

英语文摘

Reader's
Digest

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Reader's Digest

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A Brave, New Tangshan

郑沁国 选注

Tangshan is a city in North China well-known throughout the country for its long history of industrial development and solid industrial foundation. But the sudden earthquake on July 28, 1976, destroyed the city of one million. In a few moments, almost all the buildings collapsed. The communication, transport, water and power supply systems were completely damaged and production brought to a standstill.¹ In the city proper 148,000 were killed, 80,000 badly injured, 2,200 left paralyzed for the rest of their lives and 2,600 teenagers orphaned.²

Since then the people in Tangshan have made great progress in rebuilding the city under the care and leadership of the Party and Government and with support from all parts of the country. Ten years have gone by and today the city's post-quake reconstruction³ has basically been finished and a new Tangshan has risen in China.

The large-scale reconstruction started in the latter half of 1979. By the end of this June 1.8 million square metres floor space⁴ in buildings had been completed, of which nearly two-thirds are for housing. So by the end of 1984, some 163,000 earthquake-stricken households⁵ had all moved into newly-built homes. Besides, housing problems of newly-formed families after the quake have also

been basically solved. So far 225,000 households have new homes. The newly-built city proper consists of five districts. Lunan, Lubei, Tongkuang, Kaiping and Xinqu. It covers 1,090 square kilometre and has a population of 1.385 million. The initial size of a new modern city has been formed.⁶

Compared with the old city, the new Tangshan has the following advantages:

Anti-seismic capacity⁷ has been greatly enlarged;

The overall city planning has become rationalized;⁸

The city proper has been scientifically divided into districts of different social functions;

Streets and highways are wider now for transport;

The environment has become more beautiful and pollution has been reduced.

Today, 10 years after the earthquake, if you climb the top of the Fenghuang (Phoenix) Hill at the city centre, you will see blocks of new flats dotted⁹ with commercial networks¹⁰ and lines of green and fresh trees.

The July 28 earthquake destroyed Tangshan's industry. It also brought with it, however, an opportunity for industrial renovation and rebirth.¹¹ One year after the quake all the city and district enterprises resumed production, some of these even exceeded their pre-quake levels.¹² While the old enterprises were under repair, several large-sized, more modern new ones went into operation one after another. The largest coal-washing plant in the Asian and Pacific region — the Kailuan Fangezhuang Mine Coal-Washing Plant, the largest cement enterprises in the country — Jidong Cement Plant, and the largest thermal

power plant in North China — Douhe Power Plant, are all located in the new city.

Industries of steel, coal, power and building materials have become the city's chief enterprises, which play a leading role¹³ in the economic life of Hebei Province and even in North China. Last year saw a 4.108 billion *yuan* of industrial and agricultural output, an increase by 66 per cent over the pre-quake figure.

The end of the post-quake reconstruction and initial economic development have created a favourable condition for the city's economic future. It may be said Tangshan has stepped into a new stage of "Ten-Year Revitalization"¹⁴ from the previous ten years' reconstruction. The goal for Tangshan to reach is: to strive for 10 billion *yuan* in overall output of industry and agricultures in 1988 and 10 billion *yuan* output for industry alone in 1990.

In the coming years, Tangshan will have a even newer look and its economy will be more advanced.

(From *China Daily*, July 24, 1986)

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1. brought to a standstill: 停顿下来。
 2. orphaned: 成为孤儿。
 3. post-quake reconstruction: 震后的重建。
 4. floor space: 楼面面积。
 5. earthquake-stricken households: 遭受地震破坏的家庭。
 6. The initial ... formed: 一个初具规模的新型的现代化城市已经形成。
 7. anti-seismic capacity: 抗震力。
 8. The overall ... rationalized: 整个城市规划已变得合理化了。
 9. dotted: 星罗棋布。
 10. commercial networks: 商业网点。
 11. industrial renovation and rebirth: 工业的恢复与再生。
 12. pre-quake levels: 震前水平。
 13. play a leading role: 起主导作用。
 14. Ten-Year Revitalization: 十年复兴规划。



外国人看中国

China's City of Artful Gardens

Christopher S. Wren

沈安平 选注

A garden is a garden except in China, where it has been refined into an art from over more than 2,000 years¹. Western gardens, with their tidy rows of flowers or vegetables, hold little fascination for the Chinese². Grassy lawns are deemed³ best fit for grazing livestock⁴, and spraying fountains disrupt the concept of water as a medium of tranquility⁵. A Chinese garden employs illusion and discovery to transform available space into a microcosm of the world⁶, not merely as it is but as it should be.

