

探險家紀實〔輯一〕Nature Field Diary

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 江邊魚獲 Catch from the river

U Thein Phe 七十五歲,是退休教師。他英語流暢,解答了我的提問。Da're 村居民大約一千戶,農民占多數,20%左右是漁戶。打漁人家主要是穆斯林,相貌略有中東民族之風。農夫通常比漁夫「有錢」,因為莊稼收成比較穩定,漁獲則比較難測。近年來,整體漁獲量也開始下降。他自己呢,從前很難得上毛淡棉一趟,因為負擔不起公車票。那個時候他每個月退休金只有八千緬元,現在新政府每個月給他兩萬三千緬元的福利金,因此他隨時想進城都行。日子顯然好些了。

我們運氣不錯,碰上一列結親的隊伍。村裡每個人都是貴賓,隨時 有人加入也有人離開。有人幫忙準備吃的,有人幫忙吃。看樣子最開 心的是小孩,他們充分享受這頓宴請所有人的大餐。年輕的新人(新 娘十八歲,新郎二十四歲)穿著體面,大方地讓我們照相。

當我們起身離開時,主人十分客氣,送我們走下梯級,還有幾名兒 童跟著我們一路走到江岸。淌入泥裡是再次的苦刑。我開始想,接下 來兩天沿河上行訪問村鎮,我還要重複幾次這種苦差事?或許應該把 This effort however was rather harmless when compared to the snowstorm we had to weather at the source of the Salween several months ago. At the source, life really did seem to be on the line. One team member was so exhausted after falling off his horse and picking himself up that he lamented a second fall would spell his demise, never to be able to get up again. Should one fall here, the only danger would be "drowning" in deep mud. A dozen pairs of muddy feet finally reached dry land and it was rendered worthy of a group photo, just of the feet of course.

U Thein Phe is a retired teacher of 75. He spoke perfect English and answered some of my questions. Da're is a village of almost a thousand families, mostly farmers, with about twenty percent of the families being fisherman. These fishermen are mainly Muslim and have some middleeastern features. Usually farmers are more "wealthy" than fishing people, as their crops are better assured, whereas fishing yield is more uncertain. Recent years have also seen overall catch dropping. As for himself, he used to go to Moulmein once in a long while, not being able to afford the bus fare. That was when he was getting only 8,000 kyats per month in retirement fund. Today the new government gives him 23,000 allowance each month. So he can afford to go to the city any time he wants. Life apparently is getting better lately.















 聖伯納山口的教堂 Chapel at the St Bernard Pass

用餐,一共十多位神父,分坐兩張圓桌。晚飯有湯、沙拉、乳酪、鹹 派,還有兩個甜點:巧克力慕斯和水果派。

由於年事已高,沙智勇神父不記得近年發生的事情,可是只要我用普通話或藏語跟他打招呼,他的臉孔就發亮。一會兒,我指著自己穿的馬球衫上的標誌。「噢,對了,氂牛。」他說。很明顯,儘管高壽,他的早年記憶並未完全喪失。當我起身離開,教會的副院長Kaelin 神父阻止我,說:「你還不能走,我們要跟沙神父喝一杯。」我記得十多年前去台灣拜訪沙神父,那時他就很喜愛威士忌跟白蘭地。

Kaelin 神父拿出一瓶還沒開封的酒,我們坐下來喝。沙神父拿到一個大杯子,而我們其他人都是小杯子。酒過兩巡,瓶中酒只剩一半。

Today, there are about 40 priests in the Mission though most of the younger ones are dispatched to different parishes to work on spreading the Gospel. Left here are the most senior ones, including Fr Savioz. One exception is Fr Joseph Young. True to his name, he looks to be in his thirties and came from Henan Province of northern China. When he first arrived six years ago, he did not speak a word of French, and now he is fluent. They were expecting my visit and I was asked to stay for dinner. There were about a dozen priests sitting in two round tables as we ate at the dining room. Soup, salad, cheese and quiche were served and there were two desserts, a chocolate mousse and a fruit pie.

