



Non-Fiction

Group 1

My Family From Shanghai

Bradbury School, Yeoh, Aiden – 6

My family is from Shanghai and we are going to tell you about the historical changes in Shanghai since my great great grandpa moved to Shanghai.

My great great grandpa was born in 1897 in Jiangsu Wujin and he opened his own luggage workshop. He moved to Shanghai in 1909 and Pudong was like a plain river with canoes. It was just farmland. When I came back to Shanghai, Pudong is full of skyscrapers.

Great grandpa was born in 1923 in Shanghai and he worked for the government. Great grandpa used to go to the Lyceum Theatre and the Grand World. The Grand World was one of the most famous and largest amusement parks at that time. It is kind like Disneyland for me today.

My grandpa was born in 1950 in Shanghai and he worked for his own textiles business. Grandpa used to work at the Shanghai Mansion. It used to be called the Broadway mansion. Shanghai Mansion used to be the tallest building at 78 meters and the tallest in Shanghai is now the Shanghai Tower at 635 meters. It is about nine times the height of Shanghai Mansion!

My mummy was born in Shanghai as well in 1980. She used to play at the People's Park playground which used to be a race course.

I was born in Hong Kong in 2010. When I go to Shanghai I go to the Golden Temple, I eat yummy xiaolong bao, and I go to see great grandpa and grandpa.

Old Shanghai

International Christian School, Lee, Leanna – 8

In the 1840's in Shanghai there were a lot of wars like the Opium wars (1842,1860) World War 1 (1914) and World War 2 (1934). China lost the Opium wars so they had to give up some things. They gave away Shanghai's parts away like the French concession and other parts for the British, American and German governments (concessions). What was left was the old city of Shanghai.

Each of the little areas had their own particular way of doing something like restaurants, special (rich) houses and their own rules. Chinese people sometimes lived there. The rest of Shanghai lived in the old Chinese city which wasn't very nice because it was poor, old, torn and damaged. Many slaves (Chinese people) who served wealthy people lived there.

In the little areas there were many beautiful houses. It had dancing halls, restaurants and even a racetrack. They did not have to follow Chinese rules and could do whatever they wished for. It was very fun living there except for violence.

Starting in 1850, there was violence because a guy named Hong Xiquan led the Taping rebels and he was trying to get rid of the Qing government there was violence, many people died.

Then in 1939, Japan invaded China and they took out little parts of Shanghai. This time there was more fighting then last time. A lot of homeless people died. Over 20,000 people died on the streets. Therefore, in 1941 the Japanese also took away the French part and the international part of Shanghai. Finally, World War 2 ended. In 1949, the Japanese lost the war, therefore they had to give back Shanghai.

In 1949, Mao Zedong won the war against the Nationalists and created the Republic of China.

Today, Shanghai is one of the most important and successful cities in China. It has an amazing airport, many tall buildings and even Formula1 raced there. Shanghai has gone through a lot but Shanghai overcame them. From Shanghai we can learn to persistent.

An Old Shanghai that is fading away...

Kau Yan School, Bunting, Clara – 8

If you are on a walk around Shanghai, you can see lots of old, western-style buildings which will make you think you're in the middle of a beautiful European city.

But Shanghai has not always been that way. In the south of the city, there is an area known as the Old City, which dates from as far back as the Song Dynasty (960–1279AD). City walls were built in the 16th century to stop Japanese pirates and other invaders from attacking the people who lived there, but the walls were knocked down in 1912.

When China lost in the Opium War in 1842, foreigners like the French and British occupied parts of Shanghai and built lots of European buildings, including schools, churches and hospitals, and they even had their own government, laws and police. These were known as foreign concessions.

But the Old City remained under Chinese control. To this day, there are still many old-fashioned Chinese houses built in the distinctive Shanghai “Shikumen” (stone gate) style, ancient temples and narrow little lanes called Longtang. Amid the Longtang, there are still neighbourhood shops such as tailors, barbers, fruit vendors, roast meat shops, tea shops and street peddlers selling all kinds of things. There are ancient houses where families have lived for generations. Living in an old house like this, every morning you might hear granny street peddlers calling out to sell their goods. You might even hear the happy shouts of little children playing outside and your neighbours playing chess or mah-jong.

I imagine I would have a lot of fun living in an old Shanghai neighbourhood. I would only need to open the doors and find children to play with and have a chat with the elderly shop owners in the Longtang, or stop for a little snack when I am tired. I could play with chicks wandering on the street and with my best friends, we could have such fun playing games like Mikado spiel, marbles, kicking balls, skipping with rubber bands and so on.

Sadly, Old Shanghai's traditional way of life is quickly fading away.

Property developers have been buying up valuable land, demolishing old houses and building tall, gleaming modern tower blocks to make loads of money. Imagine if I were one of those people suddenly forced out of my house in a Longtang, I would be quite devastated because I would miss playing with my friends, the sounds of peddlers calling and the cute little shops. It would not be so nice in a modern building, as I wouldn't bump into my neighbours much and maybe not even know them at all.

If I ever went back to my old neighbourhood and saw my house levelled and rubble everywhere, surrounded by advertisements for luxury apartments, I would feel rather sad. I wouldn't be able to live in the expensive high-rise blocks that were built over my old home, and I would probably have to move far away, where I would know no one.

New Tales of Old Shanghai

Korean International School, Mak, Matthew – 7

Hi everyone, welcome to read my story about Shanghai.

First off, we were going to Yu Yuan, an old Chinese style garden that has fish ponds and corridors on it. It also has shopping area and restaurants where you can relax and eat.

Let's talk about Shanghai food. Xiao Long Bao has meat and hot soup inside. When you eat it, be careful not to burn your mouth! Its outlook is like a flower on the top!

Shanghai Noodle is also yummy! It is really my favourite. I can even see it in a fiction book called "McDull's Shanghai Noodles" McDull is a famous piggy and my favourite character.

Now for a fun restaurant at Tianzifang, you can call it the "Toilet Restaurant". It has western and Chinese foods. The seats there are NOT normal, they are toilets! The things to hold the foods are NOT plates and cups, they are toilet and urine bowls! The food looks like poos and pee! Of course, they are just pretend. They look disgusting. But, they are delicious!

After all that eating, let's go to The Bund. Along The Bund, I saw lots of old western style buildings. After that, we went to Peace Hotel. It was already evening. We were having a fine dinner there.

Now it's almost the end of the day. We took a boat crossing the Huangpu River to our hotel in Pudong. Good night!

Good morning everyone! Yesterday we looked over the Huangpu River. We saw lots of tall skyscrapers. They look modern! Now we were going inside. The Oriental Pearl TV Tower is the landmark of Shanghai. It has three balls. They are very eye catching because they are pink and red! Inside the ball, you can see The Bund's old buildings.

After that, we went to the Jin Mao Tower. The atrium is golden, grand and sparkling!

The next stop was Shanghai Tower. Wow! It is the second tallest building in the world! It is twisting and looks like going up into the sky! It is 632 metres high and has 127 floors above the ground and 5 floors underground!

After the skyscrapers, it's time to go to Nanjing Road for shopping. The buildings are old, western style and have 3 to 5 floors only. The Nanjing Road has lots of shops, some are new, but some are old. They are very different from the shopping malls in skyscrapers. There is no escalator and elevator inside.

Let's have more fun! We went to the Shanghai Aquarium. We were now inside the ocean and saw fishes above! Then, we went to the Bund Sightseeing Tunnel. The tunnel is for passenger train only. It is amazing inside!

On my way back, I could see many big smiles on The Bund. They are aunties and uncles doing physical exercise, dancing and practising Tai chi.

Shanghai is awesome! It is a place where new meets old, and East meets West. I LOVE Shanghai!

The Pearl of China

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Dangi, Yash – 9

Shanghai is one of the first cities that people think of when they hear the name of China. It is now even known as the window of China. But not many people know its history, Shanghai was a very different city before and was called “The Pearl of China”. And Old Shanghai was very different from the new Shanghai.

The Old City was the county seat for the old county of Shanghai. With the advantage of foreign concessions in Shanghai, the Old City became just one part of Shanghai's urban core but continued for decades to be the seat of the Chinese authority in Shanghai. There are still a lot of places that represent the history of the whole China, such as the Site of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China which is a typical two-storey brick and timber building of the kind seen in Shanghai City. The building contains exhibit furniture and personal items once used by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Today the Old City still contains some ancient but renovated features, such as the Yuyuan Garden complex, and the City's God Temple. Its circular shape is now dwarfed by the surrounding large streets which occupy the space of the former walls, now Renmin Road to the North and Zhonghua Road to the South. The Old City has also been cut in the middle North to South by Henan Road. Nowadays, the Old City is a combination of ancient winding streets, with some modern high-rise buildings progressively encroaching on the older areas.

The old Shanghai was also known for its beauty. If you search on the internet now, you can still find a lot of photos of Old Shanghai which are just very beautiful. It has different types of architecture which include even European and gothic styles. They give a comprehensive reflection of the evolution of the modern society and cities and also provide a key to learn the culture of Shanghai and the history of modern China, such as Xintiandi. Another manicured creative cluster was gearing up for Shanghai's Fashion Week – a major creative industry event that catalyses collaborative activity and innovate economies. These kinds of events are a must for a city to be taken seriously on the global creative stage. The area's meticulous beautification belied the oppressive urbanity of the surrounding city – and the presence of chain stores only serves to catalyse this isolative mantra.

Although new concepts and ideas will bring Shanghai to an even brighter future, those old buildings will be bestowed with new significance. Who will wake them up, wash away the dust, make them become stronger and make them stay young and beautiful? We will devote all our enthusiasm and wisdom to accomplish this mission. We still need to protect the old Shanghai and we know it is important to do so. “The Pearl of China” should always be as glorious as it was before.

Old Shanghai, China's Frontier City

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Ma, Alice – 8

About a century ago, in 1920's, the so-called "The Oriental Paris" of old Shanghai, everything was blustery and capricious.

Old Shanghai was a wild place, dangerous and full of intrigue, it was a frontier city. East met West, North met South, the good and evil mixed together on the seedy streets of this "Paris of the East". The city was full of pretty women and treacherous gangsters, and the pungent smell of opium was thick in the air.

Shanghai is a frontier city of old and new now. You can walk along the Bund to visit traditional Shanghai buildings and experience Old Shanghai. You can also spend half a day in Tianzifang to experience real Old Shanghai lifestyle. May be to visit Zhujiajiao, a town with 1,700 years of history, known as Shanghai's Venice.