The aesthetics of a Chinese garden rest on four basic ingredients⁷ — water, rocks, plants and buildings. The water is placid, mirroring the surrounding scenery. Rocks echo the grandeur of mountains⁸. Trees and flowers add vitality and variety with the inexorable change of seasons⁹. The pavilions themselves offer perspectives from which to contemplate the deeper harmony of the landscape¹⁰. Embellishments may be added, such as carved bricks, window latticework and calligraphy that enhances the setting with a classical literary allusion.¹¹

The finest private gardens were built in Suzhou, a graceful old city with a network of canals and a cultured ambience¹². It was founded in the sixth century B. C., as the capital of the Kingdom of Wu¹³ and flourished as a center of trade and scholarship under successive dynasties.

When Marco Polo¹⁴ stopped in Suzhou around 1276, he found “a very noble and great city” with 6,000 stone bridges. A few of the bridges remain in what is now a factory town, along with several Sung and Ming dynasty pagodas. But Suzhou is renowned foremost for its gardens, which first appeared 17 centuries ago. Today, fewer than a dozen of them survive.

The secret of enjoying the gardens of Suzhou is to approach them as their owners did, in relative solitude with a mind receptive to every nuance, from the slender stalk of bamboo growing in a corner to the light and shadow playing on a whitewashed wall¹⁵. Such touches, no less than grander vistas, were intended to stimulate the intellect, evoke a snatch of poetry or justify a cup of wine¹⁶.

This may mean visiting when the foliage is not at its height, in spring or autumn. The best gardens lend themselves to every change of season, and are no less lovely when the soft rain has chased the sightseers away. Do not let yourself be hurried through a Chinese garden. The sense of discovery should suffice to encourage you to walk on.

(From *International Herald Tribune*, July 13, 1984)

1. A garden ... than 2,000 years: 在中国园林不只是园林,经过二千多年的精雕细饰,它已成为一门艺术。 2. hold little fascination for the Chinese: 对中国人吸引力甚少。 3. are deemed: 被认为 (=are considered)。 4. grazing livestock: 放牧牲畜。 5. spraying fountains ... a medium of tranquility: 喷泉破坏了水表现平静安宁的作用这一概念。 6. A Chinese garden ... of the world: 中国的园林运用景物的联想与变化(指通过变化观赏角度使游人发现新的景色)来把可用的空间变成一个大千世界的缩影。 7. The aesthetics ... basic

ingredients: 中国园林的魅力基于四个基本因素。 8. Rocks echo the grandeur of mountains: 岩石重现山峦的壮美。 9. Trees and flowers ... change of seasons: 随着四季自然界的的变化,树木和花草使景色生机勃勃,气象万千。 10. The pavilions ... landscape: 亭台楼阁给游人提供各种景象去领略景致的高度和谐。 11. Embellishments may ... allusion: 还可点缀以雕砖、窗格和书法作品,使环境增添一层古色古香的联想。 12. a cultural ambience: 一种崇尚读书的风气。 13. the Kingdom of Wu: 吴国(春秋战国时期)。 14. Marco Polo: 马可·波罗(1254—1324),意大利旅行家。 15. The secret ... whitewashed wall: 欣赏苏州园林的秘诀在于要象园林昔日的主人那样独步园中,留神观察每个细小的景色,从角落里的修篁到粉墙上斑驳陆离的光影。 16. Such touches ... of wine: 这些不起眼的景色跟壮阔的景色一样,也能激起骚人墨客赋诗饮酒之兴。

