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 復活節在賽雜利亞的遊行 Easter at Seville

海洋探險時代的高峰,葡萄牙在大海上所向無敵。作為中國人,我們看重的是明朝下西洋的鄭和,他的船隊不但早於歐洲人,而且船隻更大、船數更多。有的新看法,尤其是《1421年》這本暢銷書提出的說法,甚至認為鄭和抵達了美洲,比哥倫布更早。不過這種揣測仍遭到許多質疑,還非定論。

其實,歐洲人和中國人從各自的家鄉出發,旅程的方向交錯,氛圍 差異不小。而雙方的努力對世界所造成的影響和衝擊範圍,也十分不 同。以歐洲人而言,開拓貿易、征服新的殖民地,是皇室或政府支持 海事活動的最大原因。至於地理上的新發現、科學知識及宗教信仰的 散播,雖然可能是次要的動機,仍然相當重要,以致於他們對海外地 區的衝擊既廣且久。 t the height of the age of maritime exploration and discovery, Portugal ruled the sea. As Chinese (myself included), we tend to emphasize Cheng He, the sea admiral of the Ming Dynasty, who preceded the Europeans with much larger ships and fleet sizes. New theory, in particular the one put forth in the popular book 1421, tried to put Cheng's achievements with farther reaches to the Americas (ahead of Columbus), though this conjecture is still highly contested and debated upon.

But the context of the travels of the Europeans and the Chinese, in reversing directions from their respective home ports, varied greatly. Likewise their influence and impact to the rest of the world as a result of their endeavors were different in scale. For the Europeans, trade and conquest of new colonies were the paramount reasons for their royal patronage or government sponsored seafaring activities. Geographic discoveries, scientific knowledge and spread of religious beliefs probably were secondary, nonetheless important motivation.

 法魯的教堂 Church of Faro



而中國人呢,遠洋航行的壯舉在明朝以後就逐漸湮沒。只有歷史學 者還對那些紀錄感興趣,要不然就是當代中國人為了彰顯民族成就才 會把舊事翻出來。當然,我們不能完全忽略鄭和七次旅程抵達南洋及 非洲東岸,所進行的文化傳播或貿易行動。不過很明顯,葡萄牙及後 來其他歐洲國家,如西班牙、荷蘭、英國,其影響所及更遠、更久, 至今不歇。

在這樣的歷史環境下,抱著對葡萄牙人當年次要動機的欽慕之情, 思考是什麼精神驅使他們放眼貿易、殖民之外的目的向遙遠的地方 前行,我造訪了葡萄牙,沿著該國海岸,從南到北一遊。第一站是法 魯,抵達的前一週恰好是復活節的神聖禮拜,我待在西班牙的塞維利 亞,然後從西班牙進入法魯。熱烈的宗教氣氛和復活節的遊行,正是 一首最好的序曲,使我明白在伊比利亞半島(涵蓋了西葡兩國)的歷 史與傳統中,宗教的影響四處瀰漫。

法魯坐落於海岸線,市中心有中世紀的城牆環繞,小丘上聳立著古老的大教堂,俯視港灣內為數不多的遊艇和船隻。這座昔日的漁村,如今是步調悠閒的小鎮,眾人緩步於墊高的路徑上,或閒坐在碼頭上幾家咖啡店裡啜飲咖啡。碼頭旁更有多間教堂,教堂頂上搭著白鶴的巨型鳥巢。我們到訪的時機正好,可以看見好幾隻體型不小的白鶴在巢裡抱蛋。偶爾還可見到嘴中銜著小枝的大鶴飛來,繼續加強巢的結構。那天是星期天,眾人擁入教堂望彌撒。一位老婦靠著堂外的直柱站著,要人救濟。從膚色、服裝看來,她可能來自北非的摩洛哥或附近地區。

葡萄牙的首都里斯本,離法魯不遠。我在里斯本的碉堡裡面漫步良久,俯視港灣的全景。如今住宅遍布小丘,一直蓋到城牆腳邊,古砲的砲塔緊挨在下方民宅的紅磚屋頂上。幾隻家貓在牆縫裡找到隱密的出入口,以古堡作為後院。

街車 28 路,車身通常是黃色的,以行經狹街窄巷知名,不時在市中心兩側的陡坡,上下疾馳。我搭乘時,看到不怕死的年輕人踩著車子外側的梯級,一方面追求雲霄飛車似的冒險,另一方面還有逃票的刺激。我換搭另一路車,沿市區的碼頭而行,造訪有名的海事博物館。

博物館的藏品包括很棒的圖片、模型,以及葡萄牙本國的航海遺物。大洋上的海盜,其歷史之久跟航海貿易恐怕不相上下。有一個特



里斯本的 28 號街車
 No.28 street car of Lisboa

For these reasons, the European's impacts in foreign lands were immense and long lasting.

