

Society for
Anglo
Chinese
Understanding

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JULY-AUGUST 1967

THE EAST IS RED

Dance-Drama Film of Scenes from
Revolutionary History

FRIDAY JULY 28 at 7.30
Holborn Central Library
Theobalds Road, London WC1
A SACU CENTRAL OFFICE EVENT

VOL 2 Nos. 7 & 8

Anchoring The Desert

AN UNUSUAL PLANT, the seeds of which sprout in about four hours, given the right temperatures and humidity, is now being grown to provide cover for deserts in many parts of China. Workers on the desert afforestation schemes have had seeds start to germinate in their hands while walking 10 to 20 kilometres. The seeds of the Saksaul plant, sown in recent years by aircraft or by men riding on camels, have grown into sturdy shrubs, anchoring large expanses of shifting sand.

A recent tour brought me to the Ulanbuho Desert in western Inner Mongolia, where a 'Great Wall' of trees and scrub prevents wind-borne sand from encroaching on valuable farm land. Running along the eastern fringe of the desert, the shelter belt measures 175 kilometres length and 400 metres across. It consists of poplar, bush, tamarisk, elm and other trees growing on water brought by canals from the Yellow River, which forms Ulanbuho's eastern boundary.

Branching out from the main shelter belt into the desert are many small tree belts made up of Saksaul and other shrubs, that can thrive in sand without irrigation. The Saksaul bears a mass of tiny green twigs covered with minute scales which serve as leaves. It is a low plant with roots twice as long as the shrub itself. These roots can grow one centimetre in 24 hours with what little rain falls in the desert during the summer months. 'It's our trump card in conquering the sand', say the desert tamers.

Sprawling over an area of 1,100 sq kilometres, the desert, because of its fierce sandstorms, has been dubbed 'Ulanbuho', which in the Mongolian language means red bull. For centuries, the 'red bull' spread eastward, burying farmland and towns and threatening to silt up the upper reaches of the Yellow River. It has now been halted by a green wall of trees. The shelter belt was planted by people's communes and state forestry centres. The forestry

centres are self-sustaining units, growing their own grain and pasturing cattle on land wrested from the desert. In many places fish and ducks are reared in ponds that have been formed on what was previously sandy waste.

A director of one of the forestry centres is 54-year-old Li Chih-yuan, known in the locality as the 'desert expert without a college education'. Li Chih-yuan, who resisted the Japanese as a guerilla fighter in the Ulanbuho Desert during the war, has devised many ways of harnessing the desert. It is very difficult to dig an irrigation ditch as sandstorms fill it in as rapidly as it is prepared. Li Chih-yuan erects two simple straw fences along the banks of a projected ditch and pebbles are spread in between. The pebbles spin in the wind, throwing up sand which banks up along the fences. With some finishing touches the ditch is formed. His method of 'using nature to transform nature' is

(continued on page 5)

Subsidy To Learn

THE TRUSTEES of the Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute are offering some subsidised places to qualified persons at the 'China in the World' weekend school to be held in Wiltshire in October.

'The subsidies will be half the cost applicable,' said Elizabeth Paterson, Secretary of the Institute. 'Persons applying for the subsidy must be 25 years of age or less on 20 July, 1967.'

Forms Available

Application forms for the subsidy are available from The Secretary, Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute, 24 Warren Street, London, W1. Completed forms must be returned by 4 August, 1967.

At the Weekend School, to be held 6 to 8 October at Philips House, Dinton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, sessions will be held under the titles: China's Foreign Policy; China and her

(continued on page 4)



Workers set out with bundles of saplings which, when grown, shield arable land from the blowing sands of the desert

ABOUT SACU

Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding Ltd (Founded 15 May 1965)

Office: 24 Warren Street, London W.1
Telephone EUSton 0074-5

Telegrams ANGCHIN London W.1

Chairman: Dr Joseph Needham

Deputy-Chairman:
Professor Joan Robinson

Vice-Chairman: Mrs Mary Adams

Joint Treasurers: Mr Alec Horsley and
one to be appointed.

