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Forward

My first trip to China was in the spring of 1986. I was living and working above a donut shop in Ballard, a Scandinavian neighborhood in Seattle, Washington. This is where I had my photography and graphic design studio and was doing work for Seattle area theatre companies and some advertising agencies. I had a habit that every few years I would pack it all up, take off traveling, end up living in another country for a while and then return to Seattle. Over the last several years I had lived in Holland, Spain, Mexico and Japan, with sojourns to many other countries.

Well, I figured it was about time for another trip and I put together an itinerary. I would fly to Tokyo where I could visit some old friends and see some of the old haunts. Then I would continue on to Hong Kong, a place I'd never had the chance to visit before. From there I would try to get into what we used to call Communist China for a short visit, just to see what that was like. After China I would travel to Malaysia and then on to Indonesia where I planned to find a place to stay in Bali and enjoy the Balinese lifestyle for a while before returning to Seattle.

So I had my usual moving sale, stored things where I could and I was on the road again. The trip went as planned until I got to Hong Kong and some friends told me about a ship that left every week and sailed up the China Sea to Shanghai. They said this would be more interesting than visiting the Canton area of China near Hong Kong and I could still do it with a short visa. I was able to get the Chinese visa and one morning I embarked on the proverbial "Slow boat to China".

When I got to Shanghai I found space in a dormitory on the waterfront next to the Seaman's Club where I could stay for a couple dollars a night. Today there are multi-million dollar condos in this same location.

I saw the sights of Shanghai and also traveled to the fantastic cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou where I had a great time. There's a Chinese saying, "Heaven above, Suzhou and Hangzhou below". By this time I had decided that I needed to stay longer and see more of this amazing country. First I needed to get to Beijing where I would try to get a longer visa so I could do some more extensive traveling. In a few days I was on an overnight train to Beijing where I managed to get a new visa and was ready to continue my adventure.

In those days there didn't seem to be much in the way of travel or guide books on China, so I mostly relied on the information that I would get from other independent travelers. There weren't many other tourists in China at that time but I did meet the occasional American and sometimes someone from Northern Europe who had taken the Trans-Siberian Railway to China. I heard a lot of good things about Inner Mongolia, a place that had always sounded intriguing to me, so I headed north.

After a wonderful stay in Mongolia I started to just wander south across China and let my instincts and the advise of the people that I met be my guide. This turned out to be a fantastic trip traveling by train, plane, bus, boat and barge and eventually ending up in Chengdu in Sichuan province. In Chengdu I met some students from Sweden who had just returned from Tibet and told me that it was not to be missed. So a few days later I was on board an old Boeing 707 headed to Lhasa, Tibet.

I spent a few weeks traveling in Tibet, which was quite an adventure. After I returned to Chengdu I headed further south making it to the southern border of

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China next to Laos in the Xishuangbanna region of Yunnan province. I had made it from the northern border to the southern border of China and had seen many amazing things and met lots of wonderful people along the way.

I eventually returned to Hong Kong and continued my traverse of Asia, stopping in Malaysia and then on to the beautiful country of Indonesia where I found a place to stay with a family of Balinese dancers in the town of Ubud.

When I finally got back to Seattle I moved into a house on the beach in West Seattle and one day at the local tennis court I met a young woman named Vicki Xiong from Shanghai. We played tennis, we dated and a year later we got married. In the last 23 years we've been back to China several times to see her family and take side trips around China. Our son, who is 13 years old now has been to China many times, loves traveling there and is currently studying Chinese at Lakeside Middle School.

I want to thank all the wonderful people who made this book possible. It was a real pleasure taking these photographs and putting this book together and I hope you enjoy it.

Technical Information

In the 1980's I photographed in China with a Nikon F, 35mm camera and a Hasselblad 6x6 camera. In the 1990's I added a Fuji 6x9 camera to my equipment. In the 2000's I started using a Nikon 35mm digital camera.

