

My first thoughts about China as a possible subject for publication were much ^{quite} more ambitious ^{but} than were ultimately reduced ~~to~~ by the restraints of historic events (to realizable objectives). In discussion with my son, Jonathan, a scholar of Chinese and Oriental history, I suggested that the most apposite ^{historical} approach to China ^W should be ~~xxxxxxxroute~~ to follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo. The route would begin in Turkey, cross ^{Iran} ~~Persia~~ into Afghanistan, ^h ~~from which it would~~ ^{and from there} enter China through the Afghan corridor north of Pakistan. It was a romantic, adventurous proposal, fraught with difficulties, but not particularly original; ^{it} ~~that~~ had been attempted by a party that, with persistent effort, managed to reach the Chinese border by this route but was not admitted to China. This approach to China, (however), became impractical ^{after} with the overthrow of the Shah of ^{Iran} ~~Persia~~ and the invasion of Afghanistan by Russia.

A more direct ^{route} way ~~to go~~ to China was ^{We} ~~next~~ ^{to organize} tried through diplomatic channels. Jonathan applied ~~for~~ permission to visit China (to the Chinese Embassy in Canada). China was then under the rule of Mao Tse Tung ^{and was not} ~~with~~ before ^{yet recognized} ~~Recognition by~~ ~~xxxx~~ the United States. No reply was received, but after Mao's death ^{and} the establishment of diplomatic relations ^{with the U.S.} Jonathan applied again, and following a ^{third} ~~third~~ application, ^{was made} in which he ^{said} ~~described~~ ^{that} the purpose of the visit was to photograph the Chinese landscape and historic monuments. ^{Finally} (In April, 1979) he ^{Xinhua} ~~received~~ a reply from the ~~Shingua~~ news agency in Peking ^{saying} that his group would be welcomed in China for seven ^{shortness of the time because of} weeks ~~xxx~~ in June. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Because of ^{a tight schedule} ~~the short notice~~ and previous academic obligations at the University of New Mexico, where Jonathan was a professor ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the history department, he requested postponment ^{until} ~~to~~ 1980, which was granted.

The agreement with the ^{Xinhua} ~~Shingua~~ News Agency ^{included} ~~was for~~ guides, transportation and accommodations for which we would pay the costs. There were four of us ~~including~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ Jonathan and his wife, Zoe, my youngest son, Patrick, and myself. We flew to Peking by way of Tokyo on Japanese Airlines and were met at the airport by two representatives of ^{Xinhua} ~~the news agency~~, who drove us to the

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Peking Hotel (after clearing our baggage through customs). The next morning ~~we were introduced to~~ ^{who was to be our guide during} ~~our stay in China~~ a representative of Xinhua came to our hotel to ~~discuss~~ ^{plan} our itinerary ~~xxxxxx~~, which was very complicated because ~~there were~~ of the ~~so~~ many places ~~we~~ Jonathan wanted to see ~~that~~, scattered all over China. A tour was finally worked out to include most of the important historic and cultural centers in central China. And we were introduced to ^{Xinhua} Dang / ^{who}

who was to be our guide during our stay ~~in China~~, (an educated young man ~~xxxx~~ fluent in English.)

My first experience with the Chinese occurred on a street near the hotel when I photographed two ^{amused} nurse maids with their charges and baby carriages. My activities immediately attracted a crowd, and since I was using the new Polaroid instant camera as well as a Nikon, everyone wanted his picture taken and would grab the picture as it was ejected ~~xxx~~ by the camera, before I could see it. ^{myself} A policeman soon appeared, who said, "Enough of this", and dispersed the ^{crowd} cloud.

We stayed several days in Peking, visiting the Forbidden City (Imperial Palace), The Temple of Heaven, Mao's tomb in the Great Square, and the Summer Palace. We went out early in the morning to see the bicycle traffic that filled the streets with people going to work and to watch the older men ^{singly} and in groups performing in slow rhythm ^{Taoist?} exercises. And we visited the old section of Peking in which the way of life ~~xxx~~ had been less affected by modern influences. ^{Journey outside the city} Our first outing was to the Great Wall north of Peking, a major attraction for tourists, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to escape the crowds of sightseers, we walked along the wall for more than a mile and marvelled at its monumental construction. ~~xxx~~ ^{covered with} ~~sinuous course over the distant~~ ~~xxxx~~ treeless hills ~~xxxxxx~~ scrubby vegetation ~~like xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ that looked like green velvet when seen from far away. The wall could be seen stretching far away curving around and over the distant ~~xxxx~~ treeless hills ^{which were} covered with a low vegetation like green velvet.

