

1 The Cross-Cultural Communication Effect of Lizhuang, China 2 during the Period of Anti-Japanese War

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7 **Abstract**

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

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15 **Index terms**— Lizhuang, China Anti-Japanese war cross-cultural communication.

16 **1 Introduction**

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

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

28 In 2010, Professor He Zhili, Doctor supervisor in University of Science and Technology Beijing, Academician
29 of International Academy of Mineral Resources, combined several experts and scholars at home and abroad, and
30 launched an activity of compiling a poetry book "The First Town of China". With the support of Yibin municipal
31 party committee and government, also related units, professor He as the chief editor, the book was published
32 by China Literature and History Press. The ceremony celebrating the first publication was on September 3,
33 2010 in Yibin, memorizing the anniversary of Japan's announcement to surrender to China. In the book 23
34 academicians were collected, who worked and lived in Lizhuang during the Sino-Japanese War time, and some
35 experts and scholars related with those academicians. The name of the book "The First Town of China" was
36 written by Professor Luo Zhewen, an expert of ancient Chinese construction, who studied and worked for six
37 years in Lizhuang. Shortly after the publishing the book caused great sensation at home and abroad. Many
38 people who know that stage of history or who have relatives once stayed there during the war contacted with
39 professor He in succession. They said there were still some academicians who worked and lived in Lizhuang
40 during the Sino-Japanese war time not collected. So Professor He reoccupied a year time more through various
41 channels collected another 13 academicians. The reprint seminar of the poetry book "The First Town of China"
42 was held on September 28, 2011 in Yibin University. After the issuance of the book reprint, Professor He had a
43 video made and shown on the Internet. This poetry book reproduced from one side of the town, which is located
44 on the bank of the Yangtze River, played a special role during the Sino-Japanese War time. This paper mainly
45 discusses the cross-cultural communication of Lizhuang during the period of Anti-Japanese War.

46 **2 II.**

47 **3 Joseph Needham and Wang Ling**

48 There are 36 academicians in this book, one of them was elected as the first foreign academician of Chinese
49 Academy of Sciences in 1994. That was Dr. Joseph Needham Joseph Needham had an evaluation to Wang Ling,
50 "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
51 time, and it may appear even more mistakes than we worried about the actual now." "His outstanding training in
52 the Chinese history research, in our daily discussion, always played a big role. Secondly, the Chinese documents
53 of this book translated into English for the first time, eight or nine of the English draft was his translation, and
54 then we two would discuss in detail with checking, often after many times of changes just finalized. Others'
55 translation, we two must check in the original book of Chinese before adopting. Mr. Wang Ling also spent a lot
56 of time to search and browse all kinds of materials we thought it useful at first, often from such inquiry and he
57 found out some material, these material we would carefully review from the point view of the history of science
58 and then determined the value of them. He was responsible for a lot of trivial details of library work, and all
59 kinds of index and cataloging work," ("The Science and Civilization in China, the introduction of the first chapter
60 Volume 1").

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

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

75 **4 III.**

76 **5 John King Fairbank and Liang Sicheng Couple**

77 John King Fairbank (1907-1991), a lifelong professor at Harvard University, the famous historian, the most
78 prestigious observer of Chinese problem in America, a leading authority in the research field of the modern
79 history of China, "number one China hand", creator of East Asia Research Center, Harvard. During his lifetime
80 he held many important positions such as former vice chairman of the American Association for the Far East,
81 chairman of Asian Association, chairman of the History Association, chairman of East Asia Research Council
82 etc. He was also a government employee of the United States, a community leader and a policy adviser. He
83 researched problem of China for 50 years, from his entering into the Oxford until his death in 1991, most of his
84 works discussed problems in China.

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

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

102 Liang Sicheng, the son of thinker and social activist Liang Qichao in the late Qing dynasty, was an architect
103 and educator. In his lifelong career he devoted himself to architectural research of ancient China and education.
104 He is one of the 36 academicians in the poetry book "The First Town of China". His wife lady Lin Huiyin was
105 called a talented woman of her time, who participated in the design of the national emblem of the People's

106 Republic of China. She left the main work is the famous poem "You are the April Day of the World." In order
107 to study the national characteristics of Chinese traditional architecture, Liang couple decided to go to Wutai
108 Mountain in Shanxi Province in the autumn of 1934, for a study trip. Fairbank couple was glad to be invited,
109 accompanying with Liang and Lin.

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

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

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

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

132 There, he saw Liang family with the institute share a same farm yard, having simple and poor life, almost
133 like the general farmers. The well water, oil lamps, in addition to an old phonograph and a few pieces of old
134 records there was no other modern things in the house. Later John Fairbank in his "Memoirs in China" recalled
135 the scene in Lizhuang to see Liang couple with deep feeling: "Lin Huiyin was very angular... in the evening at
136 five and a half the candles were lit up. No phone, only a phonograph and a few pieces of Beethoven, Mozart's
137 music records, a thermos bottle and no coffee, there were many sweaters but most didn't fit. There were bed
138 sheets but lack of soap for washing, pens and pencils but no paper for writing. Newspapers were out of date. ...I
139 was deeply moved by the indomitable spirit of my friends who continued to engage in academic research. In my
140 idea, if Americans in this situation, maybe they throw away books to improve life early. "Although Lin Huiyin
141 was suffering from lung disease, but the couple declined Fairbank to aid Lin Huiyin to America for ill treatment
142 and work. Liang Sicheng said, "my country is in a disaster, I can't leave from her. If I must die under bayonet
143 and bombs, I would die on the land of my motherland."

