

Y. K. Pao, My Father

Second Edition

Anna Pao Sohmen

包陪慶



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Eldest Daughter Sets the Standard

After the war,¹ Father and Mother returned to Shanghai and moved into a large and attractive house in the French Concession. We lived in this home for four years. My second sister Bessie was born there. The three-storey, European-style house featured a red, pitched roof and a small apron garden. The house had a lacquered parquet-floored ballroom on the second floor where a grand piano stood, and I have memories of sitting on my Aunt Rita Lee's lap, banging away on it. Perhaps it was that large, shimmering dance floor that inspired my recent interest in ballroom dancing.

When we arrived in Hong Kong, our living environment was not exactly luxurious; it was a flat on the third floor of an apartment building on Seymour Road. We had four bedrooms. Grandfather and Grandmother had one room, Father and Mother another. At first Bessie and I shared a room and then, after our second year in Hong Kong, we were joined by Cissy. The fourth bedroom was for our unmarried aunts.

I do not have Bessie's beauty, Cissy's smartness or Doreen's wit, but my being the eldest enabled me to catch Father's eye before he became completely absorbed by the shipping business. Mother told me that she and Father did not have me until seven years after their marriage, so they must have been thrilled when I came.

After the younger sisters arrived, I was constantly reminded by Father's saying to me, "You are the eldest. Whatever you do, you must set an example for your sisters."

Had I known that almost all Chinese parents issue this injunction to their first-born, I would not have taken it so seriously—and I would have said it to my first-born, too—but back then the seriousness of the first-born was cast in steel.

Father was a visionary. Although he was brought up in a traditional world, he was never held back by traditions and superstitions. In the 1940s and 1950s, Chinese men carried on the family line and established a career, while society deemed a woman “virtuous” only when she was without “talents” and without higher education. Her role was to marry a man and spend her life breeding and being supportive and submissive to her husband.

Father’s views differed considerably. I will never forget his words, “Anna, it does not matter whether you are a man or woman, you must learn to stand on your own two feet. Do not rely on your parents or family or your husband. Study hard, make good grades at school and go to university. With a good education, you hold the key to success in life.”

Father also told me not to be like Mother. What he meant was that Mother was a typical traditional Chinese woman. She was submissive, never received any formal education beyond middle school and was dependent on her husband for all major decisions in her life. Mother’s circle of friends did not go beyond those who came with her from Shanghai and Ningbo, where she originated. She never read the newspaper; nor was she interested in the world outside her immediate circle.

She lived for her husband and children, loved them more than herself and did everything just for the family. Aside from going to friends’ homes for mahjong or occasional overseas trips with Father, she limited her life to just the few rooms in her home. We could almost always find Mother in the same chair in her house.

At that time, Father was running a small trading company which he and a few of his friends from Shanghai had started. He had more time then and came home earlier than in his later life.

The first thing he did as he entered the house was to check my school work.

He would listen patiently to my memorized lessons, be it in history or Tang poetry, making sure that I made no mistake. If I forgot a word or made a mistake, he would say, “*Lao Da* (老大 Number One, referring to my birth order) go and recite the lesson to yourself quietly a few more times.”

Once in a while I would grumble, “Father, I came second in class, why am I being punished?” But he would say, as he slapped my hand with a ruler, “Always remember in whatever you do, you have to come first. Never be content with a second.”

Now that I think about this style of discipline, I do not recall my younger sisters ever being hit with a ruler by Father.

I remember going tearfully to Mother to show her my hand. Mother would pick up my hand, blow a few times over the palm, and sigh, "Anna, your father is right. He does it for your own good. You are the eldest; you must set an example for your younger sisters. Double your efforts and make no more mistakes."

The pain in my palm has long since dissipated, but the perfectionist character remains.

An aversion to mahjong

During my childhood my grandparents lived with us. A mahjong table was ever present in our living room. Grandmother and her friends sometimes would play well into the night. Father was a very filial son and never criticized Grandmother, but he did not allow his children to watch the games.

One time, as Father was checking my school work, the clatter of mahjong tiles from the living room was difficult to ignore. He sighed and said firmly, "I hate mahjong. It wastes time and is absolutely unproductive. Besides, it can be harmful because as a form of gambling, it is destructive."

I was puzzled, "Why is it a waste of time? Grandmother stays home all the time, she has nothing else to do. How else can she pass her time?"

With knitted brows, Father sank back into his own memories and said, "When I was small, every time I came home from school I heard nothing but the sounds of mahjong. When I went into the living room, I would see my mother holding the mahjong tiles in her hands, rocking the cradle with her one bound foot, totally ignoring my crying baby sister.

"When Mother saw me, she ordered, 'Oh, good, Yue-kong, you are home. You can pick up your sister and stop her crying.'

"I smelled something burning. In those days, we cooked rice in an earthenware pot and rice was easily burned if nobody was watching. I went to the kitchen and had to throw the ruined rice out and make a fresh pot.

"That evening, the family ate very late.

"Then and there, I made an oath; I swore that I would never play mahjong all my life. I would not allow my wife or children to play the game."

Father kept up this resolve for himself, but not for Mother. “Why, then, does Mother play mahjong?” I queried. Father’s response was, “You must not learn from Mother. She is a traditional woman who was denied an education. Her world is very small. She does not have any interest outside our home. To her, mahjong kills time. To you and me, there is not enough time to do everything we want to do.”

We, his four daughters, understood Mother, but we never took up playing mahjong.

Mother also understood Father. She knew that when he came home after a long day’s work, he needed peace and privacy. So, at five-thirty, it did not matter what stage of the game she and her friends had reached, Mother would stop the game. She would order the table removed and say good-bye to her friends. A woman’s place was at home waiting for her husband. Therefore, whether she played mahjong at home or went out with friends earlier, Mother was always at home, waiting for Father, in the same chair in the same room when he entered the door.

Mother’s mahjong friends were invariably wives of Father’s colleagues, Mama Pan, Mama Jiang, Mama Hu or Mama Tse, all refugees from Shanghai. When Father lectured about the “lack of exercise”, Mother always retorted, “I am just keeping your staff happy.”

Although Mother’s horizon might appear to be limited in comparison with Father’s, she had her own virtues. Thrifty as a good Ningbo woman should be, she made our dresses, knitted our sweaters and even our house socks. She had natural talents and could copy difficult patterns and stitches without an instruction sheet or books. She told me how women had to make shoes for the family members back in Ningbo, with black top and thick white soles made out of layers and layers of old bits of white cotton fabric stitched together by hand—not unlike today’s kung fu shoes except for the soles.

“Didn’t the stitching hurt your fingers, mummy?”

“Yes, even though we wore thimbles, the finger could still bleed. That’s why there is a saying in Chinese, ‘The nights before a son’s departure to study or do business, the loving mother’s finger bleeds.’”

Mother was very creative. She always recycled everything she put her hands on, and made lovely practical objects. Mother was unwavering in her love and

devotion to Father and us. She always ate the last morsel in order not to waste. And she always ate after us to ensure we had enough to eat. She was modest and humble and steadfastly stood by her values and morals. No money, no fame, no glittering fashion, no flattery could sway her. While her globetrotting husband shook hands with presidents, prime ministers, and even the British queen, she remained unimpressed. Her husband was her “emperor” and her daughters her “princesses”. Each time Father received a medal from some country, she would jokingly tease him, “Another piece of metal for your dog collar?” She would carefully store away beautiful silk pajamas and lingerie, given to her by the four daughters, but continue to wear old mended clothes. Her down-to-earth values have stood us in good stead, and my sisters and I, and our next generations, treasure this value. No material possessions can corrupt us.

The values of my father: Integrity, hard work, thrift and compassion

I remember an occasion when I was seven, eating dinner with the family. The maid, Ah Ying (阿英), was heading for the kitchen. I clapped my hands to attract her attention.

“Why are you clapping your hands?” Father wanted to know.

“I want Ah Ying to fetch me another bowl of rice.”

“Go get your own bowl of rice! The servants are human beings who are here to help your mother. You must be considerate. You are younger, so you should help her.”

Ah Ying entered our household in Shanghai in 1946 when she was in her twenties. As an unwed mother, she supported her son by becoming a household servant. In 1949, it was she who carried my sister Bessie in her arms onto the plane when the family fled from Shanghai to Hong Kong. Ah Ying was on hand for the births of Cissy and Doreen. She was a simple and gentle person, and a vegetarian. She spent her whole life taking care of our family until she retired.

At times, after we finished our dinner in the dining room, I would slip into the kitchen and keep Ah Ying company when she ate. I preferred her food, which comprised a clear soup with small dumplings made out of flour and a

few pieces of green vegetables. The other maids would eat the leftovers from our meat dishes.

Ah Ying also came from Ningbo. Mother trusted her completely. Father never had a harsh word for her.

She was with us until 1972, when her son in Shanghai wrote every day to ask her to go home. Ah Ying was illiterate, so it was I, and my sisters after I left for university, who read all her letters to her and wrote her replies. The son wrote that he wanted her to retire from work and to return home to enjoy her old age. He would look after her. Ah Ying was moved, so she decided to return to Shanghai to be with her son, but we were not convinced about the genuine love he claimed to have for her, especially since he had been apart from her for so long. Blood, however, was thicker than water and she returned to the Mainland to be with the son. The poor woman kept all her savings in her socks, tied around her leg and waist, but all her money was stolen by her son. We were relieved when he died from an illness. Ah Ying then went to live with her sister in a flat Bessie rented for her in Shanghai.

In October, 1984 when Father led the entire Pao clan to visit Ningbo for the first time since we left Shanghai in 1949, he arranged for Ah Ying to go too so that she could visit her birthplace.