(上接第22页)

squirmed in private: 要不是在大庭广众,她真会痛苦得扭动身子。 33. she sat ... defiance: 她庄严地坐得笔直,以一种傲慢的挑战神情观看着。 34. to deny ... her discomfited: 以便不让可憎的匡看到她陷于窘境而感到得意。 35. function: 盛大的聚会。 36. He must ... her beauty: 他一定是有点醉,要不怎么会一反往常的沉默,整个晚上都在和她谈笑,夸她的美貌呢? 37. gave a yawn: 打了一个呵欠。 38. with a petulant purse of her lips: 不高兴地撅起嘴。 39. put up with: 忍受。 40. What audacity: 好大的胆子! 41. The sense ... presumption: 对他的胆大放肆产生的愤怒感。 42. the Mandarin Beauty Parlor: 马德林美容院。 43. pay her out: 对她进行报复。 44. impudence: 厚颜无耻。 45. the Dynast: 皇家大酒店。 46. fiancée: 未婚妻。 47. tweak: 捏,拧。 48. flirt with: 调情。 49. mock horror: 假装害怕。 50. a world cruise: 周游世界。



A Tale of Two Cities

缪华伦 选注

狄更斯(Charles Dickens, 1812-1870)是英国批判现实主义文学的重要代表;生于破落小官吏家庭,自幼生活艰苦,当过童工、缮写员和新闻记者,以《匹克威克外传》一举成名;一生著作甚丰,是我国广大读者十分熟悉和热爱的英国作家之一。狄更斯作品的特点是以故事取胜,人物众多,语言平易,笔调幽默辛辣,从人道主义出发,广泛抨击资本主义社会的黑暗丑恶的现实,主张用改良手段变革社会。

《双城记》是狄更斯唯一的长篇历史小说,以法国资产阶级革命为背景,揭露法国封建贵族的残暴,指出革命的不可避免;但小说后半部明显地暴露了作家世界观的弱点,在一定程度上削弱了作品的社会意义。

The early rumbling of the French Revolution was echoing across the English Channel¹. In Paris a lonely old man waited in an attic² for his first meeting with a daughter whom he had not seen since she was a baby. With the aid of Mr. Jarvis Lorry, an agent for the Franco-British banking house of Tellson & Co., the lovely Lucie Manette had been brought to Paris to find her father, imprisoned for eighteen years in the Bastille.³ Above the wine shop of Madame and M. Defarge, Dr. Manette was kept secretly until his rescuers could take him safely back to England.

Day after day Madame Defarge sat outside her wine shop, knitting into a long scarf strange symbols which would later spell out a death list of hated aristocrats⁴.

Five years later Lucie Manette sat beside her father in the courtroom of the Old Bailey, where Charles Darnay, a teacher of languages, was on trial for treasonable activities⁵ which involved his passing between France and England on secret business. A man named John Barsad had brought charges against him. Lucie and her father had testified they had met Darnay on the boat when they had traveled from France five years earlier. But an unusual circumstance saved the prisoner. Mr. Stryver, the prisoner's counsel⁶, pointed across the courtroom to another man who so resembled the prisoner that legal identification of Darnay was shaken⁷. The other man was Sydney Carton, and because of the likeness between the two Mr. Stryver secured an acquittal for⁸ the prisoner. Carton's relationship to Stryver was that of the jackal to the lion⁹, for the alcoholic, aimless Carton¹⁰ wrote the cases which Stryver pleaded in court.

Lucie and her father lived in a small tenement¹¹ under the care of their maid, Miss Pross, and their kindly friend, Mr. Lorry. Jerry Cruncher, porter at Tellson & Co., and a secret resurrectionist¹², was often helpful. Darnay and Carton became frequent callers in the Manette household, after the trial which had brought them together.

In France the fury of the people grew. Monseigneur the Marquis St. Evrémonde¹³, was driving in his carriage through the countryside when he carelessly killed a child

of a peasant named Gaspard. The nobleman returned to his castle to meet his nephew, who was visiting from England¹⁴. Charles Darnay's views differed from those of his uncle. Darnay knew that his family had committed grave injustices, for which he begged his uncle to make amends¹⁵. Monseigneur the marquis haughtily refused. That night the marquis was murdered in his bed.