The lifestyles of Old Shanghai are quite different from the New Shanghai lifestyles. Many people consider Old Shanghai as a certain kind of lifestyle, thus the impression of Old Shanghai denotes words like: clubs, nightlife, fashion and pretty girls in Cheongsam.

Old Shanghai was not just a place crowded with long alleys and opium dens. It was also full of garishly-lit clubs, where the drinks flowed freely and the music played into the early morning. The most famous of those late-night hangouts was the Paramount, or the Chinese Bai Le Men, literally "The Gate of 100 Pleasures". If you want high-class debauchery, this is the place to go.

The Paramount was built in the last century where the International Settlement met the local quarter. Designed in 1931, the Paramount was three storeys tall which included a kitchen, a banquet hall, a ballroom and an elegant entry hall. Beautiful rosewood floors in the ballroom were supported by armored plates taken from army trucks, it was said that the Paramount dance floor could hold over a thousand people at once.

In its heyday, the crowd was full of local tycoons, socialites, politicians and also the house's famed international hostesses—beautiful Russian, Japanese and Chinese dancing girls. The Paramount was a meeting place of hugely contrasting cultures, but it was not always pretty, the seedy underbelly of Shanghai was never too far away.

After liberation, the ballroom of excess—the most famous of all of Shanghai—saw a series of changes, closing down, becoming a movie theatre, and then a nightclub again, and finally a disco. Of all the dance halls in Shanghai, the Paramount is the only one that is still standing today.

We may consider the Old Shanghai people as those who can speak the Shanghai dialect. There are still many Old Shanghai Buildings in Shanghai nowadays.

Shanghai is a paradise for architecture lovers. In Shanghai, you might have the experience like this: walking along the lovely lanes of old Shanghai streets and appreciate its traditional Shanghai buildings, while turning around and surprised by a modern fancy building in front of you.

Old Shanghai, New Story

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Ma, Daisy – 6

When we talk about our motherland, we always feel much honoured. The same is true to Shanghai when we talk about it. As an developed coastal city of our country, it has long become the jewel of the Oriental World. Shanghai is the window through which we communicate with the outside world and therefore has been developed into one of the busiest and most famous economic and trade centers of the world.

Like many other big cities, Shanghai has high buildings, broad roads, fresh air and wonderful scenery. However, the difference is that Shanghai is an old city and has historic features of its own, for example, the famed Shanghai Bund, Huangpu River and Miles that have seen great historic changes. Not to mention the well-known lanes, temples, Peace Hotel and Lilac Garden. When we visit Shanghai, we see not only the beautiful architecture but also the celebrities that live in them, like Eileen Chang. It is our great honour that our favorite movies “Zhu Bajie Eats Watermelon”, “Where is Mama”, “Havoc in Heaven”, “Little Carp Jumps over the Dragon Gate” are all produced in Shanghai Animation Film Studio.

Shanghai has a great past and also, good new stories to tell the younger generations. Shanghai World Expo has attracted tens of millions of Chinese and foreign tourists with the theme “Better City, Better Life”, making it the most successful Expos ever with most tourists, which shows that our great motherland has become more powerful and prosperous. People live an increasingly better life and more and more foreigners want to share its elegant demeanour. What’s more, Disneyland is expected to open in Shanghai and the President, Xi Jinping has sent a letter of congratulations. In short, I believe Shanghai will be more and more beautiful and glamorous with boundless vitality!

Old Shanghai

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Wu, Jenny – 9

A century ago, Old Shanghai was a very special place for Chinese, it was the greatest city in Asia, greater than Hong Kong and Tokyo. It was called “Paradise for Adventurers.” Nowadays it is still a beautiful place, with rich and special looking old buildings, which is a symbol of Shanghai’s ‘Long Tang’. Some people even think it is actually a way of life. People have pretty decorations, clothing and accessories. The stores look amazing from outside and inside and there are plenty of goods in low prices....

There is also the old style Chinese jazz, ‘Ye Lai Xiang,’ which once hit the world. Children movies like ‘three Buddhist monks,’ ‘Frog finding mom’, and probably the most funny of all ‘San Mao Liu Lang Ji.’ They all come from Shanghai Movie Maleing company. One of the famous and oldest theatre is called ‘Shang Hai Guang Ming Theater.’

Old Shanghai was famous for Zhujiajiao, a water town with a 1700 years of history, which also shows their culture. Today there are still a few famous buildings and plazas of historic value left. At that time, Shanghai was in bad living condition, which meant conflicts and revolution.

Shanghai has changed a lot, skyscrapers and other architecture are evident. But still, there are traces of the old Shanghai left in modern Shanghai.

Changing of Tianzifang

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Wu, Natham – 6

Now, Shanghai has become an international city. There are a lot of old Shanghai buildings and some interesting places, e.g. Tianzifang, everyone knows it in Shanghai.

The History of Tianzifang

The past name of Tianzifang is called Taikang Lu. It is a great interesting and famous place in Shanghai. Everyone in Shanghai knows this place and it is a typical lane of Shanghai, also called Nongtang.

The old Shanghai People lived in this place 20 years ago. There was no modern things, such as flush toilet and bathroom, but people who lived there were so happy.

After 20 years, the TaikangLu has changed to become a well known shopping and bar street, called Tianzifang.

There are a lot of bars as Chinese tea rooms, England tea rooms, coffee bars and wine bars. There are also different types of food from all over the world.

In this place, there are many different types of Chinese food from Sichuan to Taiwan. You can also find different delicious dishes as Japanese Sushi, Korean barbecue, Thai, Mexican and Italian food.

There are a lot of different types of store such as gift stores, toy stores, and art work stores. There are many Shanghai old story gifts, do you know the facial cream called Xuehuagao?

Old Shanghai ladies used this skin care cream when they were very young. After using it, they smelled good and looked so white. The skin would become soft. This kind of cream is a very old skin care product. At that time, it was only used by Shanghai people.

Conclusion

Many foreigners love visiting this place when they are staying in Shanghai, because it is full of traditional Chinese as well as modern styles.

The Chinese tea stores will invite visitors to have a cup of tea and read a book. In these kinds of stores, you can relax and enjoy yourself. Tianzifang is a special place in Shanghai. Therefore, so many people would like to stay in this special street all day long.

Now, not only Tianzifang makes new stories in old Nongtang, but many old constructions also keep the culture and make a new story.

Reference

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Old Shanghai

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Zhu, Willian - 7

Shanghai is one of the biggest cities in China. The main features of the city are its buildings. In the past 150 years since its formation in 1843, Shanghai has gradually developed into an international metropolis as well as an important economic, trade financial and cultural center of China. The special development opportunities have made the Western culture, local Shanghai culture and regional cultures of China collide, co-exist and become integrated. Thus, it makes Shanghai a melting pot of the Chinese and Foreign cultures. In this way, Shanghai has become the place of origin for modern Chinese construction because of its unique history and culture of construction.

Modern buildings of Shanghai are rich in styles, almost covering almost all the periods of the world's construction history. It can be said that they constitute a living global construction history. You can see the new classic, Gothic and compromise buildings, to the modern buildings popular in Europe and America, decoration and art buildings and the new classic Chinese buildings. The variety of styles, the complexity of types and the grand scale of those buildings are beyond comparison in this world. They give a comprehensive reflection of the evolution of the modern society and cities and also provide a key to learn the culture of Shanghai and the history of modern China.

Those old buildings have seen the changes of Shanghai and are bestowed with the prosperity of Shanghai. At this age, when China is embracing a new round of great economic development and new concepts and ideas will bring Shanghai an even brighter future, those old buildings will be bestowed with new significance. Who will wake them up, wash away the dust, make them stronger and younger and more beautiful? It is we. Undoubtedly, we will devote all our enthusiasm and wisdom to accomplish this mission.



Non-Fiction

Group 2

The History of the Old City of Shanghai

A.D.& F.D. of Pok Oi Hospital Mrs Cheng Yam On School, Ka Ming, Tai - 10

The Old City of Shanghai, also formerly known as the Chinese city, is a traditional urban core of Shanghai, China. It was the country seat for the old county of Shanghai. It became a part of Shanghai's urban core with the advent of foreign concessions in Shanghai. However, it continued for decades to be the seat of the Chinese authority in Shanghai. Inside the city, the City God Temple was included as a notable feature which is located in the center of the Old City and connected to the Yuyuan Garden. The walls were demolished in 1912 due to the exception of two short sections.

In ancient times, the Old City of Shanghai stands on the site of a relatively small settlement which began to develop in importance in the 12th and 13th century due to the siltation of waterways further upstream, causing dock and market activities to move from larger-upstream towns to this location. In 1267, Shanghai was raised to township status with a military garrison within Huating Country. In 1277, Shanghai township was chosen to be the location of one of seven customs authorities across the empire to handle overseas trade and the surrounding Hanting County was raised to prefecture level. The location of the customs office became a center around which the Old City grew.

The importance of this trade function led to Shanghai being raised to county status in 1292, the Old City became the seat of the new county. Under the Qing, it also became the seat of the local circuit and its administration headed by an intendant. While the foreign concessions developed into new urban areas of Shanghai, the Old City remained the seat of the county, which normally included the foreign concessions. However, the fact is that the county's authorities extended only over the Chinese areas of the city, being the Old City, the Western suburbs which are today's Minhang District and the docklands and factory areas in the northeast. After the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912, the Old City was officially raised to city status but under the Shanghai county.

In 1927, in a bid to establish a tangible Chinese authority in Shanghai, the republic of China Government established the Special Municipality of Shanghai. The municipal government was moved out of the old city to near Xujiahui. In 1928, the Old City was reduced to district status under the Special Municipality. In 1930, Shanghai County became a separate parallel administrative unit to the Special Municipality, and the county government was moved out to Minhang. This was the end of the Old City's role as the seat of government of Shanghai.

From 1928, the Old City was Hunan District, which is the "southern Shanghai". In 1937, the collaborationist puppet government under Japanese occupation renamed the district "Nanshi", which is the "southern city". In 1945, upon recovering Shanghai at the end of world war two, the republic of China Government split Nanshi district into Yimiao district and Penglai district. In 1959, the people's Republic of China re-combined the two districts in to Nanshi district. It was merged into Huangpu district, thus ending the separate existence of the old city as an administrative division.

Today, the Old City contains some ancient but renovated features, such as the Yuyuan Garden Complex and the City God Temple. The Old City is a combination of ancient winding streets with some modern high-rise buildings progressively encroaching on the older areas.

