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The Cross-Cultural Communication Effect of Lizhuang, China during the Period of Anti- Japanese War

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Abstract - Lizhuang, the first town of the Yangtze River, during the Anti-Japanese War, together with Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, was listed as one of the rear four big resistance cultural centers. The overseas mail could reach as long as it was written “Lizhuang, China ". In the special time Lizhuang, a town with the original population of less than ten thousand, played a special role in the Chinese history. This paper mainly discusses the cross-cultural communication effect of Lizhuang, China during the period of Anti-Japanese War.

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I. Introduction

Lizhuang is located in the coast of the Yangtze River. Jinsha River and Minjiang River rendezvous in Yibin and becomes the mighty Yangtze River. Lizhuang is the first town from Yibin down, so it is called the first town of the Yangtze River. During the Anti-Japanese War it was listed as one of the rear four cultural centers of the war, with Chengdu, Chongqing and Kunming. At that time mails from overseas as long as written "Lizhuang China" could be sent there. Some scientific research institutions of Allies also often received academic journals and books from" Lizhuang, China ". That was because a large number of research institutions, such as the Central Museum, the History and Language Institute of the Academia Sinica, Society for the Study of Chinese Architecture, Liberal Arts Research Institute of Jinling University and National Tongji University migrated there from tumbling, and let the border town be boisterous.

These "Xiajiang people" lived and worked in Lizhuang for six years, and forged a profound friendship with Lizhuang people.

In 2010, Professor He Zhili, Doctor supervisor in University of Science and Technology Beijing, Academician of International Academy of Mineral Resources, combined several experts and scholars at home and abroad, and launched an activity of compiling a poetry book "The First Town of China ". With the support of Yibin municipal party committee and government, also related units, professor He as the chief editor, the book was published by China Literature and History Press. The ceremony celebrating the first publication was on September 3, 2010 in Yibin, memorizing the anniversary of Japan's announcement to surrender to China. In the book 23 academicians were collected, who worked and lived in Lizhuang during the Sino-Japanese War time, and some experts and scholars related with those academicians. The name of the book "The First Town of China" was written by Professor Luo Zhewen, an expert of ancient Chinese construction, who studied and worked for six years in Lizhuang. Shortly after the publishing the book caused great sensation at home and abroad. Many people who know that stage of history or who have relatives once stayed there during the war contacted with professor He in succession. They said there were still some academicians who worked and lived in Lizhuang during the Sino-Japanese war time not collected. So Professor He reoccupied a year time more through various channels collected another 13 academicians. The reprint seminar of the poetry book "The First Town of China" was held on September 28, 2011 in Yibin University. After the issuance of the book reprint, Professor He had a video made and shown on the Internet. This poetry book reproduced from one side of the town, which is located on the bank of the Yangtze River, played a special role during the Sino-Japanese War time. This paper mainly discusses the cross-cultural communication of Lizhuang during the period of Anti-Japanese War.

II. Joseph Needham and Wang Ling

There are 36 academicians in this book, one of them was elected as the first foreign academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1994. That was Dr. Joseph Needham (1900-1995) who was a biochemist and historian of science, graduated from Cambridge University. Such international friends as Joseph Needham, John Fairbank etc. stayed at Lizhuang for a short term. Joseph Needham in Lizhuang gained a number of important historical data for writing his "Science and Civilization in China", and in June 1943 visiting the History and Language Institute of the Academia Sinica moved in Lizhuang he interviewed with the director Fu Sinian for the first time. While discussing Chinese history of science, Fu Sinian introduced an

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assistant researcher of the institute named Wang Ling to Needham. Needham appreciated young and talented Wang Ling, with encyclopedic knowledge; Wang Ling also very admired the well-known Needham who was knowledgeable for Chinese and western culture. Three years later, recommended by Needham, Wang Ling gained scholarship of the British Cultural Commission to study at St. Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1948, Joseph Needham quit office of the United Nations, to return to Cambridge, and started cooperating with Wang Ling to write "Science and Civilization in China". Needham said in the letter to the editor of Cambridge University press that no one was more suitable than him to write that book, because he understood Chinese, and he had life experience in China and associated with Chinese scholars. It was visible to see in his writing at the beginning that he needed Chinese scholars to co-operate.