Father's driver, Lao Li (老李 Old Li), originally from Tianjin, came with us to Hong Kong. He was never married. He used to drive us to school every day. As I did not want my schoolmates to see me being driven to school, I used to ask Lao Li to drop me a few blocks from the school and walk the rest of the way. After he retired, Father took care of Lao Li until he died. It was from him I learned my conversational Mandarin because his poor Cantonese was too painful to the ears.²

The four of us were taught never to waste anything and to finish everything on our plates. "Waste not, want not" is not only a Scottish habit but very much a Ningbo one, too. The Ningbo diet is particularly salty compared with the cuisines in other parts of China. The salty preserved or pickled vegetables go a long way accompanied by bowls of rice or congee. The word for thrift is *zuo nin ga* (做人家, Ningbo dialect), literally meaning "manage the household", or in English, "make ends meet".

Mother taught us from a young age “how to manage a household”. When I outgrew my clothes, they were passed down to Bessie, then Cissy, and finally Doreen. Mother never threw anything away. She saved boxes, ribbons and reused wrapping paper. In her creative way these old boxes were turned into lovely decorative boxes to hold her mahjong chips or tidy bins. Old curtains were transformed into golf club covers. Airline toilet bags were converted into the layers of currency bags for travel. Wrapping paper was used to make beautiful covers for our books and notebooks. I always had unique exercise books because Mother made an effort to dress them up.

Since our first visit to Ningbo, I came to understand Father’s attachment to his hometown: “the moon always shines brighter at home” (月是故鄉明) or “after the fall of the leaves, all the sap returns to the roots” (樹落歸根). Subsequent visits acquainted us with the simple, down-to-earth warmth of the people there.

When I first entered the primary school, I noticed that my classmates did not always wear the same pair of shoes all the time. I wanted to have a second pair too but I was invariably denied by Mother. I appealed to Father. Father quietly replied without even raising his head,

“Why do you want another pair of shoes when you have only one pair of feet?”

“My classmates all have several pairs of shoes.”

“Remember! Shoes are for wearing, not to show off your wealth. And you can only wear one pair at a time. One pair of shoes is enough! There is no need to buy more shoes.”

And Father led by example. In spite of the many beautiful Neiman Marcus or Harrods bathrobes given to him, hanging in his closet, he always wore the same bathrobe for his swimming, faded and mended from all the washing. It was lightweight and warm.

For my parents, integrity and upright principles were far more important than material possessions. Family and love far outweigh trendy clothes. When the world span around name brands, my parents were content with the basics. They were far more generous with their families, relatives and friends in China, who in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s were still struggling to support their basic needs. Father reminded me that, “If you can help, why not?” Instead of spending

on himself, he was very generous in donating to the Hong Kong community and China. His frugality and charity certainly had an influence on his offspring.

I remember one hot day in the summer of 1962 when, thanks to an introduction by Lady Clague, the wife of the *taipan*³ of Hutchison Whampoa, Sir Douglas Clague, I worked as a volunteer at the Ma Tau Wai Girls' Home. A social worker took me on a home visit of one of the inmates, a young girl who had been caught stealing and had been placed there. The vision of the squatter huts was to stay in my mind forever.

On the hillside at Causeway Bay, now a congested business and residential district on Hong Kong Island, there were many closely packed shacks made of wooden boards and metal sheets. On the dirt path leading towards the shacks we saw a little girl, about eight or nine, whose mother was out working. The girl carried a baby brother on her back and a bamboo pole on her thin shoulders, with a bucket of water at each end; her right hand steadied the pole and her left held the hand of a younger sister of about three years old. She was barefoot, huffing and puffing. The group climbed the hill towards their humble hut, where this young child was to cook a meal for the family of five.

Their home was typical of the squatter huts of the 1950s and early 1960s in Hong Kong. There was no electricity or water and, of course, no sanitation. At that time, there was no compulsory education in Hong Kong, nor any effective enforcement of the legislation prohibiting child labour. Owners of factories were not required to take out insurance policies for their workers. This young girl's father had lost his arm in an industrial accident, then lost his job. He later became a drug addict.

This was the plight of many who migrated to Hong Kong from China. I wanted to learn more about how to bring changes to the society.

There were other visits to homes of delinquent girls. One time, I had to climb flights of dark and filthy stairs to the fifth floor of an apartment building. Just as I thought there were no more stairs to climb, I saw an opening in the ceiling at the top of the stairs. Once up, there was no room to stand up so children as well as adults had to crawl on all fours. A family of six was living in this attic.

I remember another time when I visited a home in Causeway Bay along the "Big Nullah" in Tai Hang Road.⁴ The place was so dark I had to use my hands to

feel my way along the slimy circular tunnel until at the end I found a family of seven living there. Family planning had not yet arrived in Hong Kong.⁵

The entire family's monthly income was HK\$300 or \$400. The lack of a safety net to ensure that Hong Kong citizens had their basic needs troubled me.

One evening in 1971, Father invited Sir Murray and Lady MacLehose,⁶ the newly arrived governor of Hong Kong and his wife, to dinner at our home. As usual, he asked me to be present to help as Mother's English was limited.

I looked at the menu on the table showing the food we were about to be served: shark's fin, lobsters, rainbow fish, and several other equally delectable dishes of a Cantonese gourmet table. My mind's eye went back to the scenes of the young girl carrying a baby on her back, with two buckets of water on her shoulders climbing up the hill, and the family of six living in the attic where rats would probably be their neighbours. I became emotional and could hardly eat. After some struggle, I finally let my voice go.

"Sir Murray, do you realize that the cost of this meal can feed a low-income family for two months or more?"

Sensing that I was about to interrogate the governor, Father tried to change the topic of conversation.

"No, no," Sir Murray smiled as he waved his hands at Father. "Let us hear what this young lady has to say. Anna, go ahead!"

I braced myself and took courage. "Do you know that many children younger than sixteen are working? The Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom took place more than a century ago, but in twentieth-century Hong Kong, there is still no compulsory education and no child labour laws, no minimum wage, or workmen's compensation? The squatter huts are not only dangerous, unhygienic, but also an appalling sight for visitors to Hong Kong."

"Thank you, Anna," said Sir Murray. "I will go and visit these people." He then turned to Father, "This is very interesting and enlightening. Your daughter cares for the people; congratulations to you."

Father never praised me. His mode of recognition was a pat on my arm and a nod of his head; *man hao* (蠻好), which in Ningboese means "not bad". My fear of his disapproval was dispelled when he asked me to accompany him on many more of these occasions.

“Whatever boys can do, so can girls”

Father bought his first ship in 1955. It was a 28-year-old, 8,201 DWT, possibly third-hand coal carrying freighter built in the United Kingdom. It was named *Golden Alpha* (金安號), an apt name for Father’s first ship.

One day, Father took me to visit the ship which was moored in Hong Kong harbour. We took a *walla walla*, a small junk which served as a water taxi ferrying passengers between the pier and ships in the harbour. As we approached in this little boat, rocking with the waves all the way, I noticed the rusty old dame, neither in her “golden” days nor in “alpha” shape. As we arrived, the crew on the deck lowered a rope ladder and clambered down to help Father and me on board.

“Go ahead, Anna. Follow the man up the ladder!”

As the crewman climbed the ladder, it swung back and forth, left and right, hitting the hull of the ship. I was ten years old then. I looked up at the vertical hull, then I looked down at the rough waters of the harbour. My stomach was wallowing like the *walla walla* and my legs felt like jelly. I looked up again and started shaking my head. I pleaded,

“Papa . . .”

“Don’t be afraid. Look at him. Anything a boy can do, a girl can do. You are a brave girl, and you know how to swim, so you should have no problem. Besides, I am right behind.”

“Whatever a boy can do, a girl can do!” This statement of Father’s has remained with me all my life!

I remember a conversation Father had with me when I was fourteen: “*Lao Da*, you know that Mother does not enjoy socializing, and her English is not good enough. I do not force her to come out with me. However, my business requires that I entertain a lot of people. Being my eldest daughter, you will accompany me to these social functions. It will give you an opportunity to practise your English as well as broaden your horizon.”

There were no “ifs” or “buts”. Normally, Father did not like to explain matters; he just gave commands.

The “responsibility of the first-born”, I thought rationally as I nodded. But emotionally I reacted. I remember sitting through these long dinners, not comprehending the business talks. Father never explained. When I told him that

these dinners were boring for me, he simply said, “You have to find out more what people do and what their families are like, what their countries are like.”

As a fourteen-year-old, I resented every moment of these dinners, making small talk, and trying to smile when I was totally bored.

Working with the enemy

At that time, Father was building all his ships in Japan. During the school holidays, he took me to Japan with him. We invited some ship charterers to a lavish Japanese dinner. A number of geisha girls served the food and wine. They also sang and danced, and joked with the guests. The dinner went on in a language I knew nothing about. But Father learned some Japanese very fast as most Japanese did not speak English.

After many drinks, the Japanese men became very unruly. Their deportment was not gentlemanly and, not fully understanding their culture, I was amazed at how some Japanese men began to loosen their belts and undo their trousers. I was quite put off by such behaviour. Father promptly took me back to the hotel.

In the car, I was angry; I was angry because Father was inconsistent in his principles. And I was angry that we had to tolerate such disrespectful behaviour.

“Papa, have you forgotten that you are Chinese? You personally experienced what the Japanese did to the Chinese during the war, killing thousands and raping our women? In Nanjing alone, the Japanese killed and injured more than 300,000 Chinese? Have you forgotten? How could you entertain the Japanese, joke and laugh with them, eat, drink and tolerate their silly behaviour? What are you doing? *Pai* your enemies’ *mapi* (kissing your enemies’ asses)? Don’t you have any dignity?”

