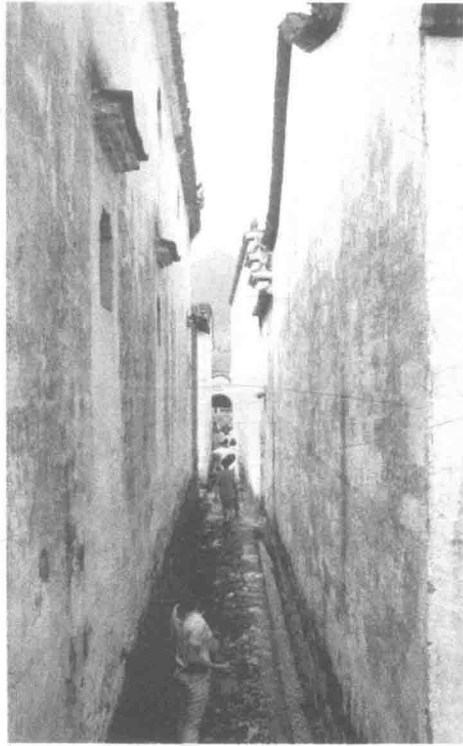
The study of the history of Xinye Village is to research the relationship with all aspects of the Village and villagers. In my opinion, Xinye Villagers in different ages all live a hardworking life.

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<sup>①</sup> Lanxi, is the meet of Sanjiang. Xianheng 5 years in Tang Dynasty (A. D 674) established the county.



It is said that the largest number of people with the surname Ye live in Xinye Village. The Xinye Village has witnessed 700 years' development, and reproduced 29 generations and the population has amounted to more than 3,000. This village is not very rich, but it separates from the noisy world and keeps the tradition very well. What is the strength and motive for them to live such a preserving life?



Path in Xinye Village

The narrow paths and high Matou walls make the blue sky as a continuous belt. The narrow paths look almost the same. You can detect the characteristics of every type of windows and doors. The entrance door has the uniqueness of Zhejiang, narrow and tall. And there are some pictures in black and white.

Some households install short doors out of the entrance door. The short doors turn white caused by worms and rain. The old men in Xinye Village say the direction of the door is very important and it decides the safety of the whole family. They think the door facing northeast is not good. If the door is installed in this direction, the wall must be warded off. If the wall cannot be warded off, they should put up some pictures or mirrors regarding Taichi, tiger head etc. If the door of one house faces to that of another house, both the two families of the family will move the door aside to avoid bad luck.





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The height of the landscape of narrow paths in Xinye Village is different. The constructions and steps are combined closely to save every inch of land.

The overall construction of Xinye Village is well-arranged. Several cobble stone roads connect the whole village. The size of the cobble stones is suitable. The decorative effect is very strong. These cobble stones are polished by the Villagers and they are very glittering on rainy days. The overall structure or the single structure absorbs the thinking of “combining Yinyang in respectful order”.

The marked tower lies in the low-lying land and was constructed in WanLI period In Ming Dynasty. One of the reasons is to make up the shortage of the low-lying land in Xinye Village. The high tower embodies culture and it is the expectation of the Villages, and enjoys the culture value of the tower. Therefore the name of the tower is “Tuanyunta”, means high and straight in the sky. There is a place named Wenchangge for people to consecrate and meet friends. But now it becomes a temple for people to consecrate multiple Gods, including Buddha, Three saints in Xinye Village, 18 arhats in Buddhism. The high Tuanyun tower is stably connected with Wenchangge, which makes the view nice and harmonious.