He said, my experience in China told me that quite a few Chinese scholars and scientists feel confused, why the broad and profound Chinese ancient civilizations died at the age of the ship, not to create the modern science and technology. That was not only the common thinking of Joseph Needham and Chinese scholars and scientists, but also the spirit of their communication and correspondence. Beginning from 1954, Joseph Needham and Wang Ling collaborated on "Science and Civilization in China", part of the volumes published in succession at Cambridge University Press. They were the first volume "Introduction" (1954), the second volume “The Thinking History of Science (1956), the third volume "Mathematics, Heaven and Earth " (1959), the fourth volume “Physics and the Related Technology”, with three fascicles. The first fascicle had a detailed discussion on the development in China of basis acoustics, optics and magnetic of the physics (1962), written by Joseph Needham and Kenneth Robinson. Second fascicle discussed the development history of the traditional mechanical engineering in China, probed into the development and application in the machine of animal, hydropower and wind power, and discussed the aviation in prehistoric times, the development of water transport mechanical clock in six hundred years(1961), cooperated and finished by Joseph Needham and Wang Ling. The third fascicle was about the civil engineering, hydraulic engineering, architecture, and sea and ocean voyage technology in ancient China (1971), written by Joseph Needham and Lu Guizhen, who was Needham's Chinese teacher and the first Chinese who inspired Needham’s interest in China, later she became Needham's second wife. Because Wang Ling went to Australia, the following rolls were completed by Joseph Needham and Lu Guizhen and other scholars.

Joseph Needham had an evaluation to Wang Ling, "if there was not such a partner’s friendship, even if the book could be published, it also would be put off for a long time, and it may appear even more mistakes than we worried about the actual now." "His outstanding training in the Chinese history research, in our daily discussion, always played a big role. Secondly, the Chinese documents of this book translated into English for the first time, eight or nine of the English draft was his translation, and then we two would discuss in detail with checking, often after many times of changes just finalized. Others' translation, we two must check in the original book of Chinese before adopting. Mr. Wang Ling also spent a lot of time to search and browse all kinds of materials we thought it useful at first, often from such inquiry and he found out some material, these material we would carefully review from the point view of the history of science and then determined the value of them. He was responsible for a lot of trivial details of library work, and all kinds of index and cataloging work,“ ("The Science and Civilization in China, the introduction of the first chapter Volume 1”).

The publication of "The Science and Civilization in China" caused vibration in the world. But the huge research and writing of the work was in the arduous conditions. Just think if there was no Needham’s visit to Lizhuang, not to gather a large number of raw data from such Chinese scholars who had a thorough knowledge of both western and traditional Chinese, and who worked at Lizhuang at that time, as Fu Sinian, Dong Zuobin etc, if he did not meet Wang Ling, the publication of "The Science and Civilization in China "would be another unknown way. For living, Wang Ling left from Cambridge to Australia teaching in 1957, but they did not interrupt the cooperation together to research and writing of the "The Science and Civilization in China”. They paid a lifetime of energy for this.

In August 1988, on the fifth international conference on the science history of China, the Chinese Association of America for commending the merit of Wang Ling, Lu Guizhen assisting Needham for the compilation of "Science and Civilization in China”, awarded each of the three people "bonus for the public”. Since 1982, international conferences on science history of China were held six sessions in some countries and regions such as the United States, Britain, Australia, Belgium, Hong Kong and the mainland of China. Taking a national science and technology as the theme and holding international conferences on a regular time, so far there is only China.