In 2006, the Shanghai municipal government enacted the Protection Plan for the Old City Historical Cultural Scenery Area. Under the plan, the entirety of the Old City is protected as a Historical Cultural Scenery Area. 34 streets, including Dajing Road and West Fangbang Road, are specifically protected as "scenery protected laneways". However, large-scale demolition of the Old City is continuing in the same period. The Garden of the Fragrance of Dew area and almost the entire northwest quadrant of the Old City was demolished starting from 2002. Part of the site has been redeveloped into a high-rise hotel and residential building and multi-storey buildings, drastically changing the streetscape, while the remainder of the site is intended to be a low-rise residential area. The development has also roused controversy as it involved the demolition of a significant section of surviving city wall, as well as the destruction of several houses of historical significance.

I think the Old City's history was wonderful and it has plenty of its historical value. I hope the government will protect the Old City more. Let's stop destroying such a wonderful city with its interesting history.

New Tales of old Shanghai

Alliance Primary School Kowloon Tong, Lam, Pak Lap – 10

Shanghai is now an international economic city in China's east coast. How did it begin its rise? My grandma was born in the 1930s. Shanghai began its rise to a huge economic city in the 1950s. Much of my information came from Grandma.

After the Opium War, Western countries all took pieces of Chinese lands and ran it as one of their colonies (or territories, as Americans called it). My grandmother lived during this period. At this period, Shanghai is controlled by Western countries, which gave it extreme freedom. Park Hotel is one of the key buildings of finance and prosperity in Shanghai, which held the record for the highest building in Shanghai for fifty years.

“Rome wasn't built in a day”, Shanghai's prosperity started to go up as early as in the Ming Dynasty. Then, its main business was fabric. But once it started, it was unstoppable. Even as Shanghai was handed back into Chinese control, its economy still was on the rise. By now, Shanghai's boundaries extended way past the Old City of Shanghai. Wild lands beyond the walls of the Old City were being developed into economic centres and skyscrapers.

In the golden days of Shanghai, it was also developed into a centre of education and learning. Since most people who lived in Shanghai were wealthy, most got an overseas education and learnt English. Around the time of the handover of power and administration back to China, nearly all residents in Shanghai knew a little English. That's why Shanghai became such an important economic city. It was second in trade and global economics only to Hong Kong. Because of its useful port and its well-educated classes, it is a very important economic city even to this day.

Shanghai also has a lot of wealthy people, who makes it full of investors, so a lot companies go there to build factories and building to attract investors. Its culture was also unmistakable. For example, once my maternal grandmother went to visit me and took me to a jewellery shop to buy a gold ring for herself. The saleswoman immediately identified her as a Shanghai resident. When my grandmother asked her how she knew it, she said that she identified her walking style and her confidence. From this, we can see that Shanghai definitely isn't the normal metropolis you may know. It is also the core of the Eastern Wu culture.

From my passage, you can see that Shanghai isn't an ordinary city. It is also a culture-mixing and international economic city.

The New Tales of Old City Shanghai

Bradbury School, Liu, Emily – 10

The Old city of Shanghai lies along the river mouth of the Huangpu river. Old city is also called the "Chinese city", It have been known as the urban core. Tourists are attracted and amazed by the huge changea that Shanghai has made.

More than 1,000 year ago, it was originally a small fishing village. In the late Qing Dynasty, after foreign concessions were fixed, it rapidly developed into the most important and busiest merchant global trading port.

The city had its own wall to assure that people in the city were protected from raids of the Japanese Pirates. In addition, the city was surrounded by army posts at every gate of the wall. The wall measured approximately 10 meters high and 5 kilometres in circumference.

The city hallway is almost covered with villagers announcing advertisements very loudly. Posters are scattered around the roofs of stalls and the free walls people don't use anymore. Before in Old city of Shanghai, people used two-wheeled carts called Rickshaw that was drawn by men. The road has been bruised and damaged. Cracks have been left from the Opium War. Houses were contained and not big but only few were to use as temples, malls or hotels.

Fashion in Old city of Shanghai was very different and unique from that of today. The fashion in old city commonly had a pattern of flowers and petals to represent love and happiness. A streak of a half opened part was on both sides of the dress. We call it a traditional Chinese woman's dress.

The people also had the rich and the poor. The rich had money to dress up more admirably, appealing and elegant. The poor had to wear the same clothes over and over again and washed them in the river, then hanged the clothes on their window-sills to dry.

Shanghai people loved eating dumplings. Because of it, it became popular. Furthermore, if people wanted to take away dumplings, the queue would be very long and you would need to wait approximately 90 minutes in total to get the food.

On the streets we would not often see pets getting walked by their owners because dogs had been traditionally kept for herding food and guard duty and were frequently kept at home. But now dogs are free and get walked by their owners. Most often you'd see a breed called the Chow Chow. The Chow Chow is a kind of dog that had an intelligent mind. It had a mass of lengthy hair, a button-liked nose.

When it came to night, the houses and streets would be illuminated with lights. Although Old city of Shanghai was poor and old fashioned they figured out a way to make it look new.

Today Old city of Shanghai has made considerable changes. It has become the largest city in China, with a population more than 24 million, the largest commercial and financial city in China. Lastly, also the largest sea port handling containers in the world!

The city has upgraded into a city of skyscrapers and very tall buildings. New houses and buildings are built almost as fast as the old ones are cleared. There are many famous buildings in Shanghai to attract tourists, such as the Jin Mao tower, Oriental Pearl Radio and the TV Broadcasting centre. But the river next to The Bund has never changed.

The Oriental Pearl tower has 14 floors and the most popular floor, will be from two hundred and sixty three meters off the ground. It has a transparent floor and you can see all the building below.

The place also attracts fashion seeking shoppers from all around the world to the Nanjing Road shopping walking street. The Nanjing road shopping walking street is the most famous street in Shanghai. As a result, thousands of people go there and buy things and don't forget the countless restaurants and famous brands. The shopping street is at least 3 to 4 miles long. It starts from the east of the Bund all the way to the west of the junction of Jing'an Temple.

Shanghai had a garden called the Yu Yuan Garden. The Yu Yuan Garden was located beside the City God Temple in the northeast of the old city of Shanghai. The Yu garden is called the garden of happiness. It's not just covered with nature it is also covered with ponds, houses and bridges. You can also feed the fishes in the ponds.

The transportation has again further upgraded into cars, airplanes, taxi and bullet trains. But other than vehicles there are elevators and lifts. Instantly the transportation is agile, much comfortable for you to sit on and more safe now that someone had invented seat belts.

The wall to assure that the city was protected has shut down, The city has no boundaries anymore because now we have safety when someone tries to break in, there are security check s before they enter .

The Old city Of Shanghai surely changed and for that we are lucky!



New Tales of Old Shanghai

Green Oasis School, Fang, Ailsa – 11

The Bund in Shanghai were located along the Huangpu River. That is a famous place, you can take a walk there. It has the Shanghai Landmarks Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower in the opposite across the Huangpu River. When you visit Shanghai, I suggest you go to there because it is a famous place.

Since 1943 the Bund had been also known as Zhong Shan Dong Yi Road. It has the total length of about 1.5km. The Bund starts South from the Yan'an East Road, North to the White Bridge on the Suzhou Creek, East faces the Huangpu River, West has the 52 different classical revival building in the Gothic, Romanesque, Baroque, Chinese and Western style which constitute the financial center of old Shanghai and concentration zone of foreign.

History of The Bund

After 1840, as one of the five treaty ports, Shanghai, was opened to the public. In 1845, the British colonialists seized the Bund and established the British concession. In 1849, the French colonists also seized the Bund and established the French Concession. Till the early 1940s, the Bund has been occupied by the British concession and the French Concession, and was known as the the "British Concession Bund" and " French Bund".

The western powers operated, managed and constructed the concession in their way, hence, the Bund became earliest constructed and most bustling place in the concession. Early Bund was a foreign trade center, here, there were foreign firms and prosperous trade. From the late 19th century, many foreign and Chinese banks were established in the Bund, here became Shanghai's "Financial Street", but also known as "Oriental Wall Street".

Features of The Bund

The Bund Shanghai faces the mother river of Shanghai — Huangpu River, leans on rigorous modeling and different styles building group. Due to its unique geographical location and its influence in the areas of economic activity in Shanghai and China over the past century, it has a very rich cultural connotations. The streets view constituted by the surface of the river, the long beach, green belt and beautiful buildings is the most characteristic landscape. In the morning, the Bund is the place for exercise. During the day, it is a bustling tourist attraction. In the evening, it is a world for the lovers. Whenever the night comes, the light-flooded buildings on the Bund, like Crystal Palace, make both local and overseas visitors amazed.

The Wall of Shanghai

Kennedy School, Ko, Gregory – 10

The Wall of Shanghai was built in 1554 during the Ming Dynasty. During the time, Shanghai was known as “The Walled City”. It was called a number of other names like “The Chinese City and the Southern City”. The wall was originally built to keep the Japanese pirates from raiding the coastlines of China. The Japanese pirates called themselves the WoKou (a.k.a. Dwarf bandit). This has been a significant era for the Shanghainese.

Life before and after the wall was unsettling. It was because of the changes the wall made to the locals of Old Shanghai. Before the wall, pirates were invading Shanghai and stealing artifacts and money. The Ming Dynasty leader, Zhu Honcong decided to build a wall between the coastline of Shanghai and the East China Sea to protect his people. The wall was measured 10 metres high and span 5 kilometres in circumference. It also had six land gates and four water gates to allow access in and out of the city. Once the wall was built, Shanghai became isolated and the locals could not see the world outside. The wall made it more challenging for merchants who normally traveled to Shanghai to sell and trade. At the same time, many Shanghainese stayed within the walls and had less information of the outside world. Therefore, while the rest of the world was advancing forward in technology, Shanghai was left behind within their Walled City.

Soon after the wall was built, the pirates stopped invading because they knew they could not penetrate the solid wall and enter Shanghai. The Pirate Age ended in the 1770's and peace around the waters of Shanghai was restored. In the 1800's, trade came back to Shanghai. Many ships from all over the world came through the Huang Pu River and lined up at the Shiliu Pu wharf to unload their goods for the people of Shanghai. It was not until 1912 when General Chen Qimei's forces were occupying Shanghai after the Wuchang Uprising that the wall was finally dismantled.

I hope you have learned that the Wall of Shanghai was a very important structure and fortification in Shanghainese history.