At his very senior age, Fr Savioz has forgotten much of what happened in recent years, but once I greeted him in Mandarin or Tibetan, his face lit up. Momentarily I pointed to the logo on my polo shirt. "Oh yah, a yak," he said. Obviously his early memories have not altogether lapsed despite his age. As I rose to leave, Father Kaelin, the prior of the Mission, stopped me and said,

 山口的停屍房子 House for the dead





 安藤在玩吉他 Ando with his favorite guitar

這是六百年前的愛爾蘭歌謠。」安藤誠彈奏 Martin D4 收藏家版吉他,以快速撥弦結束了一曲,然後給了這個注解。樂聲迴響,充滿了廚房隔壁的小間。壁爐溫暖地燃燒,窗外的白雪似乎在黑暗中發光。就在兩天前,6.9 級的地震波及這一帶,揚聲器從天花板上的架子上掉了下來。現在固定好了,周圍黏上大力膠帶。

「另一把是 Dobro 吉他,很老了,二次大戰前製作的。」一九六四年出生的安藤誠說。他在無名指上套了一個玻璃環(切下來的酒杯杯頸,邊緣已經磨平),開始用這把銀灰色的金屬吉他演奏另一首曲子——即興改編「奇異恩典」為藍調。這不過是安藤誠大量收藏的十五支吉他中的一支。

但是安藤誠喜愛的不只是音樂、吉他和摩托車。自然對他的吸引非 常真實,驅使他搬離家鄉札幌市,遷移到北海道東部的偏遠小城釧 路。他想置身於丹頂鶴、鹿與熊等等野生動物之間,生活在自然森林 This is an Irish song from 600 years ago," Ando San annotated as he finished playing with a fast strum on his Martin D4 collector series guitar. The music resonance filled the small room next to the kitchen. The fireplace was burning warm and outside the window the snow seemed to glow even in the dark. Just two days ago, a 6.9 magnitude earthquake rocked through the area and his speakers fell from their mounts high up the ceiling. Now they are secured, with duct tape around them.

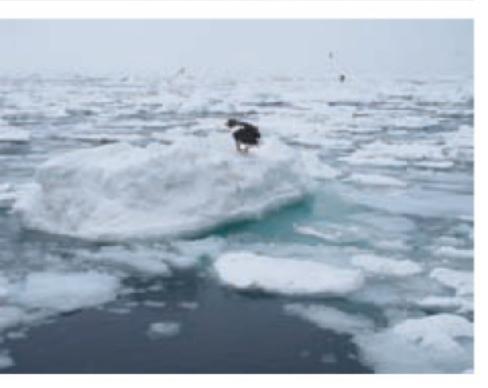
"This other guitar is a Dobro, very old and made before the Second World War," said Ando who was born in 1964. Sliding a glass piece over his ring finger, a piece cut off from the neck of a wine glass with edges smoothed off, he played another tune, Amazing Grace improvised as blues, on this all-chrome metal guitar. This is just another of Ando's large collection of about 15 guitars.

But Ando's love is more than music, guitars and motorcycles. His fascination with nature is genuine, drawing him to move away from his native

安藤夫人的一手好菜
 Shinobu serving dinner











沒兩樣。我們躲在一塊大岩石後面,很快地以野餐解決了午飯,之後 沒多久就離開了。

就像大學生半途改變主修課程,我突然決定改向,帶隊開往黃河上游一個彎流。我覺得,地圖上任何一個不知名的地方,都比過分擁擠的新興觀光點來得強。沿途見到幾條大獒拴在牧民的家屋前,可見我們已經遠離熱門路線,令人鼓舞。氂牛糞拍打結實後,圍著屋子做成一道牆,圈起院落,糞牆浮刻著飾紋。這兒氂牛糞不是廢物,而是牧民珍視的燃料。就在離這兒不遠的地方,挨著黃河河岸,我們碰上之前提到的那個怒氣騰騰的僧人。

