



一个丹麦人的中国情节

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他是一位热情、爽朗的丹麦人，他的中文名字叫做西蒙。每当谈及中国文化、老北京的故事时，他都会显得异常兴奋。

他与几个朋友合开了一家小店，叫做“北京卡片”，位于北京东城南锣鼓巷内，店内的明信片均由老照片影印而成，不断泛着浓浓的京味儿，于静默中讲述着那些凝聚在光影之间的老城故事，也讲述着一个丹麦人的中国情结。

十岁孩子的中国兴趣

西蒙十岁左右的时候，父亲带他去看了的一部中国电影，叫《末代皇帝》。就是因为这部片子中所反映出

的当时中国晚清宫廷的生活故事，让西蒙对遥远的中国以及中国的历史和文化产生了浓厚的兴趣，并且这种兴趣与日俱增。

并且，西蒙的爷爷对中国文化亦有兴趣，收藏了很多中国的文物和古董。因此，受父辈的熏陶和影响，他开始渐渐从一些书籍中了解中国。之后便努力存钱，目的是要亲自踏上中国的土地感受一下。

“未到中国之前看了许多关于中国的电影和书籍，但在脑海里仍旧是个很模糊的概念，还处在想象之中”，西蒙笑道。但最后，如愿以偿的，他在1991年申请在四川大学中文系学

习，学习期间又顺便在云南、四川、甘肃等地区旅游。之后又申请回丹麦大学学习中文。从1995-1998年间，西蒙三度回四川学习中国和东亚的历史、文化、经济、地理等课程，并在学习期间兼职做导游。

2003年，西蒙和她的四川夫人搬到北京工作并生活。在中国生活学习的日子里，西蒙还在不断地收集一些中国的古董、老照片。这似乎已经成了他的一种爱好，用他的话来讲：“刚开始只是喜欢，到后来渐渐变得痴迷了”。

西蒙尤其对中国明清以后的历史比较感兴趣，了解的也比较深刻。

The Chinese Complex of a Dane

By Du Juan

Xi Meng is the Chinese name of a passionate and out-going Dane. Each time talking of Chinese culture and old Beijing stories, Xi Meng appears to be extraordinary excited.

He runs a small shop, named "Beijing Card", with some friends. Located in Nanluoguxiang, the shop has many postcards, photocopied by old photos, in it. These cards carry a typical sense of old Beijing, telling those old stories in the long history of Beijing and showing the Chinese complex of a Dane.

Chinese interests of a ten-year-old child

At the age of ten, Xi Meng went to see a Chinese film named "The Last Emperor" with his father. This film was about the story of royal life in late Qing Dynasty, which aroused Xi Meng's great interests, which increased with time, in China, Chinese history and Chinese culture.

Besides, Xi Meng's grandfather is also very interested in Chinese culture, so he collects many Chinese cultural relic and antiques. Influenced by his father and grandfather, he becomes to know more about China from some books. Later, he makes great efforts to make money, in order to come to China in person, to experience life here.

"Before coming to China, I have read many books and watched many films about China, but China is still a vague concept in my mind and remains an imagination to me", says Xi Meng, smiling. Finally in 1991, Xi Meng's dream came true, because he applied for studying Chinese language in Sichuan University, and he was successful. During his study in Sichuan, he travelled to many places in Yunnan, Sichuan, Gansu, etc. After that, he returned to Denmark University to continue his study of Chinese language. During 1995 to 1998,

Xi Meng went back to Sichuan three times to learn subjects such as history, culture, economics and geography about China and East Asia. In this period of time, he worked concurrently as a part-time tourist guide.

In 2003, Xi Meng, with his wife who comes from Sichuan, moved to and worked in Beijing. In the days living and studying in China, Xi Meng keeps collecting many Chinese antiques and old pictures, which seems to have become his hobby. "I was fond of it at the beginning, but later I got obsessed with it", says Xi Meng.

Xi Meng is especially interested in the history after Ming and Qing Dynasty, so he knows more about history of this period. He also collects many woodcarvings, because he is interested in all the woodcarvings from different places, of different wood materials, made in different periods and by different people.

Uncommon "business"

One day, a friend told Xi Meng that it was such a pity that the great many of old pictures owned by Xi Meng could not be seen by people. Just these words of his friend got many of his friends with the same interests together. They photocopied the old pictures collected by them into postcards or large pictures, and started their uncommon "business"—Beijing Card.