Our next ^{destination} objective was Taishan, the sacred mountain in Shandong province, and Confucius' temple, tomb and cemetery, where more than seventy generations of Confucius' descendants, the Kong Family, are buried. In a wooded area surrounded by a moat ~~the graves~~ of 200,000 members of the family are marked by ~~their~~ tombstones and gray stone figures of animals and guardians standing beside the graves of the more notable members of the family are buried. Some of the graves are marked by tombstones, and carved stone animals and statues of guardians mark the graves of the more notable members of the family. On the summit of Taishan a Buddhist temple complex is the goal of pilgrims who climb the fivethousand stone steps to give abasement ^{themselves} and watch the sun rise over the Yellow Sea. We made the ascent ^{and} were given rooms and a ~~simple~~ meal in the primitive hostelry and ~~awakened~~ at four in the morning ^{we} were awakened, provided with quilted ~~coats~~ ^{coats} to ~~insulate us from~~ ^{insulate us from} the chill morning air, and ^{were} conducted to an overlook from which we witnessed the break of day.

Our project was to photograph the landscape and historic monuments of China, but we discovered that many of the temples and shrines had been vandalized or destroyed by the Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution. However, we found that the ^{activities} ~~daily lives~~ of the people in their every-day pursuits were as interesting and captivating as their ^{cultural achievements} ~~major productions~~. ^{Consequently} ~~The result was that~~ we spent more time than we had originally planned walking about in the cities we visited, photographing street scenes, shops, markets and people at work. In Xian, ^{located} ~~the first~~ in the Wei River valley ~~the first~~ of central China, the first major city we had visited since leaving Peking, we spent several days this way. The Loess highlands in the vicinity are the product of thousands of years of wind-deposited soil accumulation. The deposits are so ^{dense} compacted ^{thick} and deep that ~~dwellings~~ furnished with facades and doors and windows have been carved into them, some even provided with doors and windows, and facaded entrances, and electric power.

From Xian we continued on west to Lanzhou on the Yellow River and into the Gansu corridor. Our transportation was a ~~station wagon~~ ^{similar to a station wagon like} van with a large luggage compartment in the rear. With the four of us was our guide Dong Xinhua and a driver and in every province we were joined by a local representative and accommodations for the four of us, Dong Xinhua, (our driver) and frequently local district representatives, who served as local guides. The Gansu Corridor was the trade route west to Turkistan and Persia. It was protected by ~~the Qilian Mountains~~ ^{the Qilian Mountains} to the south and the Great Wall on the north, which terminated in substantial fortifications at Jiayuguan. From Jiayuguan the trade route followed a line of signal towers to Dunhuang, an oasis and rest stop and the site of the Mogao Grottoes, that had been sealed by Buddhist monks during a past period of invasions and only recently rediscovered. Warnings of invasion from the west ~~were~~ ^{could be} sent by smoke signals from the signal towers ^{to reach} in a few hours to Jiayuguan and the ruling dynasty. Dunhuang had not escaped the ravages of the Red Guards, who had destroyed a Buddhist temple ~~situated~~ ^{situated} on a lake in a hidden alcove with sand dunes rising around it. We asked for permission to photograph the figures of Buddha in the Mogao Grottoes, excavated in sandstone cliffs bordering a small stream, and were refused by the bureaucratic administrator to protect light, but his true reason for refusal was prior publication by the Chinese. After intervention by our guide, we were allowed to photograph in two of the grottoes. It was very frustrating because of the great wealth and beauty of the displays.