我第一次去中国是在1986年的春天。我曾经住在西雅图的Ballard地区,那里住着许多北欧人。我有自己的设计室和摄影室,和几家广告公司合作,为西雅图的剧院设计、摄影。我养成一个习惯,每隔几年我会到世界各地旅游,然后返回西雅图。我曾在荷兰、西班牙、墨西哥、日本居住过,也访问了许多国家。

那次去亚洲,我先去了日本,访问了几个老朋友后飞至香港。这是我第一次去香港,并计划去中国大陆作短期访问,然后再去马来西亚、印尼、准备在巴里岛住一段时间后返回西雅图。

我整理完西雅图的事情就上路了。根据计划一切顺利。但到达香港后,一些朋友告诉我,每星期都有船从香港去上海,比去广东有意思,可以申请短期签证。这样我上了"慢船去中国":"Slow Boat to China",这是英文俗语。我到达上海后,找到了一家简易旅馆,在外滩海员俱乐部那里。那时我付2美元一个晚上,现在那里都是几百万美元的公寓房子。

在上海访问之后,我去了美丽的苏州、杭州。古言"上有天堂,下有苏杭",我决定在中国多住些时间,访问这个神奇的国家。我先得去北京延长签证。几天以后我坐火车去北京,拿到了签证,继续我的中国探险。那时的旅游,没有旅游书帮忙指点,我都是从其他旅游者那里得到消息。那时没有太多的旅游者,有时偶尔能碰见美国人。有时北欧人坐西伯利亚火车来中国,他们告诉我内蒙古是令人惊奇的地方。我向北方行

动,从内蒙古我又向南方行动,没有具体的目标,愿哪儿停下就停下,结果这是终生难忘的旅程,坐过火车、飞机、公共汽车和船。在成都我遇到了一些瑞典学生,他们刚从西藏回来,告诉我一定得去西藏。几天以后我坐了飞机去西藏。

我在西藏游了几个星期,有许多次探险。回到成都后,我继续南行到了与缅甸交界的云南西双版纳。我在中国从北到南,经历了前所未有的惊异,遇到了许许多多善良的好人。几个月后我返回香港,继续东南亚之行,去了马来西亚与印尼,住在巴里岛的小镇Ubud。

当我返回西雅图之后,住进了西雅图西面的海边房子。一天,在西雅图的网球场上,我碰见了一个从上海来的女孩熊伟华。我们一起打网球、约会,一年以后我们就结婚了。在这20多年里,我们经常返回中国探亲访友,并去其他许多地方旅游。我们13岁的儿子也多次去过中国,他很喜欢去中国旅游,现在努力学习中文,在西雅图著名的Lakeside School 上学。

我非常感谢许多热情善良的人促使这本书出版。能够收集到这些相片是我的荣幸,希望此书能让我们共享人生美妙的一刻。

照相机和技术信息

- 1980年代 我用Nikon F 35mm的相机 和Hasselblad 6×6 相机.
- 1990年代, 我加了Fuji 6×9相机;
- 2000年代,我开始用Nikon 35mm数码照相机。

1980年代——

1990年代——

2000年代----







1980年代——

My first visit to the art school in Hangzhou was in 1986 and I took this photo of some students in their studio. It was a very exciting time to be here and I felt like I was witnessing the rebirth of Chinese art. I like this photo because the sketches become part of the group and tell you a lot about these artists.

1986年,我第一次访问杭州,在浙江美术学院学生寝室照了这张相。令人感动的是,我亲眼看到中国文化艺术的再生,这张照片是系列照的一部分,反映中国的艺术家。



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While I was photographing a performance of Shaoxing Opera, I focused my camera on the audience for a few frames. The little theatre was packed with many families and although they often talk during the show they loved the production.

一次看绍兴戏时,我照了几张观众的相。小小的剧院坐了许多人,他们 在看戏时经常交谈,看得出观众很喜欢台上的表演。



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I met this happy woman construction worker on a beautiful day in the fields of Inner Mongolia. I really liked her little hat made like a basket.

在内蒙古美丽的草原上,高兴的女建筑工人。我非常喜欢她的竹帽子。



This gentleman and child were watching a performance on an outdoor stage in the countryside of Shaxi province. I like this photograph because it shows how much the Chinese love and adore their children.

在山西农村,这位男士和孩子在看露天表演。我喜欢这张照片,它表现了中国人是多么爱他们的孩子。

I've always liked pictures that show great parent and child relationships. This photograph was taken at a park in Shanghai and I especially like the positioning of the woman's hands. She's letting him slide but is ready in case he falls.

我总是很喜欢表现父母和孩子亲情的照片。这张照片摄于上海的公园, 我特别喜欢那妇女双手的位置,既放手让孩子下滑,又随时保护着,以 防意外。





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