III. John King Fairbank and Liang Sicheng Couple

John King Fairbank (1907-1991), a lifelong professor at Harvard University, the famous historian, the most prestigious observer of Chinese problem in America, a leading authority in the research field of the modern history of China, "number one China hand", creator of East Asia Research Center, Harvard. During

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his lifetime he held many important positions such as former vice chairman of the American Association for the Far East, chairman of Asian Association, chairman of the History Association, chairman of East Asia Research Council etc. He was also a government employee of the United States, a community leader and a policy adviser. He researched problem of China for 50 years, from his entering into the Oxford until his death in 1991, most of his works discussed problems in China.

Due to the early study in China, and during the Anti-Japanese War period serving there for diplomatic work, no matter political and learning fields, Fairbank got to know a lot of Chinese friends. But it dealt with the best friends, only Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin couple. Their friendship was for life, until in his old age to write "Memoir of John King Fairbank ", he also mentioned in the book that the couple was “the most intimate friends of mine in China or in other places." The Chinese names of his and his wife’s were given by Liang Sicheng.

At the beginning of a new arrival in China in 1932, in addition to learning Chinese in Beijing, Fairbank also study in Tsinghua University following Mr. Jiang Tingfu with modern Chinese history. It happened that he rented a room in the north Zongbu alley near Liang’s house, thus they got to know each other. In a period the couple was frequent visitors in Liang's house. They often had dinners together, drinking tea and chatting. They were talking about literature, philosophy, aesthetics, construction and other topic. Sometimes they talked about the old poetry and the new poetry of China. Sometimes they would compare poems of English poets John Keats and Alfred Tennyson with poems of American poet Vachel Lindsay, occasionally referred to Harvard square, artists of New York and the exhibition, and the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Burgs campus of Cambridge, ancient Greek philosopher Plato, Italy medieval theologians academics philosopher Thomas Aquinas, etc. The atmosphere could be imagined. No wonder in dozens of years later, Fairbank also recalled it with relish, thinking Liang couple was "two Chinese combined Chinese traditional cultures with Anglo Saxon culture." And admitted the great influence of the Chinese to them, among them "Liang couple" played an important role."

Liang Sicheng (1901-1972), the son of thinker and social activist Liang Qichao in the late Qing dynasty, was an architect and educator. In his lifelong career he devoted himself to architectural research of ancient China and education. He is one of the 36 academicians in the poetry book "The First Town of China". His wife lady Lin Huiyin (1904-1955) was called a talented woman of her time, who participated in the design of the national emblem of the People's Republic of China. She left the main work is the famous poem "You are the April Day of the World.” In order to study the national characteristics of Chinese traditional architecture, Liang couple decided to go to Wutai Mountain in Shanxi Province in the autumn of 1934, for a study trip. Fairbank couple was glad to be invited, accompanying with Liang and Lin.

Along the sightseeing, visiting historical sites, sometimes they were measuring, and sometimes they were drawing. Meeting garrison in temples, they had to negotiate with them, then to enter for a visit. Life, though hard, they felt fun. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Although it had a lot of difficult predicament, that took a big step of the friendship between them. Memorizing the past Fairbank wrote: "The adventure on the empty road made the four of us in the unbearable environment, regardless of you and me, regardless of subject-object, we were still the most intimate friends”.

Shortly after they were back from travel, Fairbank couple left Beijing. Friends parted, having a reluctant taste in the heart. Later Fairbank wrote in the memoir: "saying goodbye to Chinese friends like Liang couple was extremely pain and unforgettable. We exchanging views, we also tried our best to help each other."

Being back to their home country, Fairbank taught in Harvard University, and gradually became a well-known professor of Chinese modern history and an expert for Chinese problem. Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin continued to the research of China architectural history. In 1937, when they were excited to have found a huge tomb construction of Tang dynasty, the Lugou Bridge Incident broke out. Since then they had to leave from Beijing, moving everywhere, finally they turned to locate at Lizhuang of Yibin. They set Society for the Study of Chinese Architecture at Yueliangtian of Lizhuang, a small farm courtyard. Where they lived for six years, continued to the research work of architectural history, and completed the previous work of "Chinese History of Architecture" and “The Image Architecture History of China” in English.