Darnay returned to England to seek Dr. Manette's permission to court¹⁶ Lucie. In order to construct a bond of complete honesty, Darnay attempted to tell the doctor his true French name, but Manette fearfully asked him to wait until the morning of his marriage before revealing it. Carton also approached Lucie with a proposal of marriage. When Lucie refused, Carton asked her always to remember that there was a man who would give his own life to keep a life she loved beside her.

Meanwhile in France Madame Defarge knitted into her scarf the story of the hated St. Evrémondes. Gaspard had been hanged for the assassination of the marquis; monseigneur's house must be destroyed. John Barsad, the spy, brought news that Lucie Manette would marry Charles Darnay, nephew of the marquis. This news disturbed Defarge, for Dr. Manette, a former prisoner of the Bastille, held a special honor in the eyes of the Revolutionists.

Lucie and Darnay were married. Sydney Carton became a loyal friend of the family. Time passed, and tiny Lucie arrived¹⁷. When the child was six years old, in the year 1789, the French people stormed the Bastille. At the Bastille Defarge went to the cell where Dr. Manette had been a prisoner and extracted¹⁸ some papers hidden

behind a stone in the wall.

One day, while Darnay was talking to Mr. Lorry at Tellson & Co., a letter addressed to the Marquis St. Evrémonte was placed on Mr. Lorry's desk. Darnay offered to deliver it to the proper person. When he was alone, he read the letter. It was from an old family servant who had been imprisoned by the Revolutionists. He begged the Marquis St. Evrémonte to save his life. Darnay realized that he must go to Paris. Only Dr. Manette knew of Darnay's family name, and the doctor had been sworn to secrecy¹⁹.

Darnay and Mr. Lorry went to Paris, the latter to look after the French branch of Tellson & Co. Shortly after his arrival Darnay was seized as an undesirable immigrant²⁰ after Defarge had ordered his arrest. Mr. Lorry was considerably upset when Lucie and Dr. Manette suddenly arrived in Paris. Some of the doctor's friends had informed him of Darnay's arrest. The old man felt that his own imprisonment in the Bastille would win the sympathy of the Revolutionists and enable him to save his son-in-law.

After fifteen months of waiting, Darnay was brought to trial. Able to prove his innocence of harming the French people²¹, he was freed, but forbidden to leave France. A short time later he was again arrested, denounced²² by Defarge and one other person whose name the officer refused to disclose.

While shopping one day in the Paris market, Miss Pross and Jerry Cruncher, who were in Paris with Lucie and Mr. Lorry, met a man who caused Miss Pross to scream in amazement and Jerry to stare in silent astonishment.

The man was Solomon, Miss Pross' lost brother²³. Jerry remembered him as John Barsad, the man who had been a spy-witness²⁴ at the Old Bailey. Carton arrived on the scene²⁵ at that moment, and he was able to force Barsad to come with him to the office of Tellson & Co. for a private conference. Barsad feared detection of his duplicity²⁶ for he was now an employee of the Republican French Government. Carton and Jerry threatened to expose him as a former spy for the English government, the enemy of France. Carton made a deal²⁷ with Barsad.

When Darnay was once more brought before the tribunal²⁸, Defarge testified against him and named Dr. Manette as the other accuser. Defarge produced the papers which he had found in Dr. Manette's cell in the Bastille. Therein the doctor had written the story of his arrest and imprisonment because he had learned of a secret crime committed by a St. Evrémonde against a woman of humble birth²⁹ and her young brother. His account was enough to convict³⁰ Darnay. Sentenced for the crimes of his ancestors, Darnay, the young St. Evrémonde, was condemned by the tribunal to the guillotine³¹.