Most of the Xi Meng's old pictures come from auctions in foreign countries or descendants of Danish missionaries. Some of the pictures were bought from antique market such as Panjiayuan. "These photos were taken by foreigners who travelled and lived in China. These pictures have a history of at least 100 years, so that they can reproduce the real situation at that time, such as streets, buildings, and things existing only at

that time in the streets", says Xi Meng. He thinks that these photos are rather interesting. He is also fond of confirming, in various ways, the place and time shown on the pictures. "I become increasingly interested in it. The more I know about it, the more interesting it seems to me", says Xi Meng.

When an old lady tells his grandson, pointing at one of the pictures, "this is the little yard I once lived in, but now, it has disappeared", does she find it meaningful? When a foreign traveler compares a card of modern Tan'anmen in his hand with the card in the shop which shows the Imperial Palace 100 years ago, does he find it interesting? Xi Meng says that many people come to see and buy these cards with different complexes. Some once lived in the place shown on the picture, so they will tell us many stories of that place. Some others are interested in the buildings, living conditions and traditional culture of that place. He believes that many people buy cards for the sake of collecting or the stories in the picture, rather than mailing.

In Xi Meng's mind, these historical details can connect people with the past stories in a memory line and convey certain thoughts, so that they are meaningful. This is the very reason why Xi Meng's shop becomes well-known and many old people living near Nanluoguxiang come here out of admiration. These old photos can trigger their memory buried for many years. Their eyes are often brightened on sight of these old pictures and they will tell the stories in the bottom of their hearts. In this way, Xi Meng can find out the wrong information on their cards and is able to correct the wrong ones.

China changes too quickly

When talking of the impression of China, Xi Meng admits that the world,



他还收藏了很多中国民间的木雕，对中国不同地方、不同材质、不同时间、不同人物做的木雕都非常感兴趣。

不一般的“生意”

有一天，一位朋友突然对西蒙说，你手上有那么多的老照片，但却没有人能看到，实在是可惜了。就是这一句话，让西蒙和他志同道合的朋友们走到一起，用影印的形式将诸多他搜集的老照片制成明信片或放大成挂画，开始了他们不一般的“生意”——北京卡片。

西蒙的大部分老照片都来源于国外的拍卖会，或是收集于丹麦传教士的后裔手中，也有一部分来自于类似北京潘家园之类的古董市场。“这些照片都是以前外国人来中国旅游、居住的时候拍的，到现在少说也有一百年的历史了，这些照片能够真实的再现当时的情景，比如街道、建筑、和那时街上特有的一些东西”，西蒙说到。他觉得这些照片非常有意思，他还喜欢利用各种方法来考察照片内容所涉及的地点、年代等。用他自己的话来说就是：“对此兴趣越来越浓，并且越了解越觉得有意思。”

当一位白发苍苍的老奶奶指着店里的其中一幅照片对孙子说：“这是奶奶小时候住过的小院，但现在已经不存在了”；当一位外国游客拿着一张印有现代天安门影像的明信片 and 店里印有百年前的故宫图片相对比时，他们是否会感到很有意思呢？西蒙表示，有很多人是怀有不同的情结来小店看照片、买照片的，有人曾经在照片上的一些地方居住过，那么他们会给我们讲很多关于那个地方的故事，而有些人则对中国过去的建筑形态、生活状况和传统文化感兴趣。他认为，很多人买“北京卡片”并不是为了邮寄，而是为了收藏，为了照片里的故事。

在西蒙看来，这种历史的细节能够将人与过去的事情连在一条记忆的线上，能够传递某种思想，因而非常有意义。也正因为如此，西蒙的“北京卡片”变得越来越有名气，南锣鼓巷附近的老人们有不少慕名前来。老照片往往能触发他们深埋多年的记忆，这些老人随后就会眼神发亮，娓娓讲述记忆深处的故事。这样一来，也能及时发现并纠正他们卡片上标有的错误信息。

中国的变化实在太快

当我们谈到中国印象时，西蒙表示，世界、尤其是中国的发展速度太快了，就拿1995年和现在的南锣鼓巷来说，变化之大，让人瞠目！

刚开店时，光顾西蒙店的大多数还是外国人，而现在80%的顾客都是中国人。西蒙个人认为这是因为社会发展的加快所引起的现象。他表示，有很多顾客进到店里来其实就是想要个机会对自己的历史做个“回溯”。因为中国发展太快了，变化也太大了，很多人对过去的建筑或影像根本就没有概念。