It was after Pearl Harbor Event the Fairbank couple came to China again. The United States aided and contacted with China. Fairbank was assigned to work in the news agency of the United States in China, and on September 25, 1942 from Kunming to Chongqing. Though very busy with work, Fairbank still missed the two Chinese friends. When he got the news of the couple, he immediately decided to spare time to see them on November 10.

There, he saw Liang family with the institute share a same farm yard, having simple and poor life, almost like the general farmers. The well water, oil lamps, in addition to an old phonograph and a few pieces of old records there was no other modern things in the house. Later John Fairbank in his "Memoirs in China" recalled the scene in Lizhuang to see Liang couple with deep feeling: "Lin Huiyin was very angular... in the evening at five and a half the candles were lit up. No phone, only a phonograph and a few pieces of Beethoven, Mozart's music records, a thermos bottle

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and no coffee, there were many sweaters but most didn't fit. There were bed sheets but lack of soap for washing, pens and pencils but no paper for writing. Newspapers were out of date. ...I was deeply moved by the indomitable spirit of my friends who continued to engage in academic research. In my idea, if Americans in this situation, maybe they throw away books to improve life early. "Although Lin Huiyin was suffering from lung disease, but the couple declined Fairbank to aid Lin Huiyin to America for ill treatment and work. Liang Sicheng said," my country is in a disaster, I can't leave from her. If I must die under bayonet and bombs, I would die on the land of my motherland."

Freedman signed, "I have already under-stood, your career is in China, the generation intellectuals of you are plants that can't be transplanted." (Gan Jiahe, 2004:23)

John Fairbank stayed in Lizhuang about a week. After he returned to Chongqing, Liang couple once went for a visit, after that they lived far apart. When Fairbank couple again had a journey in China in 1972, they got the news that Lin Huiyin died early in 1956, and Liang Sicheng also just died a few months before they arrived in Beijing. From now on and for ever they would never see each other again, which made the two American friends increase a lot of sadness. In December 2010, "Lin Huiyin and Liang Sicheng" written by Fairbank's wife Wilma Fairbank (1909-2002) was officially published by Chinese Law Press.

IV. Professor Stubel from Germany and Professor Weit from Poland

During the Anti-Japanese War period, not only the China's academicians, more foreign scholars also "settled" in Lizhuang, such as Indian visiting scholars, foreign professors of Tongji University etc.