For the Chinese on the other hand, their great voyages faded into obscurity following the fall of the Ming dynasty. Only historians find interest in such records, or in more contemporary times for Chinese keen on displaying their nationalistic achievements. We of course cannot totally write off impacts like propagation of culture and some impetus to trade during and after Cheng He's seven visits to the southern oceans and east coast of Africa. But obviously the Portuguese, and later on their European counterparts like the Spanish, Dutch and English, left far more influence with further reach, and for duration of centuries until the present day.

Within such context and in admiration of their secondary interests, the spirit which drove them to faraway places for reasons beyond trade and colonization, I visited Portugal along its sea board from south to north. My first stop was Faro as I crossed from Spain into Portugal, after spending Semana Santa (Holy



里斯本的葡國蛋撻
 Egg tart Portugal

展是關於當代海盜的。展品包括一艘擴獲的改裝快艇,屬於索馬利亞 的海盜集團,橫行於阿拉伯海通往印度洋的重要航線。還有一捲相應 的錄影帶在放映,記錄的是多國海軍跟高度武裝的游擊式海盜之間的 衝突。

若干世紀以前,在葡萄牙的海事活動中,不少傳教士前往中國,其中以前往澳門的最為集中。一六六〇年,正值前清年代,中國境內的耶穌會教士要寄信回家的話,需要五年時間才能送達羅馬。而更早的明代,十二名耶穌會神父於一五七三年從里斯本啟航到中國宣教,只有一人安全抵達澳門。一百年後,到了一六八四年,自從利瑪竇神父離開里斯本抵達中國以來,估計百年間有六百名教士出發,只有一百位抵達澳門。其餘則由於各種原因而殞沒。

Week of Easter) at Seville of Spain. The religious fervor and parades were perhaps the best overture for my understanding of the history and heritage of how religion permeates throughout the Iberian Peninsula, which includes Spain and Portugal.

Faro, a seacoast town with a medieval walled center, has the ancient cathedral of Se rising on a hill overlooking the harbor with a small regatta of yachts and boats. Once a fishing village, the town today has a laissez-fair style to its pace as people stroll the causeway and leisurely drink their coffee at the few cafes along the waterfront. Above more churches by the waterfront are huge bird's nests of the white stork. Our timing must be right as I could see several storks perching in their nests hatching. Large storks would occasionally fly by with twigs in their beaks, bringing them to reinforce the nests. It was Sunday and people flocked to church for Mass. One older lady leaned on a column outside to collect alms. From her complexion and costume, she may be from northern Africa, perhaps Morocco or other nearby vicinities.

Not far from Faro is Lisboa, capital of Portugal. I had a long stroll inside the fortress overlooking the entire approach to the harbor. Today residential homes were built all the way along the hillside up to the base of the fortified walls, with old canons jutting their gun turrets right over red-tiled roofs of houses below. A few cats from these homes found their private access through cracks and indents of the walls and took the fortress as their own backyard.

Number 28 street cars, usually in yellow color, are famous as its path negotiates some of the narrowest roads and alleys and at times cruised in high speed up and down steep hills on both sides of city center. I took it for a ride as I saw dare-devil youngster hanging on to the side steps, getting a thrill both in ride and avoid paying for the ticket. I changed to another number and went along the waterfront of the city to visit the rather famous Maritime museum.

The museum has a wonderful collection of pictures, models, relics of the country's maritime past. Pirates of the high sea are perhaps as old as the maritime trade. A special exhibit about contemporary pirates was on display. It included a captured make-shift speedboat, from the Somalia Sea Pirates who has been pestering important sea lanes of the Arabian Sea – Indian Ocean coast. A complementary, or complimentary, video illustrates a show-down at sea between Navies of the world and these heavily armed guerrilla-like pirates.



 法蒂瑪的教堂 Church of Fatima

那個年代,海上航線充滿風險,乘客常因量船、風暴、暗礁、海盜或各式各樣的疾病而倒下。一般人的生命較為短暫、緩慢而艱困。不過,耶穌會神父之類的知識分子,認為生命的意義比生活的舒適更有價值。儘管付出的代價不低,卻不斷有人前仆後繼,隨時準備為服務上帝或追求新知而獻身。海事博物館見證了這個充滿精神啟示的世代。

在博物館的外面,也在著名的大教堂和修道院的步行距離內,有家 糕餅店,它的招牌點心是葡式蛋撻。門口排的長隊證實了本地人和 外國觀光客的口味並無軒輊。我們買了六個剛出爐的蛋撻,還是溫熱 的。