Secretary: Mr Derek Bryan

* * *

Council of Management: Mrs Mary Adams, Mr William Ash, Mr Roland Berger, Mr Frederick Brunson, Mrs Hung-Ying Bryan, Mr Geoffrey Carrick, Mr Andrew Faulds, MP, Miss Margaret Garvie, Lady (Dorothy) Haworth, Mr Alec Horsley, Mrs Susan Leach, Mr John Lloyd, Mr Evan Luard, MP, Dr Joseph Needham, Rev Paul Oestreicher, Mr Colin Penn, Mr Ernest Roberts, Professor Joan Robinson, Mr Martin Tomkinson, Dame Joan Vickers, MP, Mr Ronald Whiteley.

* * *

Believing that friendship must be based on understanding, SACU aims to foster friendly relations between Britain and China by making information about China and Chinese views available as widely as possible in Britain.

* * *

Membership of SACU is open to all who subscribe to the aims of the Society. Members are entitled to receive SACU NEWS monthly free of charge, use the library at central office, call upon the Society for information and participate in all activities of the Society.

* * *

Annual subscription: £1.0.0. Reduced rates for old age pensioners (5s), and full-time students (7s 6d).

SACU NEWS is published by the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding Ltd, 24 Warren Street, London, W.1. (EUSton 0074-5), and printed by Goodwin Press Ltd (TU), 135 Fonthill Road, London, N4.

COAT OF MANY COLOURS

The Chinese Chameleon: An Analysis of European Conceptions of Chinese Civilization, by Raymond Dawson. Oxford University Press, London, New York and Toronto, 1967. Price 42s.

THROUGHOUT THE AGES since Marco Polo's visit to the court of the Great Khan at the end of the thirteenth century, 'China has appeared in many different guises in the European imagination. By the time he reaches the end of this book the reader may feel that a chameleon would be a more appropriate symbol of China than a dragon'. And, indeed, the appendix of Raymond Dawson's cautionary exposition is a sparkling array of versions of the Chinese culture as seen by such authors as: Marco Polo, Matteo Ricci, G W Leibniz, Baron de Montesquieu, Walter Savage Landor, and down to J K Fairbank, the American historian. Just to read this collection of extracts at the book's end is to have a vivid impression of the author's basic thesis: that our understanding of China is, and

always has been, based on contradictory and biased ideas shaped out of the specific prejudices of the times and/or the individual writer's attitudes. Raymond Dawson's plea is that a serious academic body of knowledge of China and her civilisation must still be gathered, and disseminated as soon as possible. In the meantime his book serves to show us the extent of our ignorance.

SCHOLARLY

Clearly a thoughtful work, and though occasionally suffering an overweightiness of evidence, it is presented in an easy simplicity of style that carries the reader along, mouth agape. There is a fine selection of old maps, paintings, drawings and photographs. Certainly, if we ever before dared, after reading this we would never again draw bold conclusions or make brash generalities about the oriental world, intellect, product, or what will you.

K V

S.A.C.U. CHINA TOUR 1967

Leaving LONDON on 7th August for an exciting 24-day sightseeing tour of CHINA. Visit SHANGHAI, the beautiful HANGCHOW, NANCHANG, the hill resort of LUSHAN, WUHAN, and spending a week in the capital, PEKING.

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THE BOMB AS A DETERRENT

□ CAMDEN BRANCH
SHOWS FILM OF CHINA'S
NUCLEAR TESTS

WHEN PRESIDENT KAUNDA of Zambia visited China recently he warmly congratulated China on the successful explosion of its hydrogen bomb. 'The control of man's destiny on this earth', he said, 'must not be confined to the privileged or powerful few but must remain the concern and responsibility of all nations.' ('Peking Review', 30 June, 1967.)

This last sentence might be taken as the theme of the successful meeting held by SACU's Camden Branch recently in Holborn Library. A film of the Chinese nuclear tests was followed by a lively discussion on China's nuclear policy. Considering that the subject was so topical, it is somewhat surprising that so few English people attended, although there were many from overseas.

The film, in colour, and technically of a high standard, is certainly of great interest. The preparations for the test are shown in considerable detail. It is clear from the film that one reason why China needs to conduct the tests is to prepare her own defence against nuclear attack; it is difficult to see

how she could adequately learn the best methods of defence without herself conducting these tests. It was found, for example, that loss of life and damage to buildings could be minimised by various simple measures of protection. Those who would seek to prevent China acquiring nuclear weapons thus bear a heavy responsibility.