Old Shanghai, New Shanghai

Kennedy School, Lau, King Hin – 10

Shanghai is a multicultural city with a vibrant and multiracial background, with Americans, Chinese, French and British, mixing in the cultural hotspot. You can shop at Nanjing Road, which houses famous brands and has the privilege of being named one of the world's busiest shopping streets, or you could take a stroll through The Bund, the main core of Shanghai in the 1930s. But what made the city so successful? We'll now take a look at its rich and colorful history.

Shanghai means upon the sea in Chinese. Historians also concluded that Shanghai was presumably on the sea in the Tang Dynasty. The city also has numerous nicknames in English including “Pearl of the Orient” and “Paris of the East” In 1842, after the Treaty of Nanking was signed; it marked a new era for the old city of Shanghai. The port was open to trade and the British, French; the USA took advantage of this by creating concessions dedicated to their own countries, but the walled old city was still in the hands of the Chinese. Due to the change of governors in 1912, the walls were dismantled and now only a small section remains where now the Dajing Ge museum is located.

Inside the old city in the 1930s it was really a beehive of activity. Local street vendors called out the products and the street were full of cars and rickshaws, locals usually enjoyed themselves by eating street food like you tiao (fried dough sticks) or some xiao long bao (Buns stuffed with minced pork). These delicious buns are very popular around the world and maybe next time you go to Shanghai you might want to try some also!

A typical house in the old walled city might consist of the very basics of shelter, bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens etc. But houses on the Bund would consist of ballrooms, libraries, meeting rooms etc, now you can see the difference in lifestyle between the Chinese and the foreigners.

Leisure activities included snake charming, which was where a person charmed a snake and in return earned money from the audience. There were also many street theaters, where the public could enjoy shows that were acted by real actors. People could also go dancing clubs, where you could party all night without a care in the world. One of the most famous dance clubs was the ones on the Bund, a financial center that housed the most prestigious hotels and banks. One Shanghainese saying was if you had a piece of land on the Bund, you were a wealthy man. The famous Peninsula Hotel was an example of how much it would cost to stay there: 10309.95 RMB per night (Pricing for the best suite as of 29/12/16)!

That was just the introduction, now we will dive into a few areas which really make up this exotic and engaging metropolis.


1. *Language*

This is Shanghai's core, without it— it will be nothing. Since Shanghai mostly consists of local Chinese and foreigners. English is compulsory at all schools across town from early ages to prevent misunderstanding between people. Shanghainese dialects are also spoken in some vicinities of Shanghai. Shanghainese is also rich in vowels and is deemed some of the hardest dialects to learn in China.

2. *Food*

Food is also an important virtue in Shanghai's transformation from Old to New.

In Old Shanghai, there were many street food vendors on the street, ranging from common snacks to delicacies. Now, with the majority relying on supermarkets to buy their food, the number of street vendors began to shrink,



but you can still find a large number of them around the city, with many in crowded places where they can sell more products. Restaurants have also played a big part in the food industry with providing commonwealth with high quality food.

3. *Tourism*

Tourism has played a big part in Shanghai growing economic situation, with the first foreigners the British, who occupied Shanghai during the First Opium War. The tourism was further boosted when the Shanghai Tourism Board was founded. Now Shanghai is one of the fastest growing tourism destinations in China.

Look at Shanghai now! It has improved greatly since the 1930s and is also one of the most populated cities in China. You can now walk in the new Pudong area where the Pearl Oriental TV Tower is located and you can truly marvel at how much this city has changed through the 20th century and announced its arrival in the 21st century. Shanghai is now one of the most important financial capitals in China and has truly established its position in the world. With the opening of the Shanghai Disneyland, Shanghai will also be a tourism spot in the near future. Well Done Shanghai and Good Luck!

The Old Shanghai

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Huang, Ella – 11

Shanghai has always been a popular harbour city, as well as the hub of cultural and economic activities. Besides, it has also been the driving force propelling China into the world community. Through its development from a small town to a gigantic city, the city of Shanghai, especially the old Shanghai which makes us think as a secretly covered bride, is full of mysterious feelings. These mysterious feelings have made me excited about the city, and so to understand the city in more depth, I carried out researches about the Old Shanghai.

The most modern traditional restaurant in Shanghai is the “International Restaurant”. It is 22 storeys tall, with 2 extra floors underground. In total, it is 83.6meter in height. The construction began in the year of 1932, and finished in October 1933. The building’s splendidness enables people to feel a sense of modern atmosphere inside Old Shanghai. On the top floor, 22nd floor is the best place for guests to enjoy Shanghai’s fascinating and magnificent view. Most people in that period thought that it was an honour to have a wedding inside the ‘International Restaurant’.

Besides, Shanghai Zhongshan Park is a place for people to spend their vacations. It was built and opened in 1914. At the time, it only allowed foreigners to enter the park, which was a shame that the old Chinese people suffered from.

Also in 1914, Shanghai started its construction of Zhao Feng Park, and to build a zoo inside the park. People were fully supporting the construction, and thus they donated a lot of different animals to the park, for instance, monkeys. However, not only the size of the zoo was tiny, but also it had rules which discriminated against its own people, Chinese. When foreigners were allowed to enter the zoo freely, Chinese had restrictions on the time and day they were allowed to enter.

Another noted historic monument is Shanghai’s most famous school “JingYe school”. It was opened in April 1902. Students there learnt “Four books and Five classics”. However, at that time its education was more focused on how to make China a powerful country. It provided the first step powering Shanghai towards its all-round developments. It had created a lot of talents that helped China’s military, politics, science, arts, literature and education.

Moreover, there was the cultural development. The oldest theatre inside old Shanghai is “GuoTai theatre”. It is three storeys tall, with a white wall which creates a simple but magnificent image. At its early age, the films shown there were all American and British movies. However, after the Japanese occupation, it started to show Japanese movies. As the war between China and Japan intensified, the theatre became a concentration camp. In 1946, it was back to a theatre again.

In about 1930, Shanghai women started to wear Qipao, which had high slits, tight waist and sleeveless feature, showing the beauty of a woman’s body shape, giving a sense of classic beauty.

The roads of Old Shanghai are different from others. They contain the culture, traditions and also the local people’s life. They are the miniature of the local people’s daily life. People get comfort and happiness from them. Families unite together, and children play within the perimeter of these roads. Also they live all their lives together along the roads. To the citizens of Shanghai, the roads of Old Shanghai are what make them alive and active.

Finally, the media inside Old Shanghai is also what drives China into the global community. The media in Shanghai has always received the latest and fastest news of neighbouring countries, even countries that are on the other side of the

planet. Posters and music such as pop songs and advertisements surround the people. Thus the media knits people together, becoming one whole society.

Old Shanghai is only 70 to 80 years old, but now it has been defined as not just a symbol of luxurious living, but also comfortable lives. It represents the period of classic beauty, which will never be forgotten by us, and by the people of China.



Old Shanghai

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Liu, Annika – 9

Life in a city is composed of almost everything in each and every corner and at all times. A pedestrian may glance at all these activities whether he is in a hurry or just taking a stroll. He may become curious, enthusiastic or suspicious of the scene. But inevitably he will forget what he has seen. We are all pedestrians of the previous generations.

It was a period of many years before the waves of Western life were introduced into Shanghai. Before that long pigtailed, robes, women with bound feet, grand ceremonies for weddings or funerals, officials in sedan-chairs could be seen everywhere. At that time, women always wore *qi pao*—a close fitting woman's dress with high neck and slit skirt. The opening of ports to trade and commercial and industrial developments had not yet affected the lives of ordinary people much. Those at the top tended to be even more conservative.

Shanghai has long been a place that is highly influenced by Western styles and manners. So its people like holding wedding ceremony in Western style. A bow tie, dark suit, white wedding dress, red roses, a pair of white gloves held in hand, all these items of apparel and decoration were both Western and local. It is an interesting phenomenon in China. People try to improve their old practices but fall into new stereotypical patterns. The traditional wedding ceremony has easily been cast away. Sedan chairs are replaced by cars decorated with flowers; kowtowing to Heaven and Earth is replaced by making pledges in churches; the lady in charge of a wedding ceremony is replaced by a Master of Ceremonies. A bride does not have to go through the process of hair-do making and cleansing of facial hair. She begins to perm her hair by means of electricity or chemical fluids. The red cloth head gear is a thing of the past. She no longer has to show even the slightest shyness. Instead she would hold the bridegroom's arm in high spirits, and let the photographers take pictures of the couple surrounded by relatives and friends. The ceremonies ignite people's enthusiasm for life and give people new opportunities for imagination.

There is no tradition that could remain forever in Shanghai. People in the city tend to imitate the practices of some foreign countries. In a period as short as a century, most of the traditions have changed. Sedan chairs, *suona* trumpets, the red head gear and red candles have all become stage sets or decorative objects for films of an oriental legendary nature. Another legend has now been exaggerated: Western Shanghai, the Paris of the East. Imitation has given the city an exotic atmosphere. Even nowadays, it is still seeking a common ground with foreign countries.

The recreational activities of the people of Shanghai are rich in variety. Local residents are fond of new things yet they stick to their old games. The same man might drink coffee as well as smoke opium, enjoy a waltz as well as play mahjong. Mahjong is a household game, as it is most suited to women. It is a game for four people, so it is also a good social activity for sociable women. In short, it is most suitable for urban married women who could afford the money and time.

On the occasion of a party, be it a wedding ceremony, a funeral, a birthday party or a banquet at weekends, Westerners would be very polite and behave in a most appropriate manner. Disorder and racket would not be permitted. When this got to China, they regarded themselves as civilized people and their way of life became a model to many Chinese.

Long time ago, there were all sorts of people living in Shanghai. Many of them took the city as their second home. There were Jewish millionaires, big-shots from Ningbo, Indian policemen, English managers, Guangdong chefs, refugees from Huaibei, French attache, writers from Sichuan, Japanese performers, and Russians, they all considered Shanghai as their second home. Today they live probably in the same place—Heaven. If you look at it this way, Shanghai to anyone is a second hometown.

When you stand by the Huangpu River and gaze at the tall buildings with neon lights, you will soon sigh with emotion. Your sigh might start with the Sassoon Mansion. Sassoon was a lame man with a plaque on his car marked 2222, a real estate developer, a greedy money grubber, a cunning philanthropist who donated a large sum of money to Jewish refugees in Shanghai. If you look further back in time, you will find that evil and grandeur appeared hand in hand: opium

dealers, sellers of textiles from Bombay, and also its chief finance administrator of Baghdad. These are all members of the Sassoon Clan.