天氣方面,儘管雨季已經來臨,我們一直很幸運,碰上的晴天多於 雨天。冰雹只下過一次,雪則只在山的高處才有。冬蟲夏草的採收 季也來臨了,高原上所有的城鎮都擠滿了蟲草的賣家和買家,蠕蟲般 的小小一根,價格可高到一百元人民幣。七珠和卓瑪(我們的教育專

 高原藏獒 Tibetan Mastiff





 黄河邊的營地 Campsite by Yellow River

were likewise simply called Red bandits by the Nationalists of Chiang Kaishek. Now that they have been in power for over sixty years, they should not repeat history, but instead learn from their own past.

Arriving at Nyibu Yutze Sacred Mountain is just as disappointing as not reaching our first goal of Jonang monastery. The pristine snow-capped mountain with a lake at its foot is now filled with tourists bussed in from Sichuan and Qinghai. Everyone was stopped at a simple gate and asked to pay a ticket price of Rmb120 to enter, drivers included. I don't know when prime sacred sites, or as a matter of fact all scenic sites, became commercial profit generating machines. Busloads of colorfully clad tourists loudly roamed the grounds and there were maybe scores of tents the caretaker monopoly had pitched to rent out to visitors. It was, like a zoo. We had a quick picnic lunch, hiding ourselves behind a huge rock, and left soon after.

Not unlike a college student changing his major half way through his

上,他們都來自雲南西部。其中一家姓熊,經營一家餐館,叫做水上 世界,我們在那兒吃午飯,飯廳周圍環繞著魚池。二十四歲的女兒熊 其芬以中文寫下名字給我。她還指點我們注意餐館後面,有隻黑熊被 關在相當大的籠子裡。她在黑熊只有貓那麼大的時候就開始養,把牠 當成籠物。三年內,牠就長得比人還高。巧的是這家人也姓熊。

從德穆回到停泊在欽敦江畔葛禮瓦的船上,花了四小時。中途有個小鎮叫 Kelay,位於欽邦的邊界,以布織品聞名。我們在一個家家紡織的村子停下,想買些成品。天已轉暗,一家商店外面的天空中,有許多蝙蝠在夜色中補蟲。我用閃光燈拍到蝙蝠出動的英姿,而昆蟲也同時現形,牠們是反光的小白點。不過,那隻蝙蝠照起來有如 X 光顯影片。

就在幾天前,我們在因萊湖畔的展覽屋旁,架起三張捕蝙蝠的網。 有幾隻逃走了,損毀了我們的網,但是我們抓到了兩隻,做了各種測量紀錄。其中一隻是較小的狐蝠(近似在蒲甘見到的大型狐蝠),竟

江邊居民
 Spectators along the bank





 印度籍的邊鎮店主 Indian shop vender in Tamu

surrounding the dining area. Xiong Qinfen, the 24-year-old daughter, wrote her name in formal Chinese characters to give me. She also pointed us to behind the restaurant where a black bear was kept inside a rather large cage. She had had it as a pet since the time when it was barely the size of a cat. Within three years it had grown to be taller than a man. Ironically, Xiong in Chinese also means bear.

It took four hours by car to get back from Tamu to our boat anchored at Kalewa by the Chindwin. Kelay is a town in between and at the border of the Chin State of Myanmar, most famous for its weaving of textile. We stopped by a village filled with weavers in many homes in order to purchase some finished fabric. As it was already getting dark, outside and above a shop were many bats going after insects in the darkened sky. Using a flash, I succeeded in capturing the bat in action as the insects showed up as reflected white dots. The bat, however, showed up as if on an x-ray film.

Just days ago, at our Exhibit House of Inle Lake, we set up three nets to capture bats. While several got away and damaged our nets, we did manage to trap two bats for measurements. One of them, a smaller flying fox similar to the large ones we saw at Bagan, even had a newborn baby under one of its wings. Eyes not yet open, it folded up and sucked tightly on the teat as if in