The commentary was somewhat strident in tone for audiences in this country. Nevertheless, it was useful because it brought out a number of important points in connection with the tests. It was emphasised that China would never under any circumstances be the first to use nuclear weapons. (No other country has made such a declaration.) Also, while fully conceding that atomic weapons are weapons of mass slaughter, it quoted Mao to the effect that although weapons are an important factor in war it is man that is the decisive factor. The film shows the Liberation Army holding exercises in the test area, demonstrating the thesis that tactically one should take the enemy very seriously while strategically despising him.

After the film, Roland Berger introduced the discussion. This was useful in that many people felt moved to speak their mind and there was a real interchange of views instead of one person getting up and saying his set piece and ignoring all the others, as so often happens. A theme that kept recurring during the discussion was the way in which the richer nations wanted to keep nuclear weapons in their hands alone, basically because they did not want to lose the fruits of exploitation, because they didn't want revolution. If their nuclear monopoly was broken, their domination would be more difficult to maintain. An American stressed that the main factor that could deter the US from attacking China was fear of retaliation. The sooner China developed her nuclear weapons, the less likely was it she would be attacked. CND opposition provided a useful opportunity for speakers to refute some of the pacifist illusions which are so widespread in Britain.

Altogether it was an excellent meeting.

J L

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Understanding works both ways and I feel certain that, as regards spreading an understanding of China in Britain, SACU is doing a good job. But is SACU doing anything to spread an understanding of Britain in China, and if so, what?

The reason I write is that the official Chinese news agency appears to give a somewhat Dickensian picture of this country. For example, a statement that beggars, refuse-pickers and homeless abound in cities, large and small. A picture of an old man sitting on a wall in the sun captioned: 'An old man spends his days on the street because of no guarantee for his future'. Other reports give the impression of a revolutionary situation. Surely these reports are not helpful to the Chinese leaders and people in formulating strategy and opinions?

It may well be beyond the powers of SACU to deal with this aspect of Anglo-Chinese understanding. I note, however, that the Weekend Schools' Committee is having difficulty in finding subjects which will attract support

from members and non-members.

May I suggest a subject: 'How do the Chinese see us?'

Yours sincerely,

Ivor Kenna

London, EC1

★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

Listening to Dr Needham opening the AGM I thought him too pessimistic and the report of his speech in SACU NEWS confirms this opinion. From a certain point of view it is possible to say that times are dark and 'the political situation has been getting steadily worse and worse'. But this is a limited view and throughout the world there are many who do not share it. Nor is it borne out by the totality of the facts.

Certainly we are living at a time of crisis, when in a country like Britain it is easy to become discouraged. Elsewhere people are throwing off oppression or preparing to do so. Is not this

a good thing? We in SACU can appreciate that China is pointing the way forward for us all.

As Mao Tse-tung said in 1945: 'The world is progressing, the future is bright, and no one can change this general trend of history'.

Yours faithfully,

Colin Penn

London, NW3

Subsidy To Learn

(continued from page 1)

Neighbours; China-USSR Relations; and China and the United Nations.

Fees—including meals and accommodation—are: SACU members, £5; SACU student members, £4 10; and non-members, £5 15. Early bookings are advised as this School is likely to prove a very popular one. To date, 10 members from the Oxford branch alone have already booked.

Applications for places at this School should be forwarded to 24 Warren Street, London W1, together with a deposit of ten shillings.