My body shook and tears ran down my cheeks. I had never felt so disappointed in Father, nor had I ever despised so much what he was doing.

Father was tired, so he did not trouble to explain at that time. He only mumbled, “Anna, you are too young. You do not understand. Why don’t you go to bed?”

That night I could not sleep. It was a disturbing experience. In hindsight, Father must have been more perturbed as to how to explain to a teenager the balance of history and life necessities.

A few days later, after we both calmed down, Father said, “Anna, you are right not to forget the history of animosity between nations, but you must understand that the war was started by the Japanese government. From the ordinary people’s point of view, their sons were drafted and forced to fight in a foreign land; many of them did not live to return home. They were victims as well. So, when looking at the war, you must distinguish the government’s action from the will of the people. Secondly, you must separate politics from business. A business opportunity sometimes is neither very convenient nor rational. Thirdly, to survive, you must not be small-minded. We Chinese have a saying, ‘Our chest should be as broad as the ocean,’ meaning one must be able to forgive even if one does not forget. Life moves on. Lastly, one must have vision broader than some individual interest, or emotion. Only then can the real leader arise.”

Father’s words were wise and provided me with much food for thought. On reflection, it could not have been easy for Father. To support his family, the larger Pao family, some ninety members in all at that time as refugees to Hong Kong, he started a business he knew little about. He saw an opportunity in post-war Japan, in need of economic recovery. Yet, dealing with the wartime enemy of his country meant putting aside history. He even had to overcome his daughter’s sensitivities and pride. To be charming to and dependent on an enemy from whom he had fled, he must have had many reality checks that offended his own pride.

Later, Uncle B. M. Chang (張培明), who is the husband of Father’s sister and was working with Father, explained further, “The charterer we invited that day was one of the Japanese soldiers who was forced to go to China. When we first met, every time the Sino-Japanese conflict was mentioned, he was so full of regret, always carrying with him a heavy sense of guilt.

“Your father was very generous in assuring him that the war between the two countries was over. Today we must work together for the benefit of the peoples of both countries; we must be friends, and help each other. It took your father a while before he could gain his trust. Now he is extremely helpful to your father’s business, interceding with the Japanese government to obtain the best credit terms and conditions for credits for constructing new ships. The new ships are always finished on time. He is one of our best business associates. How can your father not entertain him in the traditional Japanese way he likes? I know the Japanese men offended you with their drunken behaviour, but that was not your father’s fault.”

I found it difficult to understand such complex business relationships at that time. Nor was it easy for me to comprehend why Father smiled more to the Japanese than to his own family. When he came home, he was so preoccupied, so exhausted, that he often said nothing during dinner. Father was tired. A daughter should be more understanding. Now, having started my own business, I see more clearly. Father had to concentrate all his energy on his startup business. Besides, he wanted to prove himself to his own father who had been opposed to his starting the shipping business. Father certainly had courage. He was a fast and determined learner, with total commitment and stamina to start a business that he knew little about.

During the 1950s and even into the 1960s, the Japanese economy was still recovering from the war. The Japanese lavish business dinners were more sumptuous for the eyes than for the stomach. A supplementary meal of biscuits was usually required back in the hotel room. Father never complained. He said that the Japanese had brought out their best to entertain us. He always looked at the positive side and defended the hosts. He was asking that I do the same, putting myself in other people's shoes.

Although patience was not his virtue, Father always found opportunities to teach me. "Look at the Japanese! We have much to learn from them. They have a strong sense of loyalty, great discipline and a strong desire to improve; they are selfless, they are devoted to their companies and to their country. Although the country is not yet wealthy, it will only be a matter of time before Japan becomes a strong economic force in this world. If only Chinese could have the same loyalty and unity, our country would have been stronger."

And he was right. The Japanese economy did become the world's second strongest, after the United States in the 1980s and 1990s. If only Father were still alive to see how China followed suit! Like the spring rains that quietly penetrate and nurture, my life and attitude were similarly cultivated and shaped by Father. At times, the criticisms were hard to take at the same time, and there were plenty—an experience many first-born Chinese children shared with me. Compliments were rare, if any.

The winter of 1962 was a memorable one. Father built his first new ship in Japan. This 16,372 DWT bulk log carrier was to be christened the

Eastern Sakura (東櫻號, “sakura” is Japanese for cherry blossom) at the Hakodate Shipyard in Hokkaido.

I was sixteen that year, about to leave for America to start university. Father asked me to launch this new ship, saying, “Anna, a ship in Western terminology is female. When a new ship enters the water, the owner always invites a lady of renown to launch and name it. This time Papa is going to invite you to do the honours. Mother and your aunts will keep you company.” As a teenager still in secondary school, how could I have even imagined that I would christen a ship as a “lady of renown”? I was totally overwhelmed. I understood suddenly why Father was always lecturing me. He wanted me to succeed, he loved me! He was a typical Chinese father: stern facade covering a soft, caring inside. Besides, old-fashioned men are not supposed to show love and emotions of any kind.

This was Father’s first new ship for his company World-Wide Shipping, which had been trading in second-hand ships before. To own a brand new vessel was one of the objectives. Father did not articulate his reasons for giving me the honour of christening his first-ever new vessel. He let me work it out myself.

The meaning of this invitation only dawned upon me recently. It was to inspire me in the new dimension on which I was about to embark. I was to sail onto the ocean of life. I was to fly to the United States and enter university. A university education was Father’s dream but he never managed to attain it due to the wars and revolutions that impoverished China. Out of political situation, Father had no choice but to start working in Hong Kong as a refugee. He had high hopes for me to be better educated than himself.

The day of launching the ship arrived. A number of guests stood on a platform decorated with a red and white awning. The 16,372 DWT ship stood majestically alongside the dock. The name *Eastern Sakura* was covered up with ribbons tied to an enormous silk ball hanging from the bow. Among the guests were Mother, Auntie Pan (Mrs. C. L. Pan), Auntie Rita, Auntie Chang, and many other associates such as the shipyard’s senior management team, bankers who financed the ship, brokers, the charterer of the ship and Lloyd’s Register. Father escorted me onto the stage with the chairman of the Hakodate Shipyard and the chairman of Japan Line. I was extremely excited. Mother had a Thai silk

blue and green and turquoise *cheongsam* together with a matching knee-length jacket made for me, as it was cold by the sea. In spite of a trial run of swinging the axe the night before, I was still nervous when I picked up the shiny silver axe and swung it onto the rope, which was tightly wrapped around a block of wood. Superstition had it that the rope must be cut in one chop so that those who sail on the new ship would have smooth waters.

I did it! Father was standing by my side. He looked proud and pleased. As the axe severed the tight cord, freeing the champagne from the rope, the bottle smashed against the bow of the ship into a thousand pieces. Meanwhile, the huge silk ball hanging from the bow opened and a dozen doves flew from it among coloured paper streamers and helium balloons. The band started playing a triumphant tune as the *Eastern Sakura* slipped gently from the dock into the sea. Father was beaming with tears in his eyes. Everyone clapped. It was an emotional moment for him as he witnessed his first-born, the ship that started his real shipping empire, one that he had built to his own specifications and one that enabled him to form a successful and lasting relationship with the Japanese shipyards, bankers and charterers. I was very happy and proud to have caught that very special emotional moment for him. I also felt grateful that I was given this opportunity to launch his first new ship.

That evening there was a feast, with the usual beautifully presented Japanese meal on *tatami*,⁷ and geisha girls pouring *sake* and dancing. But this time, Father was completely in charge of the situation. Back into our rooms, I made a request, "Papa, you must promise that I can travel on this ship across the Pacific Ocean!"

"Travel on this ship? But there are only men sailors and a male captain . . ."

"Papa, but you were the one to say that 'what men can do, women can do too,'" I teased my father. "Don't worry, I will find a female companion to come with me. And I will report to you what life at sea is like. You have to know how your employees fare, especially the offshore ones. I will keep an eye on them.

Father said, "Yes."

Moreover, Father kept his word. My American university classmate and I boarded the *Eastern Sakura* at Seattle, Washington.

Traversing the Pacific Ocean

Father invited the wife of the English captain to chaperone us on the voyage. The ship set sail from Seattle bound for Japan and carrying logs from Canada. The voyage was planned to take ten days.

Travelling on a log carrier is very different from a luxury cruise. There was no swimming pool or games room, and no television. During the day, our one form of exercise was to crawl over the logs, wearing shoes with cleats and workmen's gloves. Since there was no railing to the sides of the logs, we could only crawl on all fours when the sea was calm. In the evenings, the lights in the cabins were too dim for reading. So we had to entertain each other with conversation. Our dinners were long and everyone at the table had to contribute jokes and anecdotes. We were well entertained. I have never laughed so much.

Our good humour evaporated on the fourth day of the voyage. In the middle of the night, a storm hit. The sea heaved and the vessel pitched. We would have been thrown out of our berths had they not had sides.

The ship was lifted to the top of a wave, as if it had left the ocean, only to be thrown to the bottom of the wave, which appeared ready to swallow the entire ship and all its inmates.

We had learned from the captain and his wife that when a ship met a storm at sea, it must cut the waves otherwise it could capsize.

The captain's wife and my friend were both seasick, and had to stay in bed.

Fortunately, I was not sick. I struggled on the violently moving ship and went to the bridge where the captain was on 24-hour call, and was concentrating on steadying the ship. I watched the stormy sea. Heaven burst open and there was a wave almost six metres high. The captain told me that such a wave could split the entire ship, from bow to stern.

The storm delayed our arrival by five days, but the journey was an experience to be remembered.

My parents were worried but fortunately they were kept informed by the ship's daily telex. Mother continued to complain about Father having agreed to my request, even after my safe arrival home.

“Go! Go all the way!”