Dunhuang was as far west as we got on this trip. Our next destination was ^{Ga} ~~in Sichuan~~ ^(northwest of Chengdu) ~~Chengdu~~ ^{Chengdu}, famous for Dufiang Dam, a thousand-year-old irrigation system, and the Temple of the Two Kings, a place with a strong ~~attraction~~ ^{attraction} ~~historically and competitively~~ for the Chinese themselves; While we were there we saw ^{no} ~~only~~ Chinese tourists. From ^{Ga} ~~Chengdu~~ ^{Chengdu} we went to Chengdu, in central Sichuan, a city, commonly on the itinerary of western tourists, and known for the spicy Sichuan cuisine ^{spicy} ~~probably because of the fame of the Sichuan cuisine~~ the best food in China.

Chongqing ~~on the Yangtze river~~ ^{the} was headquarters for the communists under ~~MAO~~ the leadership of Mao and Zhou Enlai, before the long march. Because of its location on the Yangtze River, Chongqing is the shipping, distribution supply and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ center for central China, and we went there for ~~the start of~~ a boat trip down ^{the} river through the Yangtze Gorges. We had three days ~~in~~ before the steamship was scheduled to depart, which we profitably spent exploring the ^{inner} city. ~~XXX~~ ^{XXXXX} the water front, where boats of all types - ferries large and small, sampans and cargo vessels - were constantly docking and departing. A recently constructed bridge that spanned the Yangtze ~~XXXXX~~ attracted large numbers of Chinese spectators as ^{well as} it also attracted us. I was photographing ~~the people~~ boys and girls leaning on the railing when it occurred to me to use the Polaroid camera and give the picture to one of my subjects. This was a mistake. A crowd quickly gathered, and I was importuned for pictures from all sides, but especially aggressively ~~in particular~~ by two ~~XXXXXX~~ girls, who almost threateningly demanded to be photographed. ^{but} I tried (in vain) to put them off, ^{but} finally I took one picture of them together and immediately pushed my way out of the crowd. My revenge was ^{giving} ~~to leave~~ the two girls ~~with~~ one picture to share between them.

Prolonged

The steamer made/calls at several small towns along the river ~~where~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ so that we were able to disembark ~~and~~ observe and photograph the activities of the inhabitants. We left the ship ^{at Wuhan} after three days ~~XXXXXX~~ and drove to Huangshan, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Yellow Mountain) a complex, ^{which is} a mecca ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ for landscape mountainous region, ~~XXXXXX~~ artists/ painters and a ~~mecca~~ for Chinese pilgrims ^{in search of the untrammelled} to the natural scene. ^{page 6} We hiked for three days on the mountain with groups of young students, who practiced their English and French on us. I photographed an unabashed pretty girl, who ~~XXXX~~ willingly posed for me, and on a rock ridge, ^{as a manifestation of Chinese reverence for age,} ^{while} burdened with camera and tripod, two girls reached down from a ledge above me and lifted me up.

One night in Shanghai was followed by two days in Suzhou, the Venice of China, built on a network of canals, without the equivalent of gondolas. The waterways, ~~were~~ supplemented by streets for vehicular traffic and pedestrians, served for the transportation, by sampans, both motorized and manually propelled, of household supplies and merchandise.

We flew from Sushou to Guilin in a cargo plane, a makeshift arrangement with seats attached to the sides of the fuselage, so that the passengers faced one another across the central space in which our baggage was ~~filled~~^{heaped up}. Guilin, ~~well~~ known for its spectacular landscape of isolated mountain peaks standing on the plain as if by accident, without logical explanation, has long been a popular place for Chinese ~~artists~~ painters, whose works ~~had~~^{have} led western collectors of Chinese art to believe that the geological phenomena illustrated in their paintings were typically Chinese or that the artists had indulged in aesthetic ~~exaggeration~~^g. Neither is the case. [↑]described in geological terms (Karst) formation [↑]The limestone peaks/were produced by erosion during a past pluvial period and are today, in the semi-tropical climate of Guilin, ~~marked with the~~^{marked with the} ~~with a blanket of vegetation~~^{with a blanket of vegetation} blanketed with vegetation. We were flown from Guilin to Canton and there visited the old deserted British section from which (in colonial times ^{the} Chinese were excluded. [↑]By boat down the Pearl River to Hong Kong [↑]we left China on July 27th, and returned ^{ing} home after a week in Macau, a Portuguese colony on the mainland of China.

