

or any respectable human being is really demanding much more than what the American public is willing to give. Not that the extension of social equality would ruin American business, but that it would hurt their racial pride. It is almost impossible for the average American not to cherish the fond belief that in one way or another he is not superior to all Chinese.

However, the causes of racial antipathy are not quite as important as the practical problems involved. Whatever be the origins of American prejudice toward the Chinese, the question of the adjustment of the relations of the Chinese people in American society is one which cannot be profitably laid aside for leisurely research. There is undoubtedly much room for self-improvement on the part of

the Chinese themselves. The acquisition of such habits of living as are required in American society, the breaking-up of Chinese seclusiveness, the mastery of the American language, and a more aggressive cultivation of friendly contacts with the American people are a few of the possible contributions which the Chinese in America can make toward better mutual understanding. Those of us who have enjoyed American hospitality and good-will in more ways than one and who have formed close friendship with many individual Americans, may not doubt the possibility that a nation dedicated to lofty ideals will gradually arrive at a stage when its agencies of public education will do their efficient part to combat the influences that mar the reputation of a great people.

Recent English Books On China

By YIH CHANG-MENG (易常孟)

EVER since 1930, there has been quite a vogue, in England and America, of books on China. The reasons for this are not far to seek. First of all, the development of sinology in the West, as represented by the works of such men as Karlgren, Granet, Anderson, Grousset and others, have whetted the appetite of the Western reading public for China and things Chinese. These men have shown that there is a vast field to be explored in Chinese civilization, which can be made as fascinating a study as Egyptology or the classical lore of Greece and Rome. The researches of these men have been made the basis of many books on China published in the recent years. Secondly, the Sino-Japanese conflict has also been an immediate cause of Western interest in the Far East. The problems faced by modern China are seen by Westerners as problems which are of great concern to the world. They have begun to realize that the Far East is by no means as isolated from the West as they had been in the habit of thinking. And for this reason, publicists in England and America have turned their attention to the study of China and Japan, because they have come to the realization that whatever happens in these two countries will undoubtedly have its repercussions felt throughout the world. Not only have many books on the Far Eastern political situation been published since the eventful year when Manchuria was occupied by the Japanese, but many articles have also been written on the Sino-Japanese situation in various magazines in England and America ever since 1931, when the troubles between these two countries first started. The third reason for the popularity of books on China in the English-speaking countries is purely an accidental one. It is due to the enormous success of the novels on Chinese life by Mrs. Pearl S. Buck. Quite a few novels of like nature had appeared before, but none has had such a good sale and circulation as Mrs. Buck's trilogy consisting of *Good Earth*, *Sons and House Divided*. Since 1934, too, when Mr. S. I. Hsiung's translation of the Chinese drama *Lady Precious Stream* made its appearance on the London

stage, people in England and America, who had hitherto no knowledge of Chinese drama in particular and Chinese civilization in general, have also been attracted by Mr. Hsiung's masterpiece to make China dramas a subject of their study. In fact, discerning students in the West had already noticed that a good deal of resemblance is to be found between the conventions of Chinese and those of the Elizabethan stage. Such a discovery is bound to make the Westerners feel that in many ways China is akin to them and also to arouse their interest in the civilization of this country. Fourthly and finally, the Chinese Art Exhibition at Burlington House is instrumental in bringing the civilization of China closer to the attention of the English-speaking peoples and to awaken them to the importance of China in the world of fine arts. The Exhibition, however, has not only stirred up Western interest in Chinese art alone; it has also created an interest in England and America in Chinese civilization as a whole. It has not only led to the publication of many volumes on Chinese art, but it has also provided an occasion for many books on Chinese history, civilization, philosophy and other cultural subjects.

These then are the reasons for the recent vogue of Chinese books in England and America. Let us then examine the characteristics of these publications. First, it may be laid down as a general rule that the books on China which have been published in the past five years are more accurate and scholarly than many which appeared before. This, of course, is due to the fact that the writers have been benefited by the researches of the sinologues. One may mention, for instance, Professor Latourette's book on Chinese history and Professor Cressy's book on Chinese geography, which, both in substance and treatment, are as excellent as could be expected. Latourette's book in particular is noteworthy. Unlike many writers on Chinese history, he is very critical, especially in connection with the history of the pre-Ch'in times. In fact, his is a book that we can recommend almost without reservation to all those who

wish to get a bird's eye view of the history and civilization of the Chinese people. It is concise yet comprehensive; it includes chapters on such topics as Chinese economic life and organization, religion, art, language, literature and education, matters not usually found in histories of that sort.