Father's care for me was special. He wrote to me every week when I was at university, and he expected me to write weekly, in Chinese. These letters were treasured especially when Mother did not write letters to me at all.

I remember a letter I wrote as my first Mother's Day away from home approached: "Please give my love to Mother. I wish her a happy Mother's Day. That day many classmates will have their mothers here, but I know Mother does not like to travel and Purdue is such a long way from Hong Kong. Don't worry, I shall share my classmates' mothers."

To my surprise, Father showed up on Mother's Day at Purdue University in West Lafayette. "Papa, how did you manage to be here to see me? Today is Mother's Day."

I was moved and I hugged him with emotion.

Not only was there no direct, non-stop flight from Hong Kong, there was none from Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York to West Lafayette, Indiana, where I was attending Purdue. Father had to change to a propeller-driven plane, with hours of waiting in between and no sleep. A trip from Hong Kong to Purdue would have taken him two days.

"Didn't you want your mother here?" Father smiled.

"Of course!"

"Well, so there is no problem. Just think of Father as Mother!" Father could display a great sense of humour.

"Thank you, Papa. Thank you, Mama."

A sob caught in my throat. I hugged Father even tighter.

The next day, there was a game of American football to celebrate Mother's Day, a Purdue tradition. Football is important to the Americans, and at Purdue it was revered. A number of students were recipients of "football scholarships".

I told Father that this was American-style football. I did not know the rules, so could not explain it to him.

"No problem," Father said. "People-in-the-know watch the game; those not in the know just enjoy the noise. I am taking a weekend off to be Mother."

All we saw were a number of players in helmets and huge shoulders pads and different coloured uniforms pushing each other. The entertaining part was the cheerleaders in their pretty mini-skirts and their twirls. We had no idea which team was winning, but we followed the cheers, shouting,

“Go, go all the way! Go all the way!”

After everybody sat down, Father suddenly jumped up and shouted at the top of his lungs, “Go! Go! Go all the way! Go all the way!” More than a little embarrassed, I pulled at him. “Papa, what are you doing? Everybody is sitting down already.” Father responded, “I have made up my mind. I am going to order more ships, three ships.”

Although he was halfway across the world, his mind never left his business.

“Anna, do you know that when you order in bulk in Japan, you receive a special discount? This game is wonderful! It helps me make up my mind to go all the way and order in bulk.”

Father was deep in thought. I saw the fatigue in his eyes and I smiled and nodded my head. Father was so busy, yet he took the time and trouble to come all the way to be with me on Mother’s Day. Flying in prop-planes was hardly enjoyable or comfortable, but he did not complain at all. So, why should I blame him for not concentrating 100 percent on me? Father was there with me and for me, even though his mind wandered; he became a mother on Mothers’ Day!

Father’s mind was completely focused on his business—maybe his daughter should learn from him.

Education Is Key to a Stronger Country

Father had two brothers and three sisters. With such a large household, the financial circumstances of the family were often dire and education was not on the agenda. In any case, Ningbo itself was a poor community and there was not enough money for the government to spend on education. There was one good high school and no university at all. Father's schooling was brief—he had to leave home before he finished secondary school in order to help support the family.

Fortunately, Father loved learning. In Wuhan, his first stop after he left home, he went to evening classes to study financial management. He started English lessons on his own and absorbed everything, be it the meaning of a word, grammar, different manners of expression, or terms in banking, trading or shipping. When he came to Hong Kong, he had an English tutor. He always had a strong drive for self-improvement.

While he engaged in lifelong learning, he wanted his daughters to fare better and encouraged us to attend universities abroad. In the middle of the 1960s, Hong Kong society still favoured boys. The general belief was that girls only needed sufficient education to attract a good husband and that meant learning to read and write, and the ability to keep simple accounts. After all, wasn't the role of women to marry and take care of their families? To be educated beyond a basic bachelor's degree, at best, was not considered "ladylike". Besides, women got only half the pay of men even with the same job and same position.

"Do not be like your mother," Father told me. "She belongs to a past generation!"

Not only did Father learn all about shipping himself, he also built a school to train seamen. In Hong Kong, he donated to a number of tertiary institutions, such as the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong,

and the Hong Kong Polytechnic (now the Hong Kong Polytechnic University), and generously gave scholarships for Chinese scholars to study abroad. He even built a university in Ningbo.

In 1966, in the heat of the Cultural Revolution, the intellectuals were purged, books were burned, schools and universities were closed and conferral of degrees was abolished. Professors were penalized and paraded down the streets, wearing placards with accusations on them. As a result, a generation of Chinese were poorly educated. When China opened up in the late 1970s, no one even seemed to know any Chinese history and those who were educated were afraid to admit it. Chinese officials were surprised that tourists like us knew more history regarding the relics.

In 1977, after the fall of the Gang of Four, there were signs of recovery. It was clear that Deng Xiaoping understood the value of education. Elder Uncle Lu told Father, "Every time the Education Commission [later the name was changed back to the Ministry of Education] called a meeting, Deng Xiaoping attended the full session in person. He very carefully listened to what professional educators and teachers had to say."

An associate professor from Wuhan University (武漢大學) gave an apt description: "The institutions of higher learning in China are facing a crisis. There is no benchmark for admission, like a production line without any quality control, so the standard of students is deteriorating. There is no admission test since the abolition of the National Higher Education Entrance Examination in 1966, so anybody with political connections can be admitted into the university. There are plenty of qualified secondary school graduates, but unless they have political connections, they are not admitted into the universities."

After listening to the educators, Deng Xiaoping asked whether there was still time to administer a National Higher Education Entrance Examination (*gaokao* 高考) that year. The positive response met with unanimous applause among the professional audience.

At this critical juncture, Deng Xiaoping decided that the *gaokao* should be resurrected immediately, a move which would win the gratitude of the entire nation. It was officially announced on 12 October 1977 and was described as the onset of spring in the education system. Reintroducing university entrance based on merit put an end to corruption. Universities reopened and new educational

institutions were set up with new quality assurance standards maintained by the Education Commission.

In the following year, Deng pushed education further forward by starting an overseas programme for research students to acquire the latest technology China sorely needed for her Four Modernizations programme. He said, “I do not mean sending just a few students, I mean sending thousands. It would be money well spent. In five years, we will review the impact of this policy. We should lose no time in its implementation.”

Two thousand research students were sent abroad in the first cohort, to work towards master’s and doctoral degrees.

“What if the students choose not to return after their study?” sceptics asked. Deng cheerfully responded, “Even if only half of them returned, we would still have enough to start with.” As it turned out, almost all of the first two thousand returned and became the backbone of their institutions.

Father had always admired Deng Xiaoping for his strength of character, his charisma, his courage and his endurance of suffering. He was a man of inspiring vision and he gave the country new energy and hope. Training new leaders for his modernization objectives was a necessary and wise step. Father was willingly persuaded to help China’s education. He shared Deng’s vision and set about making his contribution.

Zhejiang University

The first step Father took was to donate US\$1 million to the Education Bureau in Beijing to set up a scholarship fund in memory of Grandfather. The Pao Siu Loong Scholarship was the first scholarship donated by a private individual to the Chinese government. Twenty-one students were selected to study overseas. Their papers were processed and their names were forwarded to us.

Father had always been hands-on. He even spot-checked the list and found some of the recipients were ignorant of the donor’s identity. The only information they had was that the Chinese government was paying for their education and living expenses.

Father was not pleased. The administrators of the fund had not been scrupulous about briefing the recipients. There was also a general lack of accountability and regular financial reports. Father chased the Education Bureau, but in vain.

Somehow, Zhejiang University (浙江大學)¹ heard about Father's dissatisfaction. President Han Zhenxiang (韓禎祥)² and Vice-President Lu Yongxiang (路甬祥)³ of the university persuaded Father to move the administration of the Pao Scholarship to Zhejiang.

Minister Chai was at that time also on the board of Zhejiang University. It was he who first approached Father to move the administration of the Pao Scholarships to Zhejiang University. Father welcomed this plan and added another US\$1 million to the fund. Father asked me to join the board of trustees and help manage the scholarship programme as chairman of the management committee. To this day, the fund is still alive and supports four to five students every year. After Father's death I added Father's name to the scholarship fund.

Relocating the fund was a wise move. Zhejiang University was a smaller organization compared to a national-level bureau and they knew their students better. The selection process was more thorough and the outcome was better reported. This fund helped elevate the university even higher and university leaders were keen to perform.

The head of postgraduate studies at the university, Professor Zou Bijin (鄒碧金), took charge of the fund. She discharged her duties conscientiously and diligently, keeping a good record of all those who went abroad and returned. Furthermore, the university asked our World-Wide Investment team to manage the investment of the fund, thereby ensuring that only the interest was used. Today, more than a quarter century later, it is still going strong. The fund has benefited over 400 scholars, providing the province and the country with some of China's leading intellectuals. It has also been important to the university. Almost 45 percent of the heads and senior staff of various faculties have received assistance from the fund.

In 2004, I added a further US\$1 million to the fund to establish a number of visiting chair professorships so that famous overseas scholars could come and teach at Zhejiang University on condition that these professors stop by Ningbo University (about two hours' drive from Zhejiang University). I donated RMB 10 million to Ningbo University in 2008.

Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme

To further improve the relationship between China and Britain, Father proposed to the leaders of China and Britain separately that the Sir Y. K. Pao Foundation would join forces with both governments to send Chinese students to study in the United Kingdom. A fund was to be set up and named the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme, as a symbol of friendship between the two nations. The scheme was to last for ten years, starting in October 1987, and would cease in 1997 when Hong Kong was scheduled to return to China.