Our second trip to China took place in September and October ^{of} 1981 and included the ~~sixxxxxx~~ ~~sixxxxxx~~ districts ^{frontier} with the exception of Manchuria ^{that we had not visited the year before}. Again, ^{with} travel arrangements were made through the Xinhua New Agency and our guide this time was Liu an older, ^{more} cultured man, ^{who} had been the Xinhua representative in Scandinavia and had visited Iceland and Greenland. We wanted to see some part of the Chinese coast, ^{which} was most easily accessible on the Shandong peninsula, ^{where} we first visited Qingdao on the south ~~coast~~ ^{side}, followed by Yantai, a shipping port, and Penglai lighthouse and pavilion on the north side. ^{private lives} And ^{When} we inquired about the ~~xxxxxxx~~ of Chinese workers, ^{what} their homes were like, ^{we} were taken to the house of a Chinese family, no doubt especially selected for its cultivated atmosphere, and ^{we} were shown into all the rooms to see ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{And} their cherished possessions and how they lived. ^{We} were taken to a nursery school in which I was first enchanted by Chinese children and sensed the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{loving care} kind ~~xxxxxx~~ and gentle discipline ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that governed childhood education.

The next frontier was the plains of Inner Mongolia and the grasslands of the Yellow River basin. North of the Great Wall the houses of the farmers and herdsman are built on the south, ^{facing} slopes of the low hills, ~~xx~~ with the windows and doors all on the south sides to take advantage of the southern sun, ^a primitive solar heating arrangement. Beyond the hill and the Buddhist and ~~xxxxxx~~ Muslim town of Hohot, ^{this is} the treeless plains stretch away to the horizon; ~~at the~~ ^{Mongol} land of the herdsman, ^{and smaller numbers of} whose domestic animals are sheep and goats, Bactrian camels, horses and cattle in much fewer numbers. The ~~herdsman~~ ^{Mongols} live in mud huts of yurts, a tent-like frame of thin wood strips covered with skins or wool cloth. Horses are their principal means of transportation, ^{whereas} camels are the beasts of burden ^{and} they are all skilled horsemen. We witnessed a roundup of horses during which they demonstrated the Mongol

~~XXXXXX~~ way of which ^{with} is accomplished ~~XXXXXX~~ for catching a horse, / unlike the New World lasso, ~~XXXX~~ with a ~~long XXXX XXXX~~ loop of rope or raw hide attached to the end of a long pole ^{and that} which is dropped over the head of the pursued horse at ~~a~~ full gallop.

Guangjuesi, "Monastery of Boundless Teaching", ^{is} a Buddhist establishment consisting of ~~many white-washed~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ dormitories and temples situated in a hilly country near Baotou on the Yellow River. Here we were permitted to photograph ^{with complete freedom} the altars ^a and ^{and} shrines ^{interiors} in the temples and ~~XXXXXX~~ of indeterminate age ~~XXXXXX~~ An amused, wrinkled-faced, red-robed lama submitted ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ affably to our request to photograph him ^{posed} before red temple doord.

Xinjiang province, the northwest frontier / beyond ~~XXXXXX~~ Dunhuang in Gansu, was high on the ^{list of} remote regions of China ^{that} we hoped to visit. We went there by train through the Gansu corridor by the same route we had ~~xxx~~ taken to Dunhuang the year before. Since all travel arrangements were made by ~~the~~ Xinhua, we were always provided with first class accommodations and train fares, and because most Chinese cannot afford first class tickets, ~~XXXXXX~~ there were usually no other passengers in our car with the exception of army officers, whose rank in the absence of insignia on their uniforms was indicated only by the ball point pens they carried in their breast pockets. On long ^{= distance} ~~XXXXXX~~ and over-night train trips dining cars were provided for the first class passengers. On one long train ride we and our guide were the only passengers, and the chef had so little to do ^{that} he made ~~an~~ effort to give us especially good meals. ^{One day} At breakfast he ~~XXXXXX~~ said, ^{that} he had a fish he would bake for us. It was a river fish of some kind, ^{and} ^{it was} that he out did himself on; the best meal we had in China.