Letters from Peking

DELIA JENNER

The author spent two years teaching English at the Peking Broadcasting Institute from 1963. The letters about her life in China, the places she visited, and the people she met, give an informal but informative sketch of life in Peking. 8 plates, 1 map 30s net

The Chinese Chameleon

An Analysis of European Conceptions of Chinese Civilization

RAYMOND DAWSON

'... a most entertaining and informative book. . . Dawson lets the changing beholders speak for themselves. His excerpts from travellers, priests, navigators, Protestant missionaries, diplomats, litterateurs and aesthetes show us how we look when we think we are explaining China.' *The Guardian* 29 plates, 2 chronological tables 42s net

Britain and the Rise of Communist China

A Study of British Attitudes 1945-1954

BRIAN PORTER

A study of British attitudes, as reflected in Government policy, parliamentary debate, and public opinion, towards the emergence of Communist China as a great power, and the issues, wars, and problems which accompanied that momentous event. 35s net

The Role of the Chinese Army

JOHN GITTINGS

'... a stimulating, informative book, which is bound to provoke disagreement. . . This book is to be welcomed, particularly if it makes us look more carefully at what Mao has achieved.' *Martin Gilbert in Tribune* 50s net

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

At Twenty-four Warren Street

MEMBERS are of course well aware of the vast bulk of central administration work which is carried out at Warren Street. But, apart from that, much time is occupied with extraneous matters—many of which are most rewarding as far as SACU's task of encouraging friendship between the peoples of Britain and China is concerned. Here, a SACU central office worker gives a glimpse of what may take place in a day at Warren Street.

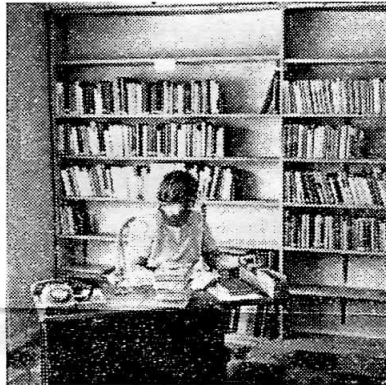
ENQUIRIES by post and telephone fill a good deal of the day. They range from general interest in the Society, through speakers needed, the Press, tours to China, working in China and a host of other topics even including advice as to how to adopt a Chinese baby!

Understanding of China is perhaps best realised by reading, and here the library at Warren Street offers both visitors and staff a really valuable service. A student preparing for a debate, a speaker needing information for a meeting, Dutch and American visitors with time to spare and need to study, a schoolboy wanting geographical information for his CSE examination—all these were helped recently by the books they found in the library so carefully catalogued by our Honorary Librarian, Mrs Brittain. Enquiries about books to borrow or buy on such different topics as Chinese boxing, the life of Mao Tse-tung, and the ancient dynasties of China were all successfully fulfilled by reference to the library and its recently compiled catalogue.

We are also constantly being asked to supply books, periodicals and pamphlets about China for meetings organised by SACU branches and other organisations and this need careful selection. We help schoolchildren who are studying China by sending them, at the cost of the postage only, surplus copies of illustrated Chinese magazines and suggesting suitable books for them



Betty Paterson at work on the addressograph



Mary Brittain sorting books in the library

to read. We have also prepared parcels of books for colleges of education who have held teach-ins and day schools on China.

Every post brings work for those dealing with SACU's membership. New members, renewals of subscriptions, advising branches of these and additions and deletions to our addressograph system all need constant attention. Envelopes for the distribution of SACU News and other information are prepared monthly with our little automatic envelope addressing machine and its presence saves many hours of laborious work. It was presented to us by a member who bought it for 10 shillings in a second-hand shop! Besides our members in the British Isles, SACU News also goes all over the world to members, other China Friendship organisations, friends in China, many libraries and information centres. As our addressograph plates are filed geographically we can help branches with local publicity and also see at a glance how our membership is growing in any particular area. At present we are very conscious that we have a big membership in London that is not covered by branches and as this tray of addressograph plates grows it is a constant reminder that something must be done!

Recently we have compiled two lists for use in sending out publicity for meetings and film shows. One is of members who are willing and able to

display publicity for us in their place of work or study and the other of organisations, political parties, film societies, youth groups etc who we hope will be interested in what SACU is doing.

Finally and most welcome there is the time devoted to callers at Warren Street. Members from near and far, enquirers about the Society, seekers after news from China and many others—all of these are a vital and necessary part of our work of promoting friendship for and understanding of China.

E P

Anchoring The Desert

(continued from page 1)

now widely employed in the war against the desert.