Father's foundation contributed £14 million and the Chinese government pledged the same, while the British government gave £7 million. The scheme would send Chinese scholars to pursue postgraduate studies in Britain.

Not only would Chinese scholars be able to gain from British experience, tertiary institutions in the United Kingdom would also benefit from Chinese talent. And there was another advantage: British universities had undergone a downsizing of subsidies to foreign students at that time and the scheme would mean an additional boost of foreign students to the universities, whose talent on research was much appreciated by tertiary institutions all over the world.

Leaders in both countries applauded Father's proposal.

Putting the scheme into practice, however, was easier said than done. China was at the start of its reforms and such an agreement was unprecedented. The amount was huge and bureaucratic hindrances abounded. When Deng Xiaoping saw Father in April 1982, he told him, "Education is a basic need in society. The realization of the Four Modernizations depends on well-educated people. This wealth of knowledge cannot be built overnight. Nurturing a whole generation is an issue we must face. We rely on the training of our people. You have done well by setting an example by your donations."

Father replied simply, "I am glad to be of service to China, especially in educating future generations."

It was only much later that I found out Deng and his wife Zhuo Lin, in the name of an "old Communist", gave 5,000 yuan every year to build schools. In 2004, in commemoration of the centenary of his birth, the Deng family donated the royalties from his writings (Deng's *Collected Works*), 800,000 yuan, with an

additional 200,000 yuan from their children, to establish a scholarship fund to train young students in science and technology.

On 9 June 1986, two years after the idea germinated, the signing ceremony for the establishment of the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme took place in the prime minister's office at Number 10 Downing Street. Father took me along. On the British side were the prime minister herself, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Lord Geoffrey Howe, Sir Crispin Tickell, permanent secretary of the Overseas Development Administration, and Dr. Roger Iredale, chief education advisor. China was represented by Vice-Premier Li Peng (李鹏) and Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party accompanied by Zhou Nan (周南). Father and I represented the Sir Y. K. Pao Foundation. This was a grand occasion: China, Britain and Hong Kong pulling together their resources to educate China's next generation.

This occasion also gave an opportunity for senior members of the two governments to meet on a non-political and non-controversial topic of common interest and mutual benefit. The atmosphere at the dinner afterwards was relaxed and congenial. Subsequent meetings were positive and productive.

On 12 June 1986, the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme Commission held its first meeting in London, chaired by Father. Sir Crispin Tickell and Mr. Huang Xinbai (黄辛白), China's vice-minister of education, were vice-chairmen, and I was a vice-chair representing the Pao Foundation. Both the Chinese and the British welcomed the visit to London by such high-level Chinese officials, a visit that also offered the opportunity for more informal discussions and understanding between the parties.

Prime Minister Thatcher took the project seriously and would intervene personally whenever a major problem arose, such as the failure of British funds to materialize. Despite periodic difficulties, this scheme realized its main objectives: the enhancement of a friendly relationship between Britain and China, and to educate thousands of Chinese scholars.

In the first year, more than a hundred successful applicants received funding to study in British institutions. A vast majority returned home, making valuable contributions to their institutions and to the modernization of China. They form the backbone of Chinese leadership and include the head of education

in Shanghai, the president of Tsinghua University and the vice-president of Peking University.

By the end of its tenth year, more than 1,700 students and scholars had benefited. From surveys made by the Chinese Ministry of Education, many not only gained professional knowledge and the advantage of cultural exchange, they also continued to carry on their research with their English professors after their return to China. The connection made also meant that more scholars were referred to these professors in subsequent years.

On the evening of 20 May 2004, I met a recipient of a scholarship under this scheme at the Zhaolong Hotel in Beijing and I believe Father would have been pleased to meet him, too. He was typical of the students who had returned after studying in the United Kingdom.

Guan Zhicheng (關志成) was a member of the first group of Chinese post-doctoral students to study in Britain under the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme. He was a visiting scholar in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics at the University of Manchester in 1986–87. When I met him in 2004, he was the vice-president of Tsinghua University in Beijing and president of its branch in Shenzhen.⁴

Professor Guan had received his doctorate at Tsinghua University in 1978 after the revival of the universities. Tsinghua University thought highly of him and recommended him for the scheme. At our meeting he reminisced about his one and a half year's stay in Britain. Besides improving his English and gaining cultural insights, his British colleagues in the laboratory, who had never associated with a Chinese individual before, let alone having any knowledge about China, also benefited. Guan turned out to be outstanding and the best among the twenty international post-doctoral students.

After Guan had returned to China, he kept in close touch with his British professor, including sending his other post-doctoral students to the UK, and the British also sent scholars to Tsinghua. He definitely bridged the gap between the two countries.

Guan told me, "Although the seven or eight post-doctoral students who followed me to Manchester were not recipients of the Sino-British Friendship scholarships, all of them received good funding from British universities. I believe if each of the 1,728 Chinese students who went under the scheme

were like me, opening the door for future Sino-British scientific and cultural exchanges, the benefits must have multiplied several folds. Y. K. Pao's contributions to China's education via the Sino-British friendship scheme are going to be recorded in history!"

The Pao Siu Loong and Pao Yue Kong Libraries at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

In the second half of October 1980, Minister Chai Shufan and his wife Chen Xin (陳欣) went to Osaka to take part in the launching ceremony of a new ship *World Cheer*, a 26,719 DWT bulk carrier built by World-Wide.

After the launching, Father invited Minister Chai and Madame Chen into the cabin for an informal meal. Lifting his wine glass to Father, Minister Chai said, "Mr. Pao, my wife and I talked about this idea. Although our income is modest, we have very little financial need at this time. After our death, we would like to donate all the cash we have left to education in China.

"Since Comrade Xiaoping started the modernization reforms, China's economy has developed at a fast pace, but progress in education has not caught up. You have already donated so much to China, but can you take Jiao Tong University in Shanghai under your wing as well?"

Father had always held great respect for Minister Chai, so he immediately responded, "Whatever you say, I will donate!"

Minister Chai replied, "Fantastic! Can you make a donation to the Jiao Tong University for the construction of a library?"

Father asked how much he had in mind and Minister Chai answered without any hesitation, "US\$10 million."

Actually, Minister Chai was aware of Father's gift of US\$10 million to build the Zhaolong Hotel and the headquarters of the China Tourism administration in Beijing and he was expecting Father to give the same amount to Jiao Tong University.

Father's mind worked fast. Before Minister Chai could utter another word, he made his conditions. "I have three wishes. The first is that the new library be practical and not lavish, and true to the purpose of a library. My second wish is

to name the library in memory of my father. The third wish is for you to do me the great favour and honour me with your own calligraphy.”

Minister Chai laughed. “The first two items are possible, but my handwriting is not elegant,” he said.

Father responded, “Minister, you are too modest. From the brush writing of your first letter to me, I have already been an admirer of your calligraphy. I still keep the letter in my collection of calligraphy. Please do not refuse me.”

Father was being sincere; Minister Chai gave a hearty chuckle and promised to fulfil Father’s third wish.

I have been extremely fortunate to be privy to Father’s encounters with many clever and charismatic leaders of his day, and he himself was no weakling either. Father possessed an agility of mind which he could also well articulate.

In 1981, after the New Year, Minister Chai and the party secretary of Jiao Tong University travelled to Guangzhou, where they met Father and formally signed an agreement.

Minister Chai gave Father a poem in his calligraphy, “Remembering the Ancients at Red Cliff” (赤壁懷古) by the renowned Song dynasty poet Su Shi (蘇軾 1037–1101), who is one of the best loved of all Chinese poets.⁵

Several architects created designs for the Jiao Tong University Library. The eight-storey library now sat on 25,000 square metres of land and had reading rooms and conference rooms, tables and chairs for 2,400 students, and all the latest electronic equipment and audio-visual aids. On completion, it was the largest and most modern tertiary library in China at the time. It was the first library in China with an electronic security detector in each book.

On 10 June 1982, Minister Chai and Father attended the foundation-laying ceremony of the Pao Siu Loong Library. Present were Wang Daohan (王道涵), the mayor of Shanghai, and many other distinguished guests. Together with our family, there were also friends, Chinese and international media and faculty staff and students at the university, making up a grand total of 4,300.

One newspaper made the following observation:

The fact the foundation-laying ceremony of a tertiary institution’s library attracted such a distinguished crowd of local and foreign guests proves that this was not an ordinary occasion. It was the first time since the resurgence

of higher education in China that a university had made use of a generous private donation to improve its facilities. The fact that the donor holds a British passport and is the world-renowned “King of the Sea” makes the occasion even more significant than the library itself.

As a result of Father’s donation, Jiao Tong University continued to receive donations from other overseas Chinese.

Minister Chai was experienced in construction. He personally controlled the costs and managed to make sufficient savings to enable the construction of another library on the university’s second campus.

It was regrettable that when the second library opened, Father had already left this world. I made the decision to name the second library in memory of Father, the Pao Yue Kong Library.

At the opening of the second library, my sisters Cissy, Doreen and I brought our sons, Philip, Kenzo and Stephen, Father’s grandsons, all born in the Year of the Horse, like Father.⁶ (All four sisters had given Father a birthday present the year he turned sixty, by giving him a grandson. Father was thrilled.)

The libraries at that time were among the best academic libraries in China. What Father had not expected was that two libraries would be built with the money designated for one. Even less anticipated was that the Jiao Tong University Library was the place selected for the start of talks on opening the Y. K. Pao School in Shanghai. Philip Sohmen, my younger son, and I held our first meeting with potential parents at the Jiao Tong University Library in 2007.