西蒙现在身边有很多中国朋友，开着汽车，住着高级公寓，根本无法想象五十年、甚至一百年前中国的状

况。因此他觉得自己是在用旧照片来帮助人们复原过去的一种景象，帮助人们了解中国的历史。

另外，他觉得中国学生现在又在提倡学习孔子、学习书画，这也是一种变化，是中国人引以为荣的一种变化。

做个悠闲的北京人

“我想做个地道的北京人，不忙，每天都能过着悠闲自在的生活。我很喜欢。”西蒙如是说。他觉得北京人热情、幽默又友好。他非常喜欢二环以内的老北京城，很喜欢骑着单车穿行在北京的胡同巷子里，并偶尔在各种亲王王府邸、名人故居的门口驻足，与他在书中所了解到的故事做个对比。

“北京的历史太博大精深了”，他说。北京城以其悠久的历史、恢宏的旧城风貌和最大最完整的皇家宫殿名扬世界，而托起这座历史名城的根基就是一条条胡同和一座座青砖灰瓦的四合院，独特的胡同、四合院风貌是这座古城的基础文化元素。它正在以独特的魅力引起越来越多的人们重视和喜爱。

西蒙说：“虽然有一部分这样的建筑已经拆掉或改建了，但仍有很大一部分保留着，这个对北京非常重要。如果所有这样的建筑都不存在了，那北京也就没有什么特色了。”

当问到他们今后的发展时，西蒙表示，在接下来的日子里，他和朋友们可能会做关于《北京印象》的书，还会开通网站，每个月定期拿出几张老照片做一个故事或历史的介绍，而且是不断循环的更新。也希望网友都能通过留言的方式来更正图片注解的错误信息。

还会让大家了解照相的历史以及相机的发展历史，西蒙表示，他们不是要开一个博物馆，但却要以一个博物馆的形式让大家了解更多的中国历史和知识点。■

especially China, is changing so quickly. Take Nanluoguxiang for example, it has changed so greatly compared with 1995 that I am almost dumb-founded.

At the beginning, customers of the shop are mostly foreigners, but now, 80% of the customers are Chinese people. Personally, Xi Meng deems that this is a result of the quickened social development. He claims that many customers come into the shop only to give themselves a chance of retrospect to their own history. China is developing and changing so fast that many people do not have a concept about buildings and images in the past at all.

Many Chinese friends of Xi Meng's, living in luxurious apartments and driving luxurious cars, can hardly imagine the situation of China of 100 years ago. Therefore, he thinks that he is using these pictures to help people rebuild the past images and know more about Chinese history.

In addition, China is now advocating the learning of the Confucius and painting and calligraphy, which is considered by Xi Meng as a change that Chinese people should be proud of.

Being one of the leisurely Beijing people

"I want to be a pure Beijing people, who is not busy and can live a leisurely life everyday. I like it very much", says Xi Meng. He finds Beijing people easy-going, humorous and friendly. He likes the Beijing City within the 2nd Ring Road very much. He enjoys riding a bicycle and traveling in Beijing Hutong (bystreets). Occasionally, he stops at the gate of former residence of late princes or celebrities to compare with the stories he knows from books.

"The history of Beijing is too profound" he says. Beijing is famous all over the world for its long history, magnificent old city style and the largest and most complete royal palaces, while the foundation for this historical city is those Hutong and Siheyuan (quadrangles). Unique Siheyuan is the fundamental cultural element of this



ancient city.

"Some of these buildings have been removed or rebuilt, but most of the buildings remain there", says Xi Meng. "This is of great importance for Beijing. If these buildings disappear, there will be nothing special about Beijing".

When asked about future development, Xi Meng expresses that in the following days, his friends and he may write a book named Beijing Impression. They will also establish a website, introducing a

story or a period of history with some old photos each month. The website will be updated periodically. They also hope to correct the wrong information in the notes of those pictures through messages left by net friends.

They will also introduce the history of photography and camera. Xi Meng expresses that they do not intend to open a museum, but only to enable people to know more about Chinese history and knowledge in the form of a museum. ■