144 Freedman signed, "I have already under-stood, your career is in China, the generation intellectuals of you are
145 plants that can't be transplanted." ??Gan Jiahe, 2004:23) John Fairbank stayed in Lizhuang about a week. After
146 he returned to Chongqing, Liang couple once went for a visit, after that they lived far apart. When Fairbank
147 couple again had a journey in China in 1972, they got the news that Lin Huiyin died early in 1956, and Liang
148 Sicheng also just died a few months before they arrived in Beijing. From now on and for ever they would never
149 see each other again, which made the two American friends increase a lot of sadness. In December 2010, "Lin
150 Huiyin and Liang Sicheng" written by Fairbank's wife Wilma Fairbank was officially published by Chinese Law
151 Press.

152 6 IV. Professor Stubel from Germany and

153 Professor Weit from Poland

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

156 In August 1945 when the news of Japan's surrender reached this border town Lizhuang, people's injustice
157 which had been suppressed for eight years was released. They rushed to the street joyfully; the senior students of
158 Tongji University took out all the money they could find in their boxes to buy a few baskets of peanuts, offering
159 any people passing by. Professor Stubel of medical school was also in the crowd. He was invited to Shanghai
160 Tongji University since 1924, being a professor of physiology, director of physiological study center. He was also
161 a cultural anthropologist. Now he already did as the Romans did. When World War II started, he published on
162 the newspaper of China denounced the German fascist aggression war, therefore he was abused by the dominated
163 fascist government, and was not allowed to return to his motherland. He was nearly sixty years old, following
164 Tongji University to move to Kunming and then to Lizhuang, together with the teachers and students from China
165 with a hard life. At this time he dressed a Chinese garment and shoes, upright white hair, a prominent nose on
166 his white face, deep blue eyes, typical alien in people's eyes. For eight years with Tongji University from place to
167 place, perhaps he forgot the taste of milk, bread and fried steak. But this night, he must think of the accordion

168 sound around the Rhine River. Hitler and his Nazi failed, war sinners also put his motherland and people into
169 the abyss of suffering. China, for which he served, gained the victory, with colleagues and students he enjoyed the
170 joy of victory. Perhaps at the moment he thought of his colleague, professor Weit from Poland, who left his soul
171 at Lizhuang forever. Professor Weit, we are unable to research which year he came to China. After the outbreak
172 of World War II, most of the German professors worked in Shanghai Tongji University partially returned to
173 their country. Professor Weit, because of his Jewish lineage, with Nazi Germany publicly excluding Jews, also
174 couldn't go back to Europe. With Tongji University was his inevitable choice (Li ??ezeng, 2002). Traveled to
175 Lizhuang, Weit had been depressed. His country was ravaged in the war, he had five or six children in Poland,
176 while in Shanghai he sent money home every month. The war escalated, shortly after they arrived at Lizhuang,
177 he couldn't get any news about his country-folks and his family, currency devaluation again. At that time he
178 was about fifty teaching steel structure in Tongji Engineering School, and also teaching "projection geometry".
179 Someone said that he starved to death in Lizhuang, but the author thinks that he couldn't see any hope, and
180 he died of depression and sick. According to the canteen cook of Lizhuang District Office Chen Shaorong's
181 memorizing: I was Lizhuang hotel at that time. There was a tall, shiny-haired, long-nose foreigner. All called
182 him Mr. Weit. He came in, civilized crank on one side, right hand a clap on his belly, we knew that he wanted to
183 eat braised pig's knuckle in soy sauce. If he put one hand said "fish, fish?", we knew that he wanted to eat fish.
184 ...At the beginning he came in two or three days a time, then fewer and fewer. In the year of the Anti-Japanese
185 War finished he died in Lizhuang. It was said that he starved to death. Before the "Cultural Revolution", his
186 grave could be found on the Wutong Lap of the Tianjing Hill. (Dai Jun 2004:301) Both of Stubel and Weit
187 couldn't be back to their hometown and stayed in China because of the war. However, Stubel, together with
188 teachers and students of Tongji University, finally to the end of the war, saw the surrender of fascists. He also
189 had the hope of going home. Weit left his soul at exotic land forever. One of Weit's students, a retired senior
190 engineer of Sichuan Reserve Bureau old Liao Shunjiang said excitedly, "Tongji should not forget Weit. On his
191 birth day or the death day of his, in the days of Tongji University anniversary, people should say a few words,
192 or write a few lines of words for him. The chief editor of the poetry book "The First Town of China", professor
193 He Zhili also suggested many times to Lizhuang and relevant departments of Yibin City: Lizhuang should not
194 forget Weit. His tomb should be rebuilt on the Tianjing Hill, a tombstone should be set solemnly. That would
195 increase the emotions and thoughts of the tourists, and let people remember the war of resistance against Japan
196 in that period of history, and at the same time, never forget the international friends who helped China selflessly
197 during the war time.

198 V.

199 7 Conclusion

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

206 Lizhuang of China played an indelible role during the Anti-Japanese War. It also gave a peculiar contribution
207 in the field of cross-cultural communication. In addition to a large number of international friends in Lizhuang
208 working and living, some Lizhuang native people went out after the victory of the Anti-Japanese War, such as
209 Luo Nangai's daughter Luo Xiaoqu who married Lu Qinli, Zhang Jingyun married Yang Zhijiu, Zhang Yanyun
210 married Wang Zhixiong, and Zhang Suxuan married Li Guangtao etc. These daughters of Lizhuang along with
211 their husbands who worked in the History and Language Institute of the Academia Sinica went to Taiwan,
212 later they lived in America or Europe. They also brought Lizhuang's local culture to the world, so they are
213 the messengers of cross-cultural communication. There is no doubt, during the period of Anti-Japanese War
214 Lizhuang had an indelible role in the field of cross-cultural communication; Lizhuang of China should leave a
215 brand on the history of world anti-fascist war. ^{1 2 3 4 5}

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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),

Figure 1: 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

7 CONCLUSION

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