Notes

Chapter 1 Eldest Daughter Sets the Standard

1. The war refers to the Sino-Japanese War (1937–45) which ended after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941. From August 1937 to August 1945, the Japanese forces occupied Chinese Shanghai. The Japanese occupation was extended to the International Settlement as well as the French Concession when Britain and France entered the war after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.
2. Mandarin, the dialect spoken around Peking (Beijing), was spoken by the court and government officials. Cantonese is the dialect spoken around Canton (Guangzhou) and in Hong Kong. There are hundreds of regional and ethnic dialects in China, some completely incomprehensible to the non-speakers. The PRC government changed the nomenclature of Mandarin to Putonghua (普通話 common spoken language) after 1949.
3. *Taipan* (大班) is a colonial-era term for the CEO of a business firm in Hong Kong.
4. Hong Kong Island is hilly. “Nullah” is a term of Punjabi origin. A number of Punjabis settled in the colony in the 1840s. A nullah is a concrete channel on the hillside used to carry rainwater from the higher grounds to sea level.
5. Although it began earlier, the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong did not become actively involved in the community until the mid-1960s. It is now a major NGO providing comprehensive services beyond family planning.
6. Sir Murray MacLehose (1917–2000; later Baron MacLehose of Beoch) was governor of Hong Kong from 1971 to 1982. During his tenure Hong Kong began to become a major financial and industrial metropolitan city. He was known for his action against corruption (setting up the Independent Commission Against Corruption, ICAC) and the introduction of nine-year compulsory education for children, public housing, public transportation, and social welfare measures. He single-handedly created a large middle class in Hong Kong. As a result, Hong Kong

flourished. In 1979, he brought up the subject of the pending expiration of the New Territories lease in 1997.

7. Japanese floor covering made of straw. There is a whole culture of taking off one's shoes when one enters the house. The *tatami* is therefore so clean that the Japanese can roll out the sleeping mattresses and sleep on the floor.

Chapter 2 Embracing Different Opinions, Accepting Opposite Views

1. Egon Sohmen (1930–77) was born in Linz, Austria, and educated at the Universities of Vienna, Kansas, and Tübingen, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From the last two he received doctorate degrees in economics. He taught at Yale and at the Universities of Saarland, Frankfurt and Heidelberg. He played a significant role in the 1960s supporting flexible exchange rates and wrote widely insisting that a free-floating exchange rate would provide more stability. His theory has been adopted nowadays. He died at the age of 45.
2. The Cantonese colloquialism for grandma.

Chapter 3 The Road to Success

1. From an initial charter of nine months, the ship served Father well until it was sold for scrap in Osaka in March 1959.
2. 8 March 1976.
3. See *World-Wide Shipping: The Voyage of a Half Century* (Hong Kong: World-Wide Shipping, 2005), p. 8.
4. See *World-Wide Shipping: The Voyage of a Half Century* (2005), p. 19.
5. *Shikumisen*, a Japanese term meaning “arranged ship”, a bareboat charter arrangement. Father was able to secure successive one-year bank guarantees for the duration of the ship's charter to secure the charterer's performance, thus enabling him to obtain a bank loan to build the ship.
6. Sir John Anthony Holt Saunders (1917–2002), chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from 1964 to 1972. When he first met Father, Saunders was the chief accountant in charge of loans.
7. This was not such a derogatory term during the days before political correctness. Sir John Saunders personally recounted to me the story of how he first met my father.
8. The Kowloon Wharf is a company founded in 1886 in Hong Kong. The company's original business was in running wharfage and dockside warehousing. It was originally known as The Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company,

- Limited. The company adopted its current name, The Wharf (Holdings) Limited, in 1986 when Y. K. Pao purchased the company. See also note 8 of Chapter 8.
9. Sir William Purves was chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank from 1986 to 1998. He too was chief accountant when Y. K. Pao first met him.
 10. See *World-Wide Shipping: The Voyage of a Half Century* (2005), pp. 32–33.
 11. World-Wide Shipping bought Bergesen in 2003.
 12. Tung had bought the *Queen Elizabeth I* from the Cunard Line. He turned it into a university and named it “Seawise University” (which was also a play on his name, C. Y. Tung), an on-board semester learning experience for an international body of tertiary-level students. The ship caught fire and sank in the Hong Kong harbour in 1972, thus making more banner headlines all over the world.
 13. “Pre-war” here refers to the period before the Second World War.
 14. Paul Volcker was appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank by President Jimmy Carter in August 1979; he served until August 1987. He was later appointed by President Barack Obama to chair the President’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board.
 15. The Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong was signed by the prime ministers of the People’s Republic of China and the United Kingdom on 19 December 1984 in Beijing. The fact that Hong Kong was going to be under PRC rule in July 1997 was disturbing to many Chinese residents in Hong Kong as many had run away from the Communists in the late 1940s and 1950s. For Father’s role in the subsequent negotiations between the governments, see Chapter 4 of this book.
 16. These company dinners were important as Father noted them in his diary clearly.
 17. For details, see *World-Wide Shipping: The Voyage of a Half Century* (2005), pp. 70–71.
 18. Andreas Sohmen-Pao held an academic as well as music scholarships and graduated from Eton College, Oxford University, and the Harvard Business School. At Eton College, he was the head boy, leader of orchestra, and captain of the rugby team and the rowing team.
 19. See *World-Wide Shipping: The Voyage of a Half Century* (2005), p. 55ff.

Chapter 4 Globalization

1. This was the predecessor of the present China Building at the northwestern corner of Queen’s Road Central and Pottinger Street.
2. See note 1 of Chapter 1.
3. The “Spanish Garden” was named by us. However, the architecture and the garden suggested European style. The premise was occupied by the Anglican priests who opened its garden to the public.

4. Before the war, the father of Uncle C. L. Pan was a successful businessman in Shanghai, who had helped Father. When his son came to Hong Kong, Mr. Pan Sr. asked my father to help his son C. L. Pan to get settled. Uncle Pan became an important colleague in Father's company looking after the Seaman's School. His son Stephen Pan subsequently served as vice-chairman when Helmut took over World-Wide Shipping. The next generation are friends of our children.
5. The post-Second World War Labour governments within the relevant time frame were: 1945–51 under Clement Attlee (1883–1967); 1964–70 and 1974–76 under Harold Wilson (1912–95); and 1976–79 under James Callaghan (1912–2005).
6. In Vienna, there is a ball every week in the winter near the carnival time. Besides the famous Opera Ball, there are balls for engineers, doctors, electricians and even plumbers.
7. The Lord Howe of Aberavon was Sir Geoffrey Howe when he knew Father. He served in the Thatcher government as chancellor of the exchequer, secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, leader of the House of Commons, and deputy prime minister. His resignation in 1991 was viewed by some political observers as a split from Lady Thatcher, leading to the eventual downfall of the Conservative government.
8. Sir Percy Cradock was the British ambassador in Beijing from 1978 to 1984. He was a great sinologist. He opened the negotiations on the return of Hong Kong to China. From 1984 to 1992, he was the prime minister's foreign policy advisor and was the chief negotiator with China.
9. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China consists of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands. Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain by China at the end of the Opium War by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. The Kowloon Peninsula was ceded after the Second Opium War by the Treaty of Tientsin in 1858, while the New Territories were leased for 99 years in 1898. At the end of June 1997, the lease came to an end. Hence, there were negotiations beginning in the early 1980s between China and the United Kingdom on Hong Kong's fate. Economically, however, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon could not survive independently of the New Territories. Politically, since China had always viewed the treaties as "unequal", it was imperative for Britain to return the entire colony.
10. Ernesto Beckmann Geisel (1907–96) was a military leader and politician who served as president of Brazil from 1974 to 1979.
11. Cruzeiro do Sul, Order of the Southern Cross, is Brazil's highest order of merit.
12. George Ryoichi Ariyoshi (b. 1926) was governor of Hawai'i from 1974 to 1986. The largest ethnic group of the multi-racial Hawai'ian population is Japanese, so this group dominates Hawai'ian politics.

13. Cissy and Doreen were living in New York in the 1970s whereas I was living in London.
14. François Mitterrand was president of France from May 1981, re-elected in 1988 and served until 1995.
15. Ferdinand Marcos (1917–89) was president of the Philippines from 1965 to 1986. He and his wife, Imelda (b. 1929), were popular leaders until dissatisfaction with their corruption led to a popular revolt and a public trial.

Chapter 5 Shanghai Banking Days

1. Dr. K. C. Wu (1903–84), a Princeton graduate in political science, was the last Nationalist mayor of Shanghai. He emigrated to the United States where he served as professor of Chinese history at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia.
2. Mei Lanfang (梅蘭芳 1894–1961) was a popular Beijing Opera star, singing female roles. He was very good-looking.
3. The most popular version of this murder is that Jiang Nan had been a double agent and was assassinated by the agents of the Nationalists.
4. From March 1998 to March 2003.
5. Wang Jingwei was a follower of Sun Yat-sen. After the death of Sun in 1925, Wang lost his position in the Nationalist Party to Chiang Kai-shek. During the Sino-Japanese War, Wang collaborated with the Japanese.
6. Magistrate Pao (包拯 Bao Zheng 999–1062) was an historic person who lived during the Song dynasty. He was known for his integrity and his ability as a brilliant fair judge. His surname was Pao, but is rendered in *pinyin* as Bao. As shown in the *Pao Family Genealogy Records*, a copy of which is in the famous “First Library under the Sky” (Tianyige Collection) in Ningbo, Pao was the 29th generation descendant of Magistrate Pao. Today, Magistrate Pao’s integrity and fairness has been exemplary throughout China. His wisdom has been recorded in school textbooks. Magistrate Pao’s judgements are comparable to those made by King Solomon of the Old Testament. His fairness has been a common theme in Chinese opera, drama and television series, with audiences of all ages and in many languages.
7. The Bund refers to the boulevard on the waterfront of Whampoa (Huangpu), the river that runs through Shanghai. The majestic European-style buildings along the river were formerly occupied by banks and big companies, including the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Now many of them have been converted to 6-star hotels and brand name shops.
8. Y. K. Pao was number two in birth order. He had an elder brother, a younger brother, and four sisters.