A scientific survey a few years ago discovered that the Ulanbuho is a depression, which can be irrigated with water from the Yellow River by gravitation. Under the sand is a thick layer of alluvial soil. The scientists found that the northern part of the desert had been a rich farming area some 2,000 years ago. Remains of the walls of towns and citadels have been discovered.

The deserts in China cover an area of one million square kilometres, or some 11% of the country's total area. In the past 15 years, many shelter belts have been planted. Eastern Inner Mongolia alone has 1,600 shelter belts, with a total length of more than 10,000 kilometres. With trees three to ten metres high, they shield 500,000 hectares of grazing land and large tracts of farmland against the ravages of shifting sand. In the winter months, snow, two to three metres thick, gathers under the trees to melt in the spring, providing life-giving moisture for farming and for pastureland. Snow that falls in the open desert melts, or is blown off by the wind. Crop yields on land protected by shelter belts are one to three fold higher.

Liao Yu-pin

FREE COPIES

SACU CENTRAL OFFICE has surplus copies of some 1966 back issues of various Chinese periodicals, which can be sent to members free of charge on payment of postage. Periodicals available include **Peking Review**, **China Reconstructs**, **China Pictorial**, **Chinese Literature**, **China Sport**, **Chinese Trade Unions**, **Chinese Medical Journal**, **Scientia Sinica**.

NEWS from the BRANCHES

SACU branches are now actively working on their autumn programmes. Among events planned are a Teach-In at Birmingham and a China Week at Oxford. Camden are also planning to have a China Week in May, 1968, on similar lines to the Festival of China successfully held by the Branch in 1966. Further details of forthcoming events will appear in future issues of SACU NEWS.

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The Editors would welcome more reports of Branch activities direct from Branch correspondents. Such reports are more interesting if written by different hands than if they are all compiled in SACU central office!

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It is the aim of SACU NEWS to encourage free discussion. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Council of Management.

China looks at the World

Reflections for a dialogue : eight letters to T'ang-lin

FRANÇOIS GEOFFROY-DECHAUME

"Written from a real understanding. . . François Geoffroy-Dechaume's reflections are based on 30 years living in China or on its periphery; reflections on its civilization and on the conflict that must be resolved between China and the world. . . His book tries to explain what is going on in the mind of the Chinese civilization-state on the broadest possible scale . . . it is a rare book, at once assured and modest." — Richard Harris, *The Times*. Translated by Jean Stewart. 36/-

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Branch Secretaries and New Addresses

- BARNET:** Geoffrey Carrick,
84 Meadway, Barnet, Herts.
- BRISTOL:** Jim Little,
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- CAMDEN:** Miss Jennifer Chaston,
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- MANCHESTER:** Philip Haymans,
Dane House, Middleton, Lancs.
- MERSEYSIDE:** Fred Brunson,
118 Beckett's Lane, Chester.
- OXFORD:** Geraldine Brown &
Anna Hlott (Jt Secs),
18 Norham Road, Oxford.
- SHEFFIELD:** Rev. John Roebuck,
The Vicarage, Wales, Sheffield.

STOP PRESS: At the request of several members arrangements have been made to include daily Chinese classes at the SACU summer school which is to be held at Glynllifon (see below) provided there is sufficient demand. No extra charge will be made but it is essential that members wishing to take advantage of this added feature of the school should write to the secretary by 28 July.

HOLIDAYS

SACU central office will be closed from Tuesday, 8 August to Monday, 4 September, inclusive for staff holidays.

Any correspondence relating to the Glynllifon Summer School will be dealt with.

The next issue of SACU NEWS will be published in mid-September.

STUDY CHINA IN WALES

Spend ten days holiday on the beautiful coast of North Wales combined with a study of China.

SACU's Summer School at Glynllifon, Caernarvon, will provide lectures and discussion on the main aspects of China today, and will leave ample leisure time for walks and local excursions.

Lecturers will include:

Bill Brugger (lived in China 1964-1966)
on the Cultural Revolution and Social Development.

Colin Penn (lived in China 1962-1964)
on Democracy in China.

Bernard Martin (WEA Lecturer —
Author of 'Strange Vigour')
on Confucius and 20th Century China and Sun Yat-Sen's Vision for China Today.