Now Sydney Carton began to act. He visited the Defarge wine shop, where he learned that Madame Defarge was the sister of the woman ruined by St. Evrémonde years before. Then with the help of the false Barsad, he gained admittance to the prison where Darnay had been taken. There he drugged³² the prisoner and, still aided by the cowed³³ Barsad, had him carried from the cell. Carton remained. The resemblance between the two would allow him to pass as³⁴ Darnay and prevent discovery of the

aristocrat's escape.

Madame Defarge went to the lodgings of Lucie and Dr. Manette to denounce them. Only Miss Pross was there; the others, including Darnay, were already on their way to safety. To keep Madame Defarge from learning of their escape, Miss Pross struggled with the furious woman demanding admittance to Lucie's apartment. Madame Defarge was killed when her pistol went off³⁵. Miss Pross was deaf for the rest of her life.,

Lucy and Darnay returned safely to England. Sydney Carton died at the guillotine, giving his own life for the happiness of his dear friends.

(From *Masterplots* Vol. 11)

1. The early ... Channel: 法国革命初期的隆隆声正在英吉利海峡彼岸轰鸣。 2. attic: 阁楼。 3. the Bastille: 巴士底狱。 4. knitting into ... aristocrats: 在一条长围巾里织入一些奇特的符号, 它们后来拼成了一张要被处死的、令人憎恨的贵族的名单。 5. was on trial ... activities: 以叛国活动受审讯。 6. the prisoner's counsel: 犯人的辩护律师。 7. legal identification ... shaken: 对 Darnay 的法律证明发生了动摇。 8. secured an acquittal for: 宣判某人无罪。 9. Carton's relationship ... the lion: Carton 与 Stryver 的关系是豹与狮的关系(即帮凶或为虎作伥之意, 但在此处不含贬义)。 10. the alcoholic, aimless Carton: 贪杯而无生活目标的 Carton。 11. tenement: 寓所。 12. resurrectionist: 盗尸者。 13. Monseigneur the Marquis St. Evrémonte: St. Evrémonte 侯爵阁下。 14. who was visiting from England: 他从英国来访。 15. make amends: 赎罪。 16. court: 求婚。 17. and tiny Lucie arrived: 小 Lucie 诞生了。 18. extract: 挖出。 19. the doctor ... secrecy: 叫医生誓必保密。 20. an undesirable immigrant: 不受欢迎的移民。 21. Able to prove ... people: 由于能够证明自己并没有危害法国人民。 22. denounced: 被告发。 23. lost brother: 失踪的兄弟。 24. spy-witness: 密探证人。 25. arrived on the scene: 来到现场。 26. duplicity: 欺诈; 表里不一。 27. deal: 交易。 28. tribunal: 法庭。 29. of humble birth: 出身寒微。 30. convict: 宣判有罪。 31. was condemned ... guillotine: 被法庭判处上断头台。 32. drug: 使服麻醉药。 33. cowed: 被吓住的。 34. to pass as: 冒充。 35. went off: (枪)发射。

The Marriage

〔新加坡〕 CATHERINE LIM

许文龙 选注

凯瑟琳·利姆是新加坡当代著名女作家。这篇小说从一个侧面反映了在新加坡现代社会中，年青人对婚姻的看法，具有一定的认识价值。本文语言优美，形象生动，是作者众多短篇小说中的一篇佳作。

IT was astonishing—the difference between the public image and the private one. In public he looked so dignified, so respectable, so striking in his impeccably tailored suit¹, his gray hair combed smoothly back from his forehead, his aged face commanding respect², his heavy-lidded eyes giving an impression of oriental wisdom³, so that she could look at him and love him as her husband. She particularly liked it when he came out of his office in the black marbled building and was escorted to his silver Mercedes 600⁴—one of the few in Singapore.

But in private—oh, in private he was intolerable—and Helen's lips trembled in vexed distress⁵. In private he took out his false teeth so that the firmness round his mouth collapsed inwards into a hideous pattern of wrinkles⁶, and he looked even older than his sixty-five years, he put on an old singlet⁷ and loose cotton briefs⁸, so that the brown sagging muscles crisscrossed by green veins on his arms