回到城區的半途,經過東方基金會。那是十年前成立的機構,負責 典藏葡萄牙在撤離統治了五個世紀的澳門後,所擁有的亞洲物件。 Peixoto 博士向我介紹了他們的藏品。我特別感興趣的是一批澳門的 老照片,全都存放在一座地下圖書館的箱籠裡,尚待整理分類。我提 A few centuries ago during the epoch of the Portuguese seafaring activities, many missionaries went off to China, in particular to Macau. In 1660, during the early Qing Dynasty, letters written by Jesuits in China took five years to reach Rome. Earlier during the Ming Dynasty in 1573, of twelve Jesuits who set sail from Lisboa for the mission in China only one arrived in Macau. Another century later in 1684, it was reckoned that in the 100 years since Father Ricci who left Lisbon and arrived in China, of 600 priests who set out for the mission, only 100 reached Macau. The rest were perished in one way or another.

In those days, sea route was dangerous and passengers would succumb to constant seasickness, storms, shoals, pirates and a multitude of diseases. Life in general was shorter, slower, and harder. But intellectuals like the Jesuits were more concerned about leading a meaningful life than a comfortable one. Though the price was high, there seemed to be no shortage of dedicated souls who were ready to put their lives in the service of God, or in pursuit of knowledge. The maritime museum provides evidence of such an inspired era.

Outside the museum and within short walk of the famous Cathedral and Convent is the best known pastry shop for the Portuguese custard tart. The long line in front was a testament that both locals and foreign tourists find this an attraction to the palate. We bought six warm tarts just out of the oven.

Half way back toward town is the Fundação Oriente, set up ten years ago as a repository of Asian material following the Portuguese exit of Macau, after five centuries of holding the city as a colony. Dr Francisco Peixoto showed me their archive of material. Of particular interest to me is their collection of old pictures of Macau, all stored in boxes underground in a library yet to be inventoried and organized. I suggested that CERS may like to collaborate in sorting out these valuable images.

Another fine collection of the institute is a rare ensemble of old musical records, all in discs, however not in the digital type. Many of them are in full sets, of Cantonese Operas. Notable names from decades ago marked these audio records now considered a relic. There were also sets of Peking Opera as well, though not as numerous as the Cantonese ones. A few old reels of films of these operas were also on the shelves. All these and others remain to be





暴風雨在香港大潭
 Storm approaching Tai Tam, Hong Kong

二月六日哈爾濱(北緯 45.7 度)

到了下午五點,外面天已經黑了,到處都是煙火表演的響動和火 光,過早入夜的天空被沖天的光芒照亮。從機場到市區的大馬路上, 有好幾段中央分隔島擺滿了哈爾濱如今無人不知的冰雕,這裡一座懾 人的城堡,那裡一排動物,一個個巨大無比。雕像內點了多種顏色的 彩燈,彷彿是一座水晶的仙城。

February 6 Harbin (45.7°N)

Today is the 15th day of the lunar New Year, Year of the Dragon, and time of celebration by all Chinese. The sun is setting at 430pm at this latitude while a full moon has already risen. Flying in, I could see that all the rivers were frozen, though there was no snow on the ground.

By 5pm it is already dark outside and everywhere is the sound and flashes of fireworks on display, shooting up to brighten the otherwise too-early night sky. Huge specimens of the now-famous ice sculptures of Harbin, an imposing castle here and a line up of animals there, dominated several center lane cross-sections on the boulevard from airport into town. They are lit up from the inside with multiple color tones, giving the look of a crystal fairyland.

My team, six of us for now, until our filmmaker Xavier would join us in a couple days, drove off from our hotel to a hot pot meal. No other food or a

哈爾濱夜景
 Night scene of Harbin







黑龍江上的冰下網魚
 Ice fishermen of Amur River

▶ 們在龍年開始之際來到黑龍江的龍頭起點,時間很恰當,頗 ▶ 具象徵意味。

→ 我問當地的老劉外面多冷,他答道:「氣象報告說,今天是零下四十度,不過我們習慣了。」他剛去收取冰窟窿底下網獲的魚,才回到家。老劉又說:「其實冰下面的河水要暖得多,魚一出水,反而立刻凍死。」今天的漁獲只有小不溜丟的魚,跟一條稍大的鯰魚,重約一公斤。天氣好的話,有時他可以捕到重達十公斤以上的魚。

他的鄰居李蘭青是龍江源旅舍兼餐廳的負責人,李蘭青的運氣比較好,拿出一條三公斤的鯉魚,凍得結結實實的,要價五百元人民幣。 他用鋸子把魚剖成兩半。一半做我們的午餐,其餘則帶回北極村(舊名漠河村)當晚餐。