However, the Shanghaiese people of today are no longer interested in all these. If you ask young men and women where the Sassoon Mansion is, most likely they have no idea. If you ask where the Peace Hotel is, they will point you an accurate direction. They will probably tell you that there is a very good Jazz group consisted of some elderly musicians at this hotel, and there is good coffee too. The atmosphere there is excellent. Nevertheless, history has in this way receded from our horizon.



The Story of the Old House in Shanghai

Regents Primary School of Shenzhen, Wang, Mary – 10

Speaking of Shanghai, I think of Shanghai style and its residential buildings in Shanghai, and the first is "lanes". This is permeated with the characteristics of Shanghai architectural patterns.

Alley, not just in Shanghai, in Beijing, is called 'hu tong', in Guangzhou, it is called a lane. In fact, no matter you call it a lane, or an alley..... Shanghai is different from other cities. Moreover, it also has a unique amorous feelings. According to time sequence, construction of Shanghai's residential building can be divided into five stages: Shanghai lanes, old Shikumen lilong, new lilong, garden-like lilong and apartment-style lilong. Lilong, as given by the Shanghai style culture is a kind of spirit different from other Chinese cities.

During the late 19th century, foreign invaders opened up Shanghai and brought with them warfare and western culture. So its ways of life had gradually become more westernized. The traditional life of a big family living in a traditional courtyard was broken. Instead, immigrants and small families were living in shikumen. So shikumen was born, shikumen was different from traditional courtyard, though its internal structure is still Chinese in style, its external terrace type structure such as bridge gallery is influenced by western architectural settings. Because this kind of houses has a stone door frame, it is called "shikumen".


At the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, with Shanghai's urban expansion and rising population, the demand for housing had greatly increased. So the new shikumen houses replaced the old shikumen with copper iron grating, for good sunshine and ventilation. The height of its wall was greatly reduced and enclosed patio into open small garden. From closed to open building space form, architectural form with western adornment is given priority to, rarely in the form of traditional Chinese.

In the 1920's, with the end of the first world war and a rapid population growth, again shikumen could hardly satisfy the increasing demand of housing for its people, so the western modern lilong of Shanghai seemed a solution. In the 30's, shikumen residence was replaced by new lilong, and internal functional division of the new lilong was also becoming clearer. At the same time, there was a further reduction in the walls of the houses.

In 1937 after the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War, with the rapid development of modern lilong, middle class were demanding a higher quality of neighborhood. So garden-like lilong had become more fashionable. The front of the house had a large green space which was completely open, no longer like old shikumen lilong walls.

Shikumen gradually fell out of favour where people lived, but who would have thought that now shikumen is back again, not as a house but in a different form. It has become a historic symbol of Shanghai style architecture.

In addition to lanes building, there is the garden villa. From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, garden villa became "Shanghai style". The corners of the various styles of garden villa in Shanghai, more or less concealed the memory at that time. Today, when we wander over the clove garden, Shuhe village, new Xinhua villas and other places, we can still imagine 60 years ago, they were in Spanish style, English countryside style villa in Shanghai's amorous feelings. The current era of garden villa seems to be making a comeback, but they do not have the meaning of that era.



History will not stop its pace of development. After experiencing lilong and garden houses, which direction will it follow? I think the answer is high-rise apartments. Sharply due to the shortage of land resources and soaring population growth, the living space must give way to high-rise development.

Walking in today's Shanghai streets, high-rise buildings are everywhere, so people begin to miss those delicate buildings, old Shanghai period is likened to a finely crafted sketch, both on the shikumen mountain house, or the classical garden villa. A sum of an outline is the characteristic of that era, a kind of delicate balance under my amorous feelings, also it is a kind of secular to everyone's way of life. In fact, any building, as long as it is valuable from the moment it is built, is an independent life. It does no longer belong to a person and an owner, for it belongs to the whole society and the whole city. So, we are now going to the new world, come inside to tianzifang, we still can feel the time of old Shanghai.

The Fascinating and Horrible Old Shanghai

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Cheung, Joshua – 10

In the 1930s, Old Shanghai, also called the “Paris of the Orient,” was a bustling treaty port. It was the only city in China where Chinese and foreigners could mix together, where black pepper steak and white rice came together as good friends. Shanghai was a fascinating city of firsts: the biggest businesses, the greatest architecture, and the largest settlement of Jews outside Europe. Unlike the rest of China, Shanghainese girls wore flattering *qi paos* and short wavy hair while gentlemen sliced off their pigtailed and strut around like penguins.

But history is not always fascinating, it can be horrible. To get a fair and honest picture of the past, you need to know the good and the bad things, the legends, the lies and the truth. Here’s a brief walking tour around Old Shanghai.

Fascinating Shanghai

Since 1848, Shanghai has welcomed tens of thousands of Jewish merchants in search of new opportunities, and scientists, musicians and refugees escaping persecution. Requiring no visa, the Jews came in three waves of immigration.

1. The Sassoons – Rothschilds of the East

The First Wave (1843–1920). The Sassoons were traders from Baghdad who expanded to Bombay, China and throughout Southeast Asia. They started selling raw cotton and textiles, but became filthy rich by trading opium and oil between India and China.

In the 1930s in the later waves, being worried about persecution and looking for a place to park his cash (without paying taxes), Sir Victor Sassoon moved to Shanghai and invested US\$85 million to build Shanghai’s most luxurious hotels and residences. Still standing today, these landmarks include the Peace Hotel, the Metropole Hotel and Cathay Mansions. The Sassoons have forged a global business empire that has outlived Chairman Mao or any English monarch.

2. The Hardoons – Made in Shanghai

Silas Aaron Hardoon was ‘Oliver Twist’ from Baghdad. He was sent to Sassoon’s charity school in Bombay. With little cash and bulging brains, he worked for Sassoon & Co in Shanghai, sold opium to raise cash, built dozens of lane houses along Nanking Road (now Shanghai’s “Fifth Avenue”) and became Shanghai’s biggest meanest landlord. He married a Eurasian lady, adopted many Chinese children, built a Buddhist temple for his wife and the Beth Aharon Synagogue for the Jewish community.

3. The Leftovers – No Visa Required

The Second and Third Wave (1920–1937). In the 1920s, thousands of brilliant Russian scientists, thinkers and artists fled revolutions by traveling across Siberia to Shanghai. As poor cousins of the Sassoons, they opened coffee shops and became musicians.

From 1937 to 1940, over 22,000 Jews from Germany, Austria and Poland poured into Shanghai to flee war-torn Europe and the Nazis. Between 1941 and 1945, Japanese authorities squeezed all of them into the Hong Kew Ghetto, where 23,000 Jews lived within one square mile. The Jewish community not only survived, but has retained its own culture, traditions and lifestyle.

We also have ...

Horrible Shanghai

4. “Shanghaïing” – A New Verb

Early last century, kidnapping was so common in Shanghai that the very act was called “shanghaïing.” Established in 1912, Shanghai’s Anti-Kidnapping Society set out to rescue women and children who were captured and sold to wealthy individuals in the south as sex slaves and doomed domestic servants. Shanghai’s super heroes managed to save 10,233 victims from 1913 to 1917.

5. The Three Bosses – ‘Pockmarked’ Huang, ‘Big Ears’ Du & Zhang Xiaolin

Du Yuesheng, called “Big Ears,” was the boss of the Green Gang who made masses of money selling opium. He also bribed cops, bought houses of ill repute, politicians in the French Concession and almost one third of Shanghai.

Then, a gangster with even bigger ears, Chiang Kai-Shek of the Kuomintang Party, lured Du and his gang to join forces, turning them into trigger boys of nuisance politicians. (Truth: Never trust a man with big ears.)

Huang Jinrong, known as “Pockmarked,” was the corrupted Chief of Police in the French Concession who doubled as Big Eared Du’s partner. Together they operated one of China’s fattest opium syndicates. As the ringleader of Shanghai’s underground criminal, Huang rose through the ranks as a detective with unrivalled tip-offs. Not surprisingly, some of his solved cases were staged to enhance his reputation. (Lie: All chiefs of police are trustworthy.)

Zhang Xiaolin was a military academy graduate who joined the Green Gang before Du became leader. When Du and his boys joined forces with Chiang Kai-Shek’s KMT, Zhang stayed in Shanghai, hoping to seize leadership. After the war, Zhang was branded a traitor, and after several assassination attempts, he was shot dead by his bodyguard. (Legend: Zhang once fed one of his mistresses to a tiger.)

6. Shanghai Massacre of 1927 – White Terror

On April 12, 1927, Chiang Kai-Shek’s Kuomintang forces, supported by the Green Gang and other warlords, attacked members of the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai. Hundreds of communists were rounded up, arrested and tortured, triggering the long bloody Chinese Civil War between the nationalists and the communists. This purge, known as “White Terror,” led to the deaths of 4,000 communists in Shanghai and up to 50,000 in the aftermath.

After walking through Fascinating Shanghai with its glitzy dance halls, clubs and mega deal making, and Horrible Shanghai with its gangsters, houses of ill-repute and miles of mass graves, wouldn’t you agree that you, the reader, are the luckiest of them all? Now go chill out and take a complimentary high tea at the Peace Hotel. Don’t forget to visit our website: www.experientialtours.com to receive a one-year membership and discover your next fascinatingly horrible (or horribly fascinating) destination!

The Diary of the Past

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Lam, Alistair – 12

The following are pages from the diary of my great great grandfather who lived and fought for the Old Shanghai...

It was in the 1950s. Poverty and famines were everywhere but the Imperial Qing government was unable or unwilling to help. Local officials just kept raising taxes to build their personal fortune. Peasant farmers from my own and surrounding villages were all starving. People around me were dying every day. I had had enough.

I decided to leave my hometown with a few friends to search for a better life. We travelled northward towards the end of the Huangpu River where we heard there was a big fishing port called Shanghai. We met many people like us along the way and we were all hoping to get a job in Shanghai to feed our families. We heard there were lots of opportunities in Shanghai because many foreigners had moved there after the Qing government lost the Opium War to their countries a few years earlier.

I was shocked to see so many foreigners when I arrived at Shanghai. They were big people coming from faraway places called Russia, Germany, France and America. With red hair and blue eyes, they looked very different from Chinese. Many of them seemed friendly but I could not speak their language.