9. Liao Chengzhi (1908–83) was the only son of the renowned revolutionary Liao Zhongkai (廖仲愷 1877–1925) and the equally famous He Xiangning (何香凝 1878–1972), an artist and writer. He joined the Communist Party in 1928. After 1949 he served in the PRC government and rose to head the Xinhua News Agency. In 1978, when Father was invited to visit Beijing, Liao was head of the newly founded Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and the newly revived Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau. Since Father was a “compatriot” and a Hong Kong resident, it was apt that the formal invitation to visit Beijing had to be issued by Mr. Liao.
10. The Red Army led by the Communist Party was reorganized as the Eighth Route Army during the anti-Japanese war. In 1938, Deng Xiaoping was appointed as one of the political commissars in the Eighth Route Army.
11. During the Cultural Revolution, many Red Guards even reported on friends and relatives. One form of humiliation was to make the culprit wear a tall hat and a placard around the neck describing “the crime” committed. They were paraded down the high streets and were mocked. Others were sent to hard labour in remote country, such as Heilongjiang where winters are -36°C .
12. Richard Charles Lee, scion of a noted Hong Kong business family who had good connection with China. Usually a Hong Kong person does not have two first names.

Chapter 6 Developing China’s Tourism and Shipping

1. Beijing became a walled city when it was made capital in the Yuan dynasty by Kublai Khan in 1270 CE. Although the walls were torn down at the turn of the twentieth century, several of the gates still stand. Some of the city districts where the gates stood continue to carry their names.
2. During the Cultural Revolution, the country came to a stop. Factories were closed, universities shut down; the intellectuals were sent to labour camps and books were burnt. The young Red Guards destroyed cultural relics and turned against teachers and sometimes parents. Many were forced to jump to death by the Red Guards.
3. The Communist Party of China was founded in 1921. Mao led the famous Long March which lasted from 16 October 1934 to 19 October 1935.
4. Liao Zhongkai, father of Liao Chengzhi, had worked for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in San Francisco and joined Sun Yat-sen’s revolutionary movement, helping to raise funds from overseas Chinese. Liao Zhongkai was one of the three most powerful figures of the Nationalist Party after the death of Sun. As Liao had close ties with the Soviet Union, he was highly regarded by the Chinese Communists. He was assassinated in 1925. His son inherited his prominence. The

- son admitted that he had been sent to prison seven times. He was jailed by the Japanese, the Westerners, the Nationalists and, of course, the Communists during the Cultural Revolution. Yet, he never lost his sense of humour and his optimism.
5. The Stone Forest is a site of natural stone formation, some rising to a height of thirty metres.
 6. On 12 December 1979, Elder Uncle Lu submitted a report entitled *On Using Foreign and Overseas Chinese Capital to Build Hotels in China, in Order to Facilitate the Development of Tourism*. Later I read a critique of Elder Uncle Lu's performance as the minister of tourism, which I quote here: "Lu Xuzhang was named minister of tourism in October 1978 and was a most successful leader. Tourist industry turned a page during his short tenure of two years and four months. He laid a solid foundation for tourism in China."
 7. Hua Guofeng succeeded Zhou Enlai as premier and Mao was chairman of the Communist Party. He ended the Cultural Revolution after the death of Mao.
 8. In 1949, the Communists established the People's Republic of China and the Nationalist (or Kuomintang) government moved to Taiwan. Many Chinese fled to Hong Kong, trusting neither the Nationalists nor the Communists.
 9. Shipbuilding was under the Sixth Machinery Ministry, now renamed the Ministry of Communication.
 10. After the end of the Second World War, like many disillusioned people in China, Chai joined the Communist Party to revolt against the Nationalist government. He survived the civil war and witnessed the modernization of China. He died in his seventies.
 11. Tsinghua University was founded with the Boxers' indemnity money returned by British and American governments to train young Chinese for advanced studies.

Chapter 7 Friendship with a Man of Vision

1. Deng had been a Communist since his student days in France, joining the Communist Youth League in 1921 and the Chinese Communist Party in 1923. From the 1980s until his death, he was the most powerful leader in China. In introducing the Four Modernizations, he gave up many aspects of the orthodox Communist doctrine by incorporating elements of the free market economy into the Chinese system without relaxing political and social control. He paid state visits to non-Communist countries such as Japan in 1978 and the United States in 1979.
2. The State Council is the central government of the People's Republic of China.
3. The *Time Magazine* used the Wade-Giles transliteration system, hence the name was given as Teng Hsiao-P'ing.

4. Mikhail Gorbachev (b. 1931) was the last head of state before the USSR collapsed in 1991. While Gorbachev's policy was to prioritize political reform, Deng's priority was economic reform while still upholding the political status quo. Deng was to usher in the era of "socialism with Chinese characteristics"; that is, maintaining the Communist regime while pursuing market economy.
5. The epic 15,000 *li* (里, actually 6,000 miles) Long March (1934–35) took place when the Communists retreated from Jiangxi Province to the northwestern province of Shaanxi to re-establish themselves. All the leaders during the first forty years of the PRC had undertaken this arduous journey.
6. The War of Liberation or the Chinese civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists ended with the Communist victory and the establishment of the People's Republic of China with the capital in Beijing.
7. Marshal Liu Bocheng (1892–1986) was officially recognized as a political theorist and military strategist who was one of the founders of the People's Liberation Army.
8. As a fitter, a job he held when he was a student in France. See note 9.
9. Both Zhou and Deng went to France to study in 1921. To earn money for their room and board, many Chinese students worked in factories. The sixteen-year-old Deng worked as a fitter at the Le Creusot Iron and Steel Plant outside Paris.
10. Father's diary entry for that day only noted "in Peking".
11. Referring to Deng's position as chairman of the Central Military Commission.
12. The young daughter of President Carter, at that time twelve years old.
13. The growth rate of China's economy since 1979 has been impressive. It remained at above 7.5%, some coastal regions reaching over 10% in the late 1990s and early 2005. Studies, such as the following conducted at the University of Tokyo, draw this conclusion: "The establishment of China's Special Economic Zones apparently triggered her economic growth together with various growth-oriented schemes." See Tatsuyuki Ota, "The Role of Special Economic Zones in China's Economic Development as Compared with Asian Export Processing Zones: 1979–1995", *Asia in Extensio*, March 2003.
14. Hua Guofeng (1921–2008) came from Hunan Province, Mao Zedong's homeland. He adopted the name Hua Guofeng as his *nom de guerre* after he joined the Long March in 1936 and the Communist Party in 1938. Hua became the designated successor to Mao during the Cultural Revolution. After Mao's death, Hua became the chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party until he was ousted in 1981.
15. An imperial edict is the official terminology referring to a document issued by the reigning emperor. It has been in Chinese popular speech for more than two millennia. Essentially, the term means "an order that must be obeyed absolutely".

16. A term which Chinese children sometimes use to refer to their father.
17. *Mou* (畝) = 0.667 hectares.
18. A 1991 diary entry shows that Father and I were travelling from London, arriving in Beijing on 3 July at 16:35.
19. Yang Shangkun (1907–98), Soviet-trained Communist, was a member of the Politburo and supporter of Deng Xiaoping at that time. From 1988 to 1993 he was president of the PRC and permanent deputy chairman of the Military Commission.
20. Deng Xiaoping and his third wife, Zhuo Lin (卓琳), whom he married in 1939, had five children: three daughters (Deng Lin 鄧林, Deng Nan 鄧楠 and Deng Rong 鄧榕) and two sons (Deng Pufang 鄧樸方 and Deng Zhifang 鄧質方).
21. The Sichuan dialect (which Deng spoke) is totally different from the Ningbo dialect (which Pao spoke) and is further different from Cantonese (spoken in Hong Kong). See also note 2 of Chapter 1.
22. *Maotai* (茅台酒) is a liquor distilled from fermented sorghum with a 60-percent alcohol content. It became China's most famous drink during the 1970s when it was served to President Richard Nixon and senior US officials at banquets during their visits to China.
23. "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" or "a specially Chinese flavoured socialism" became the popular wording from the 1970s onward, used by the leaders and scholars. Deng very cleverly coined this phrase to allow for capitalist enterprises to take place in the communist regime. Economic activities started burgeoning while the political framework did not change and still has not changed.
24. Not only high government officials but also scholars attending conferences outside China received the same allowance.