Another sign indicating that Western scholarship on Chinese culture and civilization has become more and more accurate, is the appearance of many monographs and studies on specific problems of Chinese culture and civilization. A random list of these is hereby given. First come the learned treatises by the Swedish sinologue Dr. Karlgren, such as *The Authenticity of Ancient Chinese Texts*, *On the Authenticity and Nature of the Tso Chuan*, *The Early History of the Chou Li and Tso Chuan Texts*, and *Some Fecundity Symbols In Ancient China*. Another Swede, Dr. Andersen, is also famous for his study of ancient Chinese culture, especially the culture of prehistoric times. The comparatively well known monographs by Andersen are: *An Early Chinese Culture*, *On Symbolism in the Pre-Historic Painted Ceramics of China*, and *Preliminary Report on Archaeological Research in Kansu*. The works of the French scholar, Marcel Granet, have also been translated into English. Two books of his, *Dances and Legends in Ancient China* and *Festivals and Songs in Ancient China*, especially deserve the notice of students on Chinese culture. Among English scholars, Mr. Fitzgerald has done some excellent work in Chinese history, as witnessed by his biography of Tang Tai-tsung, called *The Son of Heaven*. Mr. I. A. Richards, who is not a professional sinologue, has also written a most interesting study on Mencius. In America two books have recently appeared which are praiseworthy, namely Professor Carroll Brown Malone's *History of the Peking Summer Palaces under the Ch'ing Dynasty* and Professor Goodrich's *The Literary Inquisition of Ch'ien Lung*.

The second point to be noticed about the books on China published in the last five years in England and America is that many of them deal with current Chinese problems. Of these, we wish especially to recommend to the attention of readers the following: Holcomb: *the Chinese Revolution*, Willoughby: *The Sino-Japanese Controversy and the League of Nations*, and Lyon Sharman: *Sun Yat-sen: A Biography*. Aside from the above, many travel books written in lighter vein also make excellent reading. There is Peter Flemming's *One's Own Company* and G. J. Yorke's *China Changes*, both of which are written by journalists who have spent some time in this country. One of the services done by Flemming and Yorke is to make the Westerners appreciate that the Chinese are, after all, as human as themselves. In that particular, their books are just as valuable as those of Mrs. Buck, whose greatest merit is that she has introduced the West to the real life of the Chinese people.

The third interesting fact about recent books on China in the English language is that many of them are in the form of novels. We have already mentioned Mrs. Buck's trilogy. Besides Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Hobart has also achieved renown by her *Oil for the Lamps of China*.

Translations of Chinese novels, too, are quite the fashion at the present moment, and the fashion may be said to have been started by Mrs. Buck with her version of *Sui Hu*, which has been renamed *All Men Are Brothers*.

Many translations of serious works have also recently appeared in the English-speaking countries. One may mention for instance Evan Morgan's translation of *Huai Nan Hung Lieh*, Arthur Waley's translation of *Tao Te Ching*, and Williamson's translation of the writings of the famous Sung statesman, *Wang An Shih*. Notable translations of Chinese classics from the pen of Chinese scholars themselves have also made their appearance in recent years, for example, *Motzu* by W. P. Mei, which is included in the Oriental Series of Probsthain, and *Chuangtzu* by Feng Yu-lang, which is published by The Commercial Press.

The fourth characteristic of the recent publications on China is that we are beginning to have Chinese scholars and literary men explaining their country to the West. Books such as the *Chinese Renaissance* by Dr. Hu Shih, and *My Country and My People* by Dr. Lin Yutang, have created such a favorable impression abroad that people are already demanding more of the same character. The publication of *The Chinese Year Book*, which is edited by Mr. C. S. Kwei, has also supplied a long-felt need and should prove to be a boon to all those who wish to get information about this country. We feel certain too that in the near future many Chinese will follow in the lead of Dr. Hu and Dr. Lin, and publish their books in the English language.

Finally, the Burlington Art Exhibition has been the occasion for the publication of many books on Chinese art. A list of them may be given as follows:—Silcock: *Introduction to Chinese Art*, Hugh Gordon Porteus: *The Background of Chinese Art*, Leigh Ashton and Basil Grey: *Chinese Art*, Soame Jenyns: *The Background to Chinese Painting*, and Chiang Yee: *The Chinese Eye*. Judging from reviews in the English magazines, Mr. Chiang's book has especially enjoyed a good deal of popularity, which it undoubtedly deserves. Mr. Silcock's book has also been well recommended, not only because it serves as a handy guide to Chinese art, but also because of its sound scholarship and criticism.

中國評論週報

南京分銷處

南京下關

汪宸記報社

電話四一八一二