Most of us had no idea what the Westerners did for a living – they called themselves “merchants” and worked in buildings with strange names such as “banks” and “trading houses”. They bought and sold goods like tea, silk, cotton – and opium.

These foreigners erected many big buildings in various styles along the banks of the Huangpu River and throughout the city. One of my favourites was the “Red Church” or the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the Huangpu District where people went in there on Sundays for some kind of “Christianity” service. I preferred going to worship at the City God Temple.

The foreign merchants built magnificent houses called mansions and garden estates in special areas in Shanghai known as “foreign concessions”. The local government had no control over those areas. At the beginning, locals were not allowed to live in those foreign concessions. However, the city got too crowded and foreign businessmen began to build houses and let them to the Chinese. They made a lot of money by doing that, so more houses were built. In particular, two- or three-story townhouses called *shikumen*s that combined Western and Chinese architectural elements were built all over Shanghai to house the fast-growing population. Such construction boom provided plenty of jobs to both locals and migrant workers like me and my friends who were attracted to Shanghai to find work.

The foreigners introduced many new things and inspiration to Shanghai that changed the lives of the Chinese in the city. I had never come across lamps, telephones, electricity and cars before coming to Shanghai. They set up gigantic rooms called factories and hired a lot of my friends to make things like rubber tyres. I was amazed by the advanced manufacturing technology such as reeling mills, yarn and flour making techniques that the foreign merchants imported into the city. Besides technology, they also brought cultural influence. Western fashion and music too had certainly shaped the lives of residents in Shanghai even though I could not understand them.

When my friends and I first arrived in Shanghai, the locals called us “refugees”. We, like most of the refugees and migrant workers, were Han people who disliked the incompetent Manchurian rulers and corrupted local officials. There were many of them in Shanghai. Being new to the city, we needed protection and there were many groups banded together to help each other out and to fight against the Qing government which became increasingly oppressive.

My friends and I decided to join one of the largest groups called the Small Swords Society to fight against the imperial authorities. We met regularly at Yu Yuan, an extensive Chinese garden near the City God Temple. When our Small Swords brothers in nearby cities revolted, we also took control of the city but left the foreign concessions alone. For seventeen months, the Small Swords Society ruled the city and we lived peacefully with the foreigners. In fact, a good number of foreigners, including many British and American sailors, helped us keep the Manchurians out. However, with the assistance of French soldiers, the imperial armies were able to recapture Shanghai. I lost a few Small Swords brothers during the fights. In the end, my friends and I had to flee and hide our involvement in the anti-Qing movement. However, we were proud of what we had tried to do – to make Shanghai a better place for all.

I was not a native of Shanghai and could not speak a word of Shanghainese when I first came here. Yet, it was such a unique, energetic and welcoming place that I would not hesitate to call it home.

New Tales of Old Shanghai

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Ba, Qizhen – 11

If a person wants to know himself, then he must look into the mirror, and look at the reflection he has created in the civilized world. In mirrors, you can see yourself in another kind of angle, and in the meantime you get to know yourself. This is the same on how to improve a city. By comparing a city with another, there will be a lot difference between. That way, cities can learn from one another, improving their own custom, while understanding other people's' ways of doing things. I think Hong Kong and Shanghai is a perfect pair for competitors and working partners. Shanghai this city has a lot of tales, the old Shanghai have tales that can be compared, and new ones waiting to be compared.

Shanghai and Hong Kong are related to each other just like sisters. Some people that is working in Hong Kong right now are from Shanghai, they bring the new tales to this place and inspire people; some people in Hong Kong before are now living in Shanghai, bring the tales of Hong Kong to the people of Shanghai, telling them the tales from the far away land. Different kind of big companies are spreading their jobs in those two cities. They are all near the sea, which bring a lot of visitors because of the beautiful view they both have. They both run as an important financial centre; in Hong Kong, it's in central; in Shanghai, the city for finance industry is in "Pudong"; Hong Kong have a Disney Land, so do Shanghai. Kids all around the world love to visit the museums in both cities. The view is both cities are famous, even the view at night are worth a look. At night, Hong Kong shows the mountains and the skyscrapers, but Shanghai is a totally different view. Shanghai has buildings that could represent all the countries in the world.

Shanghai and Hong Kong have their most lively time differently. Before 1949, Shanghai is the most global city in China. But at the same time, Hong Kong is just a city that is very normal. Let's say if Shanghai is a girl from a university, then Hong Kong would just be a student from primary school. After 1949, the cold war between East and West, China opened the door to people from other countries. Hong Kong then become the city for financial markets, and become important to China. People call Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, and Taiwan the "Asian Four Little Dragons". But in the meantime, Shanghai is beginning to stop building this city itself, and became less and less important to China. By then, Hong Kong is a very "ladylike" city, but Shanghai is like a sleeping beauty, and it is still thinking about the past and the old memories.

After China's reform and opening, the "sleeping beauty" got awakened, and Hong Kong is still showing the wonderfulness of this city to the world. Comparing the new tales of old Shanghai and the old tales of old Shanghai, the new ones seems more interesting, more attractive, more close to the different cultures of the globe. In some ways, I think the new tales are even more exciting than the tales of Hong Kong. For example, everyone in China have heard of Hong Kong Disneyland. But now Shanghai built a bigger one, it is more exciting, therefore the people that would like to visit Hong Kong Disneyland had turned their flight to Shanghai. Hong Kong has less area for citizens to live in, but Shanghai has a lot of space and there are more people moving to Shanghai, therefore I think Shanghai's new tales are more mechanization than the old tales of Shanghai.

If we continue to think like that, the new tales from Shanghai will go beyond the old ones, go beyond the tales from Hong Kong, and soon Hong Kong will be a city that is useless to China. The people in Hong Kong may think we are better than Shanghai in a lot of things, the citizens in Shanghai may think Shanghai is the most amazing city in China, it is all ok to think that way. But this is not a competition between cities, it actually is a good chance to "see the city in a mirror", and learn from mistakes, just like humans do, especially the new tales from old Shanghai.....

The Opium War of Old Shanghai

Yew Chung International School, Chan, Lok Ching – 9

This all started in Shanghai. In the year of 1730, she was about when the British exported about 15 tons of opium to Shanghai. But then, in the year of 1770, there were at least 75 tons! There was so much, that the Qin Dynasty banned the exportation of opium to China in 1799.

In 1839, Lin-Tse Hsu had demanded that traders must stop sending opium in. In the same year, British sent warships over to the coastal path of China.

Since the British couldn't export to China, they asked the Portuguese Governor politely if they could perhaps use Macau as a port. But sadly, the Portuguese Governor declined the request in fear that the Qin Government would halt the exportation of goods to Macau. So, after the British heard, they got angry and declared war on the Chinese, but unfortunately, China lost the dreadful battle and Hong Kong was given to the British.

The Old City of Shanghai

Yew Chung International School, Zhu, Emily – 10

Hello everyone, today I'm going to take you to the Old City of Shanghai, also formerly known as the Chinese City.

The old town of Shanghai is a large area that remained walled when this city was divided into foreign concessions. The Chinese City was actually the county seat for the old county of Shanghai. With the advent of foreign concessions in Shanghai, the Old city of Shanghai became just one part of Shanghai's urban core but continued for decades to be the seat of the Chinese authority in Shanghai. The wall that was surrounding the old city was built in 1554 during the Ming dynasty, its purpose is similar to the Great Wall of China but instead of protecting China from northern invaders, it protected the town from raids by the Japanese pirates. The city wall measures approximately 10 metres high and 5 kilometres in circumference. Notable features include the City God Temple which is located in the center of the Old City and is connected to the Yuyuan garden.

With an exception of 2 sections, the walls were demolished in 1912. The Old city of Shanghai was for decades amazingly continuous with the old Nanshi District, which is now a part of the Huangpu District.

The Old city of Shanghai

Ying Wa Primary School, Chan, Jonathan – 11

I am the Old city of Shanghai and I am the urban core of Shanghai in China. I am very picturesque because a lot of elegant architectures in Chinese style sit inside me. I am home to many people in the past and they all lived peacefully. I may not be famous and familiar to you but actually I am wonderful and great.

My Appearance

First of all, I am surrounded by a deep moat, if you want to see me, you'd better ride in a boat. Also, people needed to get through gates before they can get into my territory.

The thing that made me the proudest is definitely my stone wall which is rough and strong. That's always my favorite. It is like an indestructible armor which is made of stone and it is grey in color. It may be plain and normal to you but don't judge a book by its cover! My armor is actually very useful because it is to protect people living inside me from evil and sinister Japanese Pirates.

My birth and Life Twisting Points

I remembered that I was born in 1553 during the Ming Dynasty. People loved me at first in the 12th and 13th for market activities and trading. And then in the Song Dynasty, I was chosen as the location of one of seven customs authorities across the empire to handle overseas trades. I became a city that was very useful and people always remembered me. I remembered that I was even being raised to county status in 1292, becoming the seat of the new county. I was once very proud of myself.

But after years, there was war going on and in 1927, there was a bid to establish a tangible Chinese authority in Shanghai, the government established the Special Municipality of Shanghai. The municipal government was moved out of the Old City to near Xujiahui. And things were even worse later on, the county government moved out. Oh... and this was the end of my role as the seat of the government of Shanghai. And bit by bit, I was forgotten and betrayed. The parts of my body were demolished by cruel people to make way for modernization. Some of them ripped off the wallpapers of me, some of them even destroyed some of the most beautiful architectures that sit in me. It was painful and I felt agitated and distraught. But luckily I was being protected later on, and now a small amount of people will visit me every day.

Dajing Ge Pavilion

Dajing Ge Pavilion was one of the architectures that remained inside me. The Pavilion has a unique rooftop and the exterior is made of stone bricks. It is a museum and ancient temple in Shanghai. Tourists loved this place and it will be a perfect place of taking photos.

Hope you now know more about me through this. You are welcome to come and visit me!

An Exploration: Old City of Shanghai, Walls, and its Early History

Ying Wa Primary School, Lam, Hei Shun – 12

People might consider the Old city of Shanghai as the Chinese city or area inside the ancient walled city of Shanghai or traditional urban core of Shanghai. No matter what the Old City of Shanghai was called, it was still the most amazing area of Shanghai, even of China undoubtedly. This city is one of the most picturesque and charming areas of Shanghai, with many houses and architectures in traditional Chinese style and also tourist attractions. Actually, in 1986, it was approved by the State Council as one of the second 38 famous historical and cultural cities in China. It was the Chinese authority in Shanghai, and it has its own distinct character although with the advent of foreign concessions. Administratively the old city is part of Huangpu District, as it was located near the Huangpu River, known as the mother river of Shanghai.