Chapter 8 The Unofficial Ambassador

1. *Hong* (行), a term inherited from the pre-Opium War (1840–42) era when Chinese foreign trade was confined to Canton (Guangzhou). The Qing government franchised a number of business houses—the 13 *hongs*—to trade with foreigners. The term *hong* used here means trading house or trading company. The four major *hongs* in Hong Kong at the time Father was active were Jardine, Swire, Hutchison and Wharf.
2. "Godown", or storage facilities, comes from a pre-Opium War pidgin term, meaning to "go down" to the warehouses at the waterfront.
3. See Victor Zheng, Wong Siu-lun and Sun Wenbin, "Taking-off through the Stock Market: The Evolution of Large Hong Kong Chinese Family Enterprises in the 1970s", a paper presented at the International Economic History Conference (Helsinki, Finland, 21–25 August 2006), Session 6: Beyond Chandler; The

- Survival of the Family Firm in Europe, Asia, and North-America in the XIXth and XXth Centuries. Available online at <http://www.helsinki.fi/iehc2006/papers1/Zheng.pdf> (accessed on 20 February 2009). See specifically pp. 10–11.
4. INTERTANKO is the acronym for the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners.
 5. Here my memory of these dates has been confirmed by Father's diary entries of June 1980.
 6. Father's diary entries show that Helmut left for Hong Kong on the 20th (European time) and Sandberg arrived in Hong Kong on the 26th.
 7. Peter Woo was listening to the conversation on an extension. See Robin Hutcheon, *First Sea Lord: The Life and Work of Sir Y. K. Pao* (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 1990), pp. 98–99.
 8. Wheelock was a British tug company founded in Shanghai in 1857 and merged with Marden, another tug company, in 1927. Wheelock and Marden Company moved to Hong Kong after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.
 9. David Clive Wilson, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, a renowned China scholar and governor of Hong Kong (1987–92), was born in Scotland on 14 February 1935. He had a master of arts degree from Oxford (1955–58) and a doctorate in contemporary Chinese history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (1973). He also studied Chinese at the University of Hong Kong (1960–62). He was the editor of *China Quarterly* before rejoining diplomatic service in 1974. From 1977 to 1981, he served as political advisor to Sir Murray MacLehose, then governor of Hong Kong.
 10. The colony of Hong Kong, since 1 July 1997, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong SAR), has a land area of 1,104 sq. km.
 11. An example of this sentiment was his address to the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong on 12 May 1981.
 12. Three territories outside the PRC jurisdiction at that time were considered to be Chinese and Beijing wanted to see their return: Hong Kong under British rule, Macao under Portuguese rule, and Taiwan.
 13. See also note 9 of Chapter 4. The three treaties about Hong Kong's colonial status quo are the Treaty of Nanking (南京條約), the Convention of Peking (北京條約), and the Convention between Great Britain and China Respecting an Extension of Hong Kong Territory (展拓香港界址專條). These treaties were signed during the period of 1842–1898. In the Sino-British negotiations, the Chinese started to pressure the British to return all of Hong Kong, taking the position that they would not accept these "unequal treaties" that were imposed on them by the colonial powers.

On 28 January 1983, Mrs. Thatcher learned that the Chinese wanted to propose their own plan for Hong Kong's future in June 1983, and she tried to prevent this from happening. She wanted to develop the democratic structure in Hong Kong as the one in Singapore, and decided to concede Hong Kong's sovereignty to prevent China's unilateral actions for Hong Kong's future. She wrote a letter to Zhao Ziyang in March 1983, saying that the most important criterion of returning Hong Kong was to keep its prosperity and stability.

14. Sunningdale Golf Course is approximately 30 miles (45 km) from Central London.
15. In fact, Ningbo, a deep seaport, was one of the five seaports opened to foreign trade after the Opium War. Britain had contemplated Ningbo as their "prize" after the victory of the Opium War prior to China granting Hong Kong as the prize.
16. In October 1983, the Hong Kong government adopted a linked exchange rate to help stabilize the exchange rate between the Hong Kong dollar to the US dollar.
17. The chief executive of Hong Kong is not elected by the people.
18. In George Bernard Shaw's play, *Pygmalion*, and in the musical version of the play, *My Fair Lady*, Eliza Doolittle was a young flower girl from Covent Garden, London, who spoke with a Cockney accent. She was taken in by a speech professor, Henry Higgins, who put a wager on her. His theory was that the social divide in the UK was a merge question of accent with speech therapy; the ability to speak "the Queen's English" could promote Eliza's social class. After many months of coaching, he did succeed. Eliza Doolittle was able to pronounce "the rain in Spain remains on the plain" with an upper class accent. Dressed up as a stylish lady with a glorious hat, and with the new upper class accent, she was well received by the upper crust of the English society.
19. The Legislative Council is the unicameral legislature of the Hong Kong SAR. Its members before 1985 comprised both official and unofficial members, all appointed by the governor (there were 29 official members and 32 unofficial members in 1984). The first ever elections to the council were held in 1985. After the elections, there were 11 official members and 46 unofficial members, of which 22 were appointed by the governor, 12 were elected from functional constituencies, one was elected from among members of the Urban Council, one was elected from among members of the Regional Council, and ten were elected by an electoral college constituency made up of members of all district boards. The Legislative Council in 1995, the last one under British rule, became a fully elected legislature with 60 members.

Chapter 9 Education Is Key to a Stronger Country

1. Zhejiang University is situated in Hangzhou in the province of Zhejiang. It ranks third amongst universities in China, after Tsinghua University and Peking University.
2. Han Zhenxiang, a native of Hangzhou, an electrical engineer, who was awarded a doctorate degree by the Moscow Power Engineering Institute in 1961, was president of Zhejiang University from 1984 to 1988. He was president of the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering and is now retired.
3. Lu Yongxiang, vice-president, later became the president of Zhejiang University, and then the president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.
4. After its defeat by the international forces in the Boxer Rebellion (1900–01), China had to pay a heavy indemnity to the victorious countries, including the United States and Britain. The US government returned the money to set up a fund to send Chinese students to the US for postgraduate studies. Tsinghua University was founded in 1911 to prepare students. It has been a major institution of learning since that time.
5. The Battle of Red Cliff (赤壁) took place at the end of the Han dynasty (c. 208/9) and was fought for the control of the middle Yangtze River. It is described in detail in the *History of the Three Kingdoms* as well as the *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.
6. The Chinese calendar started marking time from 2637 BC, grouping the years into chronological cycles of sixty years each, each in turn comprising five cycles of twelve years. Popularly, these twelve years are represented by animals, including the horse. There are numerous reference works on Chinese astrology, but one of the most original sources is *The Moon Year* by Juliet Bredon and Igor Mitrophanov, originally published in Shanghai (Kelly & Walsh, 1927), reprinted in Hong Kong (Oxford University Press, 1982), pp. 9–10.

Chapter 10 The Goodwill Ambassador

1. The most outstanding businessmen in Shanghai before 1949, for instance, were from Ningbo. Many Hong Kong immigrants from Ningbo in the late 1940s have attained high achievements in trade, manufacture, shipping, finance and even in film. “Ningbo Gang” was a phrase coined by Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s when he saw Father. For a scholarly study, see Susan Mann, *Local Merchants and the Chinese Bureaucracy 1750–1950* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987).
2. Beidaihe is a summer resort on the coast of Shandong. Before 1949, the resort was frequented by foreigners in China and, after the establishment of the People’s Republic, by China’s leaders, where they gathered to swim, relax and hold informal meetings.

3. Father's diary entries show that during 1985 and 1986, in particular, he spent much time working on the Hong Kong return issues, including trips to London and Beijing and meetings in Hong Kong with various parties. He was also the vice-chairman of the Basic Law Drafting Committee.
4. Deng had worked in a car factory during his student days in France and on a farm during the Cultural Revolution. See also note 9 of Chapter 7.
5. It is very different today. In 2008, the urban per capita income of Ningbo was RMB 13,565, an increase of 15.2 percent from the year before; and for farmers it was RMB 7,193, an increase of 13.8 percent. At that time US\$1 was about RMB 8.
6. The about-to-be-ruined Tianyige (founded in 1561 during the Ming dynasty) was saved by Ruan Yuan 阮元 (1764–1849) when he was director of studies in Zhejiang in 1795–98. After Ruan Yuan's time the library continued to decay from natural and man-made causes. The collection was seriously damaged during the Opium War of 1841–42 and the Taiping Rebellion (1850–64). In 1930, a well-known collector, Ye Gongchao (葉恭焯), sent a telegram to ask the then mayor of Ningbo, Yang Ziyi (楊子毅), to "do something about the Tianyige Collection". Yang found that fewer than half of the books listed in Ruan Yuan's catalogue were still on the shelves. This effort by Ye and Yang shows that as late as the 1930s, there was still an interest in this collection. Xue Fucheng (薛福成) and Chen Dengyuan (陳登原) compiled *Tianyige Jianshun Shumu* (天一閣見存書目) (the handwritten copy of the list of books was first printed in Taipei in 1970). Attached to this work is an account of the collection, *Tianyige Zangshukao* (天一閣藏書考) (An examination into the Tianyige collection) by Chen Dengyuan, who was a research scholar at the University of Nanking; see Cai Peiling (蔡佩玲), *Fanshi Tianyige Yanjiu* (范氏天一閣研究) (Fan's study on Tianyige) (1991, p. 223).
7. The copy of the *Pao Family Genealogy Records* was compiled in 1947 from a copy made during the Qing dynasty, Kangxi reign. Therefore, the birth of a daughter, me, was recorded under Father and Mother's names.
8. Mother had not been told her birth date because she was born on a day considered by Chinese astrologers to be inauspicious.
9. The library has presented Father with a photocopy of the volumes tracing the generations between Magistrate Pao and Father. This copy is now in our collection.
10. Manufacture of silk and brocade from raising silk worms.
11. Before the twentieth century, Chinese taxes and the price of rice were calculated in terms of *taels* of silver. Sixteen *taels* constituted a *catty*. For the convenience of commercial travellers, traditional banks (*yinzhuang* 銀莊) issued paper drafts (*zhuangpiao* 莊票) when the amounts were large. In this case, the amount was 7,000 *taels*, a very large sum indeed. (By the treaty after the Opium War of 1840–42, one *catty*

was designated to comprise one and one-third pounds in the British system of weights and measures; hence one *tael* was one and one-third ounce.)

12. Sinopec, that is China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation, is one of China's major petroleum companies. It is involved in the exploration and marketing of oil and gas. Chen was later implicated for graft by a woman who was mistress to many other leaders, who were all implicated. Chen is still imprisoned in Beijing.
13. Ningbo's GDP in 1986 was RMB 31.8 billion (US\$4.2 billion), a 17.2 percent increase from the year before.