We ^{arrived in} ~~got to~~ Urumqi by a combination of train and auto transportation. The inhabitants of ^{Urumqi and Turfan} ~~this region of China~~ ^{are} considered minorities because they are ethnically of Turkic descent ~~of which~~ the majority are Kazaks

On our travels, we frequently stopped in villages on our way in which a degree of entrepreneurism was evident in the activities of the villagers. We asked to visit agricultural and production communes and factories, ~~which~~ an aspect of Chinese life ^{that} we had not seen on our first trip ^{and} a far cry from ~~the~~ ^{our} original purpose in visiting China ~~to~~ to photograph the landscape and historic monuments. ~~There~~ No objections were raised to this request with the result that we were taken to communes and state farms, textile mills, sugar refineries, heavy-industry factories, and steel mills. In one factory we were shown through the entire organization of the plant ~~from~~ ^{such} raw material to final product ~~and~~ ancillary operations as nursery schools and pharmaceutical for the children of the workers and the medical department ~~and pharmacy~~ in one cabinet. In the pharmacy we saw ~~one of~~ ^{one of} modern medicines/ and ~~in another~~ a collection of herbs, ~~and~~ dried insects, snakes, and toads.

We returned to Sichuan ^{and} to climb Emei Mountain ^{ed} ~~xxx~~ to Qingyinke, its rest
the "Pure Sound Temple" on a stone-paved ~~xxx~~ path, with pavilions along the route.
~~xxx~~ ^{It} The path ^{brook} bridged a flowing ~~stream~~ in a rocky ravine on the way ~~for xxx the xxxary, that~~ to the temple on the mountain top. Except for the construction of the path and the pavilions, the country was wooded and wild, without evidence of human presence. In a similar mountainous area, at the end of a well-kept path, we visited the Taoist temple, Qingchengshan, "The Fifth Passage to Heaven".

The last ^{destination} frontier was Yunnan ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{er} bordering Laos and Vietnam on the Mekong River. ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{In} Kunming the principal city we visited, a heavy ~~machinery~~ ^{ed} factory producing machines and steel belts for Yugosla^avia, and here ^{again} we were taken to the nursery school ^e for the children of the workers. And near Kunming we visited ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{y the} a peasants house of ~~the~~ ^{who belonged to the}

Guangwei agricultural production Brigade. In the hills near Kunming Buddhist temples that had escaped the depredations of the Red Guards were an attraction for the ~~Chinese~~ devout and curious Chinese themselves. The Stone Forest, ~~a unique geological phenomenon~~ ^{a labyrinth} of gray ~~masses~~ limestone pinnacles was a unique geological phenomenon that drew many Chinese visitors. Farthest south on the Chinese mainland, the village of Jinghong a few miles from the Mekong River where one looks across from its banks ~~into~~ to Laos, the people are more Indo-Chinese than Chinese, ^{both} in dress and culture. This is the tropics where the women sit on the ground in the market place, ^{surrounded by} with their wares of tropical fruit and vegetables, ~~about them.~~ They see few foreigners ~~and~~ ^{and} turn away shyly ^{with} and embarrassed ^{ment} at the sight of a camera. ^{There were} At a Hani village nearby, ^{also} minority people, we were ferried ~~to~~ across a muddy stream on a rickety raft to be received by a group of women and children gathered to welcome ^{us} or ^{to} stare ~~at us~~. They watched us, suspicious ~~perhaps~~ perhaps, as we wandered about photographing their pigs ~~and~~ ^{which} dogs and chickens ~~where they all lived together in harmonious association.~~

Our second trip to China was drawing to a close. The places we had visited and peoples we had seen ^{yet, even combined they were} complimented our experiences of the first trip, ~~but were all together~~ scarcely more than a superficial introduction to China. My impressions, however, were ~~those~~ of the almost incomprehensible richness of Chinese culture and history ^{made concrete} ~~for us~~ brought to reality by the respect and admiration I felt for the Chinese ^{people} we had met.

We flew to Canton and departed China from there, this time by train to Hong Kong.