W J F Jenner (Lecturer, Department of Chinese Studies,
University of Leeds — lived in China 1963-65)
on Chinese Literature.

From 25 August to 3 September. Inclusive Charge:
for SACU members £16
for SACU student members £14
for non-members £17.10

Reserve your place now by sending £1 deposit to
24 Warren Street, W1.

Letters from Peking

Letters from Peking, by Delia Jenner.
Oxford University Press, 1967. 30s.

THESE LETTERS, not written originally for publication, give an honest and straightforward picture of life in Peking in 1963-65 as the writer (and her husband who took the photographs that illustrate the book) experienced it. As a very young English teacher she was able to get on easy terms with her students and colleagues; one of the strongest impressions the book leaves is of her affection for the Chinese people.

At the time Mrs Jenner was in China there were few indications that the cultural revolution was so soon to unfold and startle the world, but in the light of subsequent events some quite small things she reports are illuminating. Writing in September 1964 of the new students, specially picked for having good English accents, and all from Shanghai or Peking, she says:

They are much younger than the students I taught last year, many of them are from better-off families, but even those who are not take certain things for granted because life has been stable and secure for almost as long as they can remember. For instance, most of my old students considered tea a treat and drank it only once or twice a

week, whereas some of the new students keep packets of tea in their desks and drink it every day.

A small indulgence, but symptomatic of one of the trends now being reversed in the cultural revolution.

Letters from Peking' can be recommended to anyone interested in getting a taste of life in China; it is a pity that such a small and unpretentious book has to be so expensive.

D B

On Wednesday, 2 August, Bill Brugger will be showing more of his colour films taken in China between 1964 and 1966. At 24 Warren Street, London, WC1 and 7 pm.

FOR HIRE: Pleasant meeting room (holding approximately 30-40) with kitchen facilities on SACU premises, is available to organisations by arrangement. Enquiries to SACU Central Office.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE INCLUSION of a book under this heading does not preclude a review at a later date.

A Little Primer of Tu Fu, by David Hawkes. Oxford University Press, 1967. 50s.

An Anthology of Chinese Verse, translated by J. D. Frodsham. Oxford University Press, 1967. 35s.

Leadership in Communist China, by John Wilson Lewis. Oxford University Press (Cornell Paperback), 1967. 16s.

Letters from Peking, by Delia Jenner. Oxford University Press, 1967. 30s.

LIBRARY PLANS

THE ANGLO-CHINESE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, with the help of the Library Committee, plans to advertise this small specialist Library as widely as possible during the coming months. Besides the collection of books — both in the Reference and Lending Sections — a growing number of pamphlets, periodicals and newspaper cuttings are being added. Volunteers are particularly needed to help with Press cuttings Service, both to collate the cuttings already received and to 'cover' the following newspapers: 'Sunday Times', 'Daily Express', 'Daily Mail', 'Daily Mirror', 'People' and 'News of the World'. Offers of help and any enquiries should be addressed to: The Secretary, Anglo-Chinese Educational Institute, 24 Warren Street, W1.

HURRY

THE last date for registration for SACU's Glynllifon Summer School (25 August to 3 Sept) is 28 July.

Readers who would like regular copies of *Letter from China*, edited by Anna Louise Strong, may obtain them by writing to J. Shapiro, 100 Brim Hill, London, N2.

SACU NEWS welcomes contributions, either in the form of articles, reports of events or letters. Material intended for publication should be sent to central office not later than the tenth day of the month prior to publication.