Its boundary was formerly defined by a defensive wall. The city began as a walled medieval town at least 1000 years ago. The walls are built mainly to protect areas of the city of old Shanghai (no walls at the time) against Japanese pirates, ringed the city around areas which is Remin and Zhonghua Roads today. The walls have been demolished because the wall crashed the rapid urban development, but many locals still refer to localities by the names of the city gates – some of the names have even become modern metro stops — Laoximen (old West gate) on lines 8 and 10, and Xiaonanmen (little South gate) on line 9.

Do you know this fascinating city had a long and amazing history? During the Warring States Period (475 –221BC) which was much earlier than the Qin dynasty, first dynasty of China, Huang Xie, known as Lord Chunshen of the Chu state, organized people to excavate the Huangpu River. Therefore the Huangpu River has a nickname of 'Chunshen River' and Shanghai has sometimes been referred to as 'Shen' ever since. Fishermen living in this area at that time created a fishing tool called Hu, so it has the other nickname of 'Hu'.

During the Qin Dynasty (221 – 206BC) the city was not even a town. People used boats in the former Mao Lake and the rivers of today's Songjiang District to trade and do business. From the Han Dynasty (206BC– 220AD) on the industries of coin-casting, metal-smelting and salt-production grew dynamically and rapidly in the area and the economical connection was strengthened between this area and the hinterland gradually. Prosperity continued into the Jin Dynasty (265 – 420). In the Sui (581 – 618) and the Tang (618 – 907) Dynasties, it enjoyed rather fast progress, as great importance was attached to the economic development of southern China. The area became an important bread basket, thanks to proper reclamation of arable land. After this area gathered a larger population by degrees and it had more economical and cultural exchange with places at home and abroad.

The beautiful and unique city continues its history until now, and, of course it never ends. What have you learnt from this passage? Don't be blocked by your own wall of the Old city of Shanghai. Think about it and explore the Old city of Shanghai in your imagination.



Non-Fiction

Group 3

Shanghai, Forever Enchanting

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Tseng, Yuan – 11

From a humble fishing village, Shanghai rose into a global economic powerhouse, a small sleepy town based on the City God Temple. Shanghai, whose name means on the sea, “shang” as in “up”, “hai” as in “sea”, had the geographical advantage that made it an ideal place for trading between the East and the West. It was no surprise that Shanghai became a city in the 13th century and with the protection of the city wall from Japanese and Chinese pirates, it flourished into a major center of trade and industry by the 16th century. With the high demand for Chinese tea, silk, and porcelain, Shanghai became attractive for foreign imperialists for potential economic and trade growth at the Yangtze River. The end of the First Opium War led to a new narrative in Shanghai. The imposition of the British gave them the trading rights in the port of Shanghai through the concession agreements. The agreements allowed foreign citizens like the British, French, Americans and Germans to live and do business in Shanghai. They set up Western-style buildings, mansions, banks, and houses as well as introduced their way of life. The influx of foreigners changed the face of Shanghai as it was dubbed the “Paris of the East” in the 1920s and 1930s. The colonial presence allowed Shanghai to transform dramatically into a cosmopolitan, commercial, financial and international trading center.

However, the concession period ended when Shanghai fell to the Japanese. The foundation of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 closed Shanghai’s door to the world and its influence on the global market diminished. Shanghai went on a hiatus, yet it never lost its spark. As the door of Shanghai reopened to the world in 1990, it came back bigger and better – it’s a new era of economic growth for the city as full development and foreign investment poured in left and right. The city was again ready to write a new page in history as it welcomed with open arms the reestablishment of Shanghai in the world stage. Since then, Shanghai has undergone enormous change and is now the largest and the busiest city in China for trade and industry. It is one of the economic forces on the international market and is comparable to the major cities like London and New York. It has grown into a modern, international, and cosmopolitan metropolis where people distinctly find a mixture of Eastern and Western flavour. The extraterritorial presence of foreigners for more than 100 years earned Shanghai its own unique brand of cosmopolitan urban culture that is exciting and attractive for people all over the world.

The new generations are now composing a new chapter in the tale of Shanghai. Shanghai is a very dynamic, sleepless, and diverse city full of opportunities for people who are adventurous enough to take a risk and seek new things. Local as well as foreigners regard Shanghai as a city where dreams can come true. Walking down the street of Shanghai, you can see men wearing freshly pressed suits and women with their signature high heels holding the most technologically advanced smartphones. Glitzy malls, credit cards, Wi-Fi and Uber are just part of the everyday language in Shanghai. With the massive changes and growth occurring in Shanghai, rubbles of the past are being exchanged with the structure of the future. Shanghai’s rapid development is threatening heritage, as young Chinese are willing to destroy tradition that seems to be a burden in becoming modern. It is essential for the young generations to be trendsetters, so they are not only fashionable in their way of life, but also progressive to modernize the society. Shanghainese are seen as China’s chic citizens. As rapid progress continues, people will hopefully understand that culture is an important part of the economic growth and not just be gobbled up by the economic development.

Although most of the old Shanghai has crumbled away, the remnants of the past remain in some districts and continue to tell stories of the extraordinary life of pre-1949 Shanghai. Centuries-old buildings and European-style architecture of the old International Settlement can still be seen lined up

on Bund Waterfront, and across from the Huangpu River are the towering modern skyscrapers. The ancient and modern buildings standing across from each other represent the achievements of the past as well as the growth of new Shanghai in just a few decades. Shanghai has revived its cosmopolitan heritage and has created a mark in modern history. The unusual blend of the old and new Shanghai represents the existing traditional Chinese culture mixed with the Chinese society's shift to openness. The mesmerizing mixture of the East and West is what makes Shanghai unique and special. It's nice that one can chat with locals while enjoying a plate of dumplings on the streets and be awed by a fantastic view while having dinner at a five-star hotel. Pajama-clad folk practicing *taichi* in the park and yuppies in the power suit passing by is an incredible sight to see. Even shopping is a different experience. One can go to the malls and enjoy Western brands, or one can visit the antique market and purchase anything from miniature Terracotta warriors to vases from different dynasties. The old Chinese culture can mingle cohesively with the various customs of the new generation, making Shanghai an epitome of China's ancient, and contemporary history and culture. Shanghai is creating its own stylish modern identity that distinguishes them from other modern cities in the world showing that economic progress and culture can go hand in hand.

Shanghai is an enticing multicultural city that continues to propel towards the future. The Chinese people are very confident and proud of their identity and culture, and at the same time they are embracing foreign influence and are very keen to assimilate, incorporate, and exchange customs and habits. What lies in the future for Shanghai remains unseen, yet the ever-evolving city will continue to formulate new tales that enchant people at all four corners of the globe.

The New Tales of Old Shanghai

Dulwich College Shanghai, Gao, Macus Xu – 13

1

A rickshaw disturbs my thoughts as I sit alone. Alone in my monastery, the this was the home that the new me lived. I stare at it, the incense starts to fade as memories flood into my mind. Cheng zhishang, the rickshaw driver. Not the monk. The life that I lived before everything changed.

2

It was a hot summer day, as I felt my Rickshaw weigh my shoulders down. The birds were chirping in the air, the smell of smoke wafted into my nostrils and the taste of Shao Bing lapped onto my tongue. Street vendors filled the streets as I weaved my way through the endless river of people that always seemed to be present in Tian Zi Fang. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a wealthy man shouting at a poor woman for not making his silk scarf right. The fear in the woman's eyes was visible as she trembled and shivered. That feeling of being in control, being feared. It forced a chuckle deep in my throat.

I did not know that something that seemed so insignificant can change my life forever.

I took a left onto a seemingly lifeless street. Not a twig moved, and not a branch swayed. Even the color suggested a dead, inanimate space. A mix of brown and grey. There were buildings but they have long been abandoned a some time ago. The birdsong faded and the voices of the vendors became a distant memory. The silence was unnerving, it was as if the whole place was holding its breath. The air was still, almost too still.

A man stepped out of the alleyway. He wore a top hat that covered most of his face, but his big ears were noticeable. A long silk gown flowed behind him as a ring of dried monkey skulls rattled on his belt, their last moments of anguish frozen in time. As I looked down, his pointed boots pointed back at me. The man gave off a feeling of importance, his chest was held high and he had a haughty way of walking. As he approached me, I could feel his aura trapping me, constricting my lungs, leaving me frozen.

“Take me to the docks.”

His voice rumbled through me.

He glided onto his seat as if he were a ghost, only the rattle of his belt told me that he was moving. I looked back, his eyes looked straight into mine, piercing through my body and into my soul. I quickly turn back and run towards the docks.

By the time we reached the docks, I did not feel tired at all. Fear and adrenaline fueled me for the whole run. He fixes his top hat, and steps gracefully off the rickshaw. I did not even realize right away that he did not pay his fee. I finally run after him, shouting to get his attention.

“Sir, you did not pay!”

He disappeared around a corner. It took me a good few minutes to find him again. But the scene I was going to see would be embedded in my memory forever.

The man was standing there, with a gun pointed to a woman's head. She was weeping, screaming.

"Don't kill me, please! I have children!"

The man looked at her like he looked at me, his eyes piercing and clawing its way through her soul. He squeezed the trigger. I turned away, my eyes squeezing shut. All I heard was the woman's scream ending abruptly.

When I turned back, I screamed in horror, running up to the woman lying on the ground. The woman's lifeless eyes stared at mine. Her limp body was twisted like a gnarly old tree. Her face was mutilated; the beauty was destroyed with one bullet-hole through her skull.

For a second, I saw the woman's face again, but I did not feel remorse. Instead I felt happy, content. The man looked down at me, there was no sense of surprise in his face, all I saw was a hard cold stare back. I was frozen to the spot. My legs did not obey my thoughts. The man's voice became quieter and more dangerous.

"I know what type of person you are, you desire power. I see it in your soul, you remind me of my younger self. If you work for me, I will grant you that one day. If you decide not to help me, I'm afraid you won't like the consequences."

That sentence rang forever in my head like a repeating nightmare. I was a changed boy after what I witnessed.

3

I was running again. Like I have done 364 times before. I cradled my precious cargo as I slithered through the dark alleys. There seemed to be eyes everywhere, Gleaming, shining, staring. I kept on going, only boosted by pure adrenaline and genuine fear. Run. Run. Run.