In August 1945 when the news of Japan's surrender reached this border town Lizhuang, people's injustice which had been suppressed for eight years was released. They rushed to the street joyfully; the senior students of Tongji University took out all the money they could find in their boxes to buy a few baskets of peanuts, offering any people passing by. Professor Stubel of medical school was also in the crowd. He was invited to Shanghai Tongji University since 1924, being a professor of physiology, director of physiological study center. He was also a cultural anthropologist. Now he already did as the Romans did. When World War II started, he published on the newspaper of China denounced the German fascist aggression war, therefore he was abused by the dominated fascist government, and was not allowed to return to his motherland. He was nearly sixty years old, following Tongji University to move to Kunming and then to Lizhuang, together with the teachers and students from China with a hard life. At this time he dressed a Chinese garment and shoes, upright white hair, a prominent nose on his white face, deep blue eyes, typical alien in people's eyes. For eight years with Tongji University from place to place, perhaps he forgot the taste of milk, bread and fried steak. But this night, he must think of the accordion sound around the Rhine River. Hitler and his Nazi failed, war sinners also put his motherland and people into the abyss of suffering. China, for which he served, gained the victory, with colleagues and students he enjoyed the joy of victory. Perhaps at the moment he thought of his colleague, professor Weit from Poland, who left his soul at Lizhuang forever. Professor Weit, we are unable to research which year he came to China. After the outbreak of World War II, most of the German professors worked in Shanghai Tongji University partially returned to their country. Professor Weit, because of his Jewish lineage, with Nazi Germany publicly excluding Jews, also couldn't go back to Europe. With Tongji University was his inevitable choice (Li Lezeng, 2002). Traveled to Lizhuang, Weit had been depressed. His country was ravaged in the war, he had five or six children in Poland, while in Shanghai he sent money home every month. The war escalated, shortly after they arrived at Lizhuang, he couldn't get any news about his country-folks and his family, currency devaluation again. At that time he was about fifty teaching steel structure in Tongji Engineering School, and also teaching "projection geometry". Someone said that he starved to death in Lizhuang, but the author thinks that he couldn't see any hope, and he died of depression and sick. According to the canteen cook of Lizhuang District Office Chen Shaorong's memorizing: I was Lizhuang hotel at that time. There was a tall, shiny-haired, long-nose foreigner. All called him Mr. Weit. He came in, civilized crank on one side, right hand a clap on his belly, we knew that he wanted to eat braised pig's knuckle in soy sauce. If he put one hand said "fish, fish…", we knew that he wanted to eat fish. ...At the beginning he came in two or three days a time, then fewer and fewer. In the year of the Anti-Japanese War finished he died in Lizhuang. It was said that he starved to death. Before the "Cultural Revolution", his grave could be found on the Wutong Lap of the Tianjing Hill. (Dai Jun 2004:301)

Both of Stubel and Weit couldn't be back to their hometown and stayed in China because of the war. However, Stubel, together with teachers and students of Tongji University, finally to the end of the war, saw the surrender of fascists. He also had the hope of going home. Weit left his soul at exotic land forever. One of Weit's students, a retired senior engineer of Sichuan Reserve Bureau old Liao Shunjiang said excitedly, "Tongji should not forget Weit. On his birth day or the death day of his, in the days of Tongji University anniversary, people should say a few words, or write a few lines of words for him. The chief editor of the poetry book "The First Town of China", professor He Zhili also

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suggested many times to Lizhuang and relevant departments of Yibin City: Lizhuang should not forget Weit. His tomb should be rebuilt on the Tianjing Hill, a tombstone should be set solemnly. That would increase the emotions and thoughts of the tourists, and let people remember the war of resistance against Japan in that period of history, and at the same time, never forget the international friends who helped China selflessly during the war time.

V. Conclusion

Lizhuang, such a border town, in that particular time, with her broad mind, most time accepted more than twelve thousand external population. At the time the local population of Lizhuang was less than ten thousand. On the problem of Tongji University migrating to Lizhuang, the squires of Lizhuang were magnanimous," Lizhuang people welcome Tongji University to migrate here, the local would supply all things you need", the sixteen words telegram giving an echo sound. More than half a century have passed, this enlightened and patriotic enthusiasm of Lizhuang people was still widely spread by words of mouths.

Lizhuang of China played an indelible role during the Anti-Japanese War. It also gave a peculiar contribution in the field of cross-cultural communication. In addition to a large number of international friends in Lizhuang working and living, some Lizhuang native people went out after the victory of the Anti-Japanese War, such as Luo Nangai's daughter Luo Xiaoqu who married Lu Qinli, Zhang Jingyun married Yang Zhijiu, Zhang Yanyun married Wang Zhixiong, and Zhang Suxuan married Li Guangtao etc. These daughters of Lizhuang along with their husbands who worked in the History and Language Institute of the Academia Sinica went to Taiwan, later they lived in America or Europe. They also brought Lizhuang's local culture to the world, so they are the messengers of cross-cultural communication. There is no doubt, during the period of Anti-Japanese War Lizhuang had an indelible role in the field of cross-cultural communication; Lizhuang of China should leave a brand on the history of world anti-fascist war.

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