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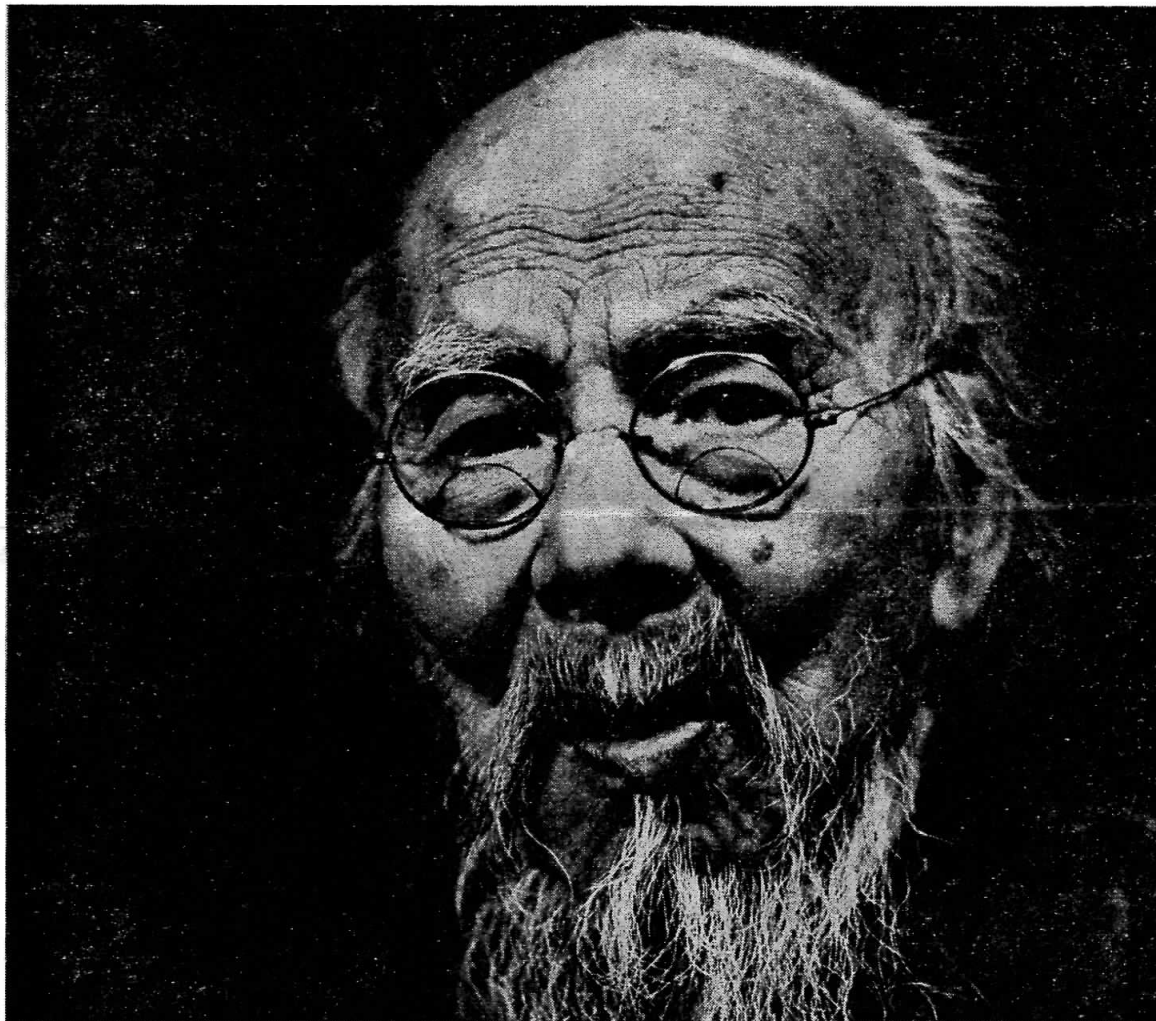
THE EAST IS RED	English narration	Colour	126 mins.
THE PEACOCK PRINCESS	English narration	Colour	78 mins.
NEW YEAR'S SACRIFICE	English sub-titles	Colour	85 mins.
CHINA! (Director: Felix Greene)	English narration	Colour	70 mins.
OPIUM WAR	English sub-titles	B/W	108 mins.
DANCES OF THE NATIONALITIES		Colour	65 mins.

SHORTS

PEKING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA		B/W	18 mins.
HAND PUPPETS	English narration	Colour	24 mins.
CHINESE GYMNASTS	English sub-titles	Colour	18 mins.

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Air France is the first West European airline to be granted a route to Shanghai, and the new service brings to six the total number of flights a week by the company to the Far East. Countries served by Air France include Iran, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, the Phillipines,

Japan - and now the People's Republic of China. Destination in many of these countries may be used as stop-over points on your journey to Shanghai. Full details can be obtained from your Travel Agent or nearest Air France office,

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