我們此刻在洛古河,黑龍江起點的一個小村落,大約有六十戶人家。對岸的俄羅斯稱黑龍江為 Amur River。南北兩條支流額爾古納河

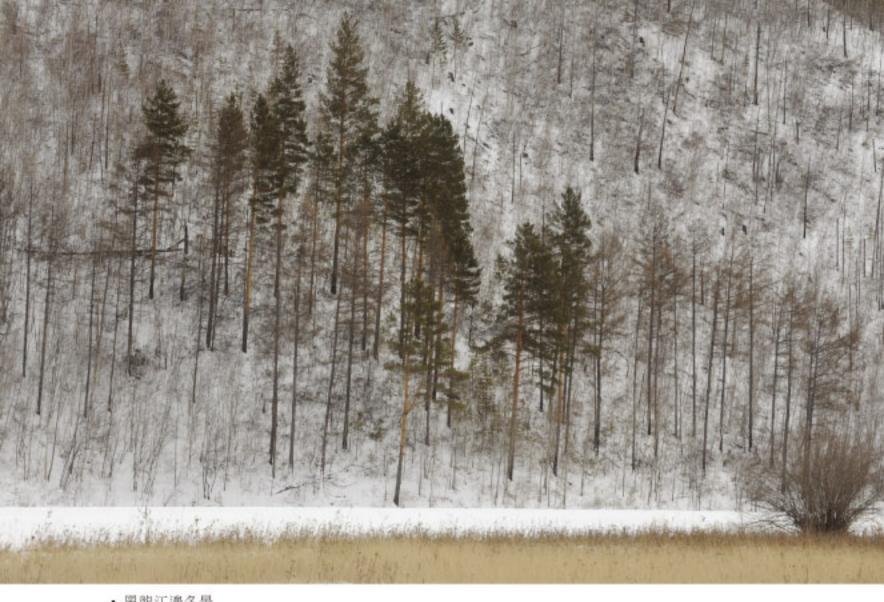
Teilongjiang means Black Dragon River. It seems symbolic and appropriate that we are here as the Year of the Dragon begins, at the head of the river.

"Today the weather report said minus forty degrees, but we are used to it," said Liu when I asked how cold it was just as he returned home from collecting his fish from the nets, laid under ice-holes of the Heilongjiang River. "In fact the water is much warmer below the ice and once the fish are out of water, they freeze to death," quipped Liu. Today's catch only brought in small minnows, and one larger hei niang catfish, perhaps one kilo in weight. On a good day he may get one that weighs ten kilos or more.

His neighbor Li Lanqing who runs the Longjiang Yuan (Dragon River Source) hostel and restaurant was luckier. He produced a three kilos carp, frozen solid and sold it to us for Rmb500. With a saw, he cut it into two halves.

李蘭青在鋸魚
 Sawing a frozeu fish





黑龍江邊冬景
 Winter scene of Heilongjiang border

及石勒喀河在此匯流,於是成為黑龍江,世界長度排名第七。這段河道也是內蒙古跟黑龍江兩省的界線,劃出舊時滿洲的地界。

此地緊挨俄國西伯利亞大陸性氣候區的遠東邊界,冬季難免苦寒嚴酷。來自南方熱帶的訪客,見到遍地霜雪,也許以為很羅曼蒂克。 一旦我們出門,去河濱的幾家漁戶訪談,現實便毫不留情地向我們展現。我的小相機動彈不得,電池才充好電就死了。眼鏡起霧後結凍,也是家常便飯。訪談時我想寫個筆記,可是連筆管裡的墨水都結了冰。

近年來,自行駕車前來的遊客開始增加。洛古河如今已畫在地圖上,因為六十公里外的鄰村北極村被宣傳為中國最北的村落。其實,北極村既非最北的一點,亦非最北的聚落。可是,這個頭銜已經摘不掉了。而洛古河則成了黑龍江的源頭,儘管匯流的地點還在上游七公里之外。

One would be served as our lunch and the rest to be taken back to Polar Village (formerly known as Mohe Village) for dinner.

We are at Luoguhe, a village with some sixty households at the head of the Heilongjiang River, or Amur River as known to the Russian side across on the other bank. Here is where the Ergun and Shilka rivers, southern and northern branches respectively, have their confluence before becoming the Heilongjiang, seventh longest river in the world. It is also the provincial border between Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang, together making what was once called Manchuria.

Winter here is necessarily brutal and bitter, being adjacent to the huge continental climate zone of Russia's Siberia Far East. For visitors from the tropical region further south, it may seem deceivingly romantic as the entire land is dressed in white and frost. Reality checked in when we went on an

 中蘇邊防會議 Officers chatting at border.