4

It was just the another normal day, sitting on the edge of the harbor watching the waves roll by one by one. A box of Opium would be ready for me to deliver. I ran and ran until a familiar site loomed over the horizon. Monkey Man's compound. He inspected all the seeds as he normally would. Everything seemed normal until I picked up what was supposed to be my meal. The bag felt heavier than usual. I reached in, I felt something cold, something hard. As my fingers traced the outline, a picture began to form in my head. A barrel, a handle, a creeping realization began to dawn on me. My spine tingled as I pulled out the object. It was a gun, a revolver to be more precise. The shiny metal glinted in the sunlight.

As I inspected the gun, it had a beautiful red wood handle and the metal was smooth and impeccable. It was almost as if I could feel its aura. It was strong, powerful. The fate of twelve men lay in my hands. But I noticed something unusual. There was something stuck in one of the chambers. I pulled it out, leaving a satisfying pop in its wake.

It read:

Zhi Shang, to commemorate your outstanding consistency at your job, I present to you this revolver as a acknowledgement of your work.

It was unusual gift. But at this point, I would take any gift that was thrown at me. I tucked it into my belt not intending to take it out again.

I decided to walk through the busier streets today. I missed seeing the street vendors and the bustling activity. But it didn't feel the same, I felt like there was always someone was staring at me. My sixth

sense was tingling as my face was burning with fear. I looked up, an old woman was the culprit. She wasn't moving, barely even twitching. I smiled back at her.

"It's him! He is the Opium delivery boy!" Her screech boomed through the air and rattled my spine.

I was in shock, but I did not freeze; instead I ran for my life. Police seemed to materialize in thin air as they ran after me. My heart was pounding as it threatened to bounce out of my chest, my breathing quickened but I kept on running, it's the only thing I have been doing for my whole life. Run.

I ran through alleys and roads, I made a right on one of the alleys, and this was the worst decision of life. It was a dead end. I turned. A lump formed in my throat as 3 police officers stood watching.

"We got you now kiddo,"

I didn't want to go to jail. And now I had to turn to my last resort. I pulled out my revolver and started shooting. Everything happened into slow motion. The bullets traveled towards the men, fear etched into their faces. For a split second, I enjoyed it. Being feared by someone, being in total control. This is what I have craved for so long. A fire burned within me, I was finally happy.

The Greatness of the Old Shanghai

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chan, Cheuk Hei – 13

Shanghai is always considered to be a modernized city. Any traveler who visits Shanghai would easily find this place with lots of historical traces. Even when you pass by a village in Shanghai, every stone will tell you the unforgettable memories and the tales of the old Shanghai. Visiting Shanghai would be a great experience for anyone who wants to know more about China, especially if you could spend a few days there. Walking among the sleepy villages, you can find some old folks who can still tell you the details about the hardship they endured during the war times.

Like other big cities in the world, it experienced its hardship and dark time in history. As the metropolis of China, it was definitely one of the first cities which suffered tremendously during wars. Unfortunately, when the Japanese invaded China in 1939, many people in Shanghai suffered a great deal and even lost their lives. Although the city was occupied by Japanese, the people inside never relinquished and kept fighting for their lives. After the war, the people helped to rebuild the city industriously and facilitated the whole city to be reborn after this agonizing period.

After the war, many of the capitalist left Shanghai, and thus resulted in having a miserable economy. The outbreak of hyperinflation also made people's life much worse as the people needed to pay 40 dollars for one bread, but their salaries got no change. Many people could not afford the food and move to the other places. Some of the people stayed, and they tried to rebuild the city. Finally, their goals were achieved and Shanghai is now as prosperous as it was before the war. Shanghai becomes a decisive place of the China again.

The buildings in Shanghai also could not escape the fate of being destroyed during the wars. Many of the roads, historical buildings and public services were destroyed or forced to be stopped or suspended. Unfortunately, the Chinese Civil War destroyed even more buildings than the Second Sino-Japanese War. The homes of people were destroyed and they had no place to sustain their living. Many people lost their parents or friends in the rubble. During these dismal periods, no one helped them sustain their lives, and they had nothing to eat at all. They could not upload the meaning of life anymore. To endure all these hardship, the Shanghai residents' spirit shone. They worked as a union to rebuild the city, and finally, they became the heroes of building up the prosperous society of the modern Shanghai.

There are many historical buildings in the old Shanghai. Shanghai is the first city of China to be developed by not only the Chinese, but also the westerners. Therefore, the buildings in the Old Shanghai are a very good specimen if you want to know the history of Shanghai, and also the blend of the Chinese and Western cultures. The first HSBC Building of China is a very good example. This building was built in 1923. Being designed by a British company, it definitely carries the British style, however, no one would expect that the location of the building is actually based on Feng Shui.

The view of Shanghai is of no doubt, gorgeous. Everyone would agree that the view of the Bund is definitely eminent and stunning. The development of the Bund started just after Shanghai was opened for trading. Many countries built some tall buildings here. It is also a place where many countries also set up their settlements and consulates, so the Bund is 'the Little Western world' in China.

Moreover, the Bund is the first park of China, and its impressive view and the calming sea are the perfect spots for film making and romance.

As Shanghai is the first place in China that was opened for trade, so that the Old Shanghai was also famous for its 'high-tech' stuffs at that time. Shanghai is the first place in China to have trams as their transportation, and indeed it has also been a successful industrial city for many decades. No wonder the products with the label, 'Made in Shanghai' are very much welcomed by locals even in today's Shanghai.

This great city was also built by some Catholic missionaries from France in the 19th century. With their help in education and the promotional of the government, the education in Shanghai has attained its fame and reputation in Asia which emphasizes the new methods and excellent teaching and learning.

The Old Shanghai has not only marked the raise of modern China, it also represents the spirit of Chinese. Although the Old Shanghai no longer exists, its suffering and perseverance will be commemorated by every generation. We all love you, Shanghai!

New Tales of The Old Shanghai

Island School, Lai, Crosby – 12

The old Fuxing Park of old Shanghai, an iconic and amazing sight to behold, and also a nice resting place to get out of the city and relax. This old man that was standing there for the last century is ready to tell the tale of his life, a tale of war, a tale of change.

In the year 1990, the huge improvement breakout of Shanghai finance and the improvement of trade and business in Shanghai, making Shanghai China's busiest port at the time, in this breakout stood the old Fuxing Park in the middle of this rapidly improving Chinese city.

Fuxing Park used to be called Gujiazhai Park after the local gù (顧) family who opened it over 100 years ago. It was renamed the French Park when the French bought it to station armies in 1900. After World War II broke out, the Japanese army forces took over the administration of the French Concession, the park name then was named Daxing Park (大興公園). After the Chinese drove the brutal Japanese army with amazing strategy performed by several commanders and generals out of Shanghai in 1937, its name was finally changed to the one it still holds today—Fuxing Park (復興公園).

He also said, Fuxing Park is the only French style park in Shanghai, making it one of a kind. It is also called "carpet garden" by some because of the dense plantation that create a huge amount of shade. There is also a slightly surreal sculpture of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the park that was completed on the ninetieth anniversary of Engels' death on August 5, 1985.

This historical park has gone through some great changes over both world wars and has become a very historical area full of spectacular monuments, beautiful plantation, a long history and is a spectacular park to be loved and preserved by all.

New Tales of Shanghai

Shanghai Singapore International School, Zheng, Xiangyu 'Richard' – 13

“BEEB BEEB!” Cars passing on the road, lights shining inside of the black background, red and yellow light showing on both side of road. People walking on the bund, like ants moving on the street. Huge buildings beside Huangpu River, viewing the scenery on the other side of the River. Colorful boats floating on the water, the reflection showing in water is mirroring the beautiful city beside. So lively around and shown as a wonderful picture of the city – Shanghai.

Shanghai is a lively city, citizens having a great story at here, foreigners are creating the glorious memories and putting them as the best page in their life. Stories were created, tales were passing down. Shanghai is having a great tales and history to tell, and let's go deep into the interesting, fascinating tales and histories.

Back into thousands years ago, at that time, Shanghai did not even exist, our multicolored shanghai was just the blue, limitless sea. The Yangtze River, scrubbed the dirt from the land, over and over again, this had repeated over thousands of times, the dirt then pushed out the avarice sea and form a small land, and our baby shanghai was born. People developed the village, created the relationships between each other, worked together, and Shanghai had become a small fish village. Cause by the special geographical position it has. Shanghai became one of the most important international trading point of China, and developed into a famous city.

Sitting on the brownish bench, facing to the grand Bund. Innumerable cars pass over. Snow-white clouds floating in the blue sky. Sea of people, pure white birds, huge amount of cars and wonderful

buildings had perfectly become one part of this incredible image. The incredible buildings, Japanese, UK's building take me back into the past of the Bund, a long tale. Long time ago, Shanghai was just a little city with a small harbor, strong, brave fisherman coming back from the blue sea. With the improve of international relationship, more and more expensive trading happened. International buildings start standing on the side. Famous building, the Custom house. It is a Doric Order building, with brown color outside, the classic clock, it is tall as 10 level high. The clock was copy from the clock of Congress building. It was built in America, transfer to Shanghai and assemble at the Bund. It was rebuilt in 1925, and it became one of the graceful house at the Bund. The clock was also one of the most famous clock in world. Back into time, the Bund was having lots of concession. For one example, HSBC bank is called the prettiest building at the bund. Was built at 1927, in world war 2, Japanese had use it for their bank, it had been use in many ways, it is also a building with histories. In night, it still has the most beautiful light all over the bund. The amazing bund is harbor is one of the characteristic of Shanghai, one of the greatest scenery in night over the world. I had leave some great times over there.

The bund was just one of the tales to tell, its tales are just a tip of the iceberg. For Shanghai, more stories can be told, Stone Gate House, a place with full of memories of my grandparents, they were born and live in the Stone Gate House, an alive book of telling the old Shanghai. The appearances of the Stone Gate House are fascinating, built with hard stone walls, brown wood door, the facts are, above the brown, black doors, western art are shown perfectly with the Chinese houses. Just like bleed into one with no offence. They had shown the art of western and eastern at same time, with the relationship between, interesting games and tales had begun in this place. Games had been created at here, "build the house", "spin a top", "playing marbles". Laughing, chatting and cheering all over the place. My grandparents had a great memory at there. My dad also, he had play the marbles and these kind of games everyday, the rules are easy. Draw a circle, marbles at the middle, you use you own to hit it out and you can have the marbles you hit outside, however, if it stays inside you lose the marble. So on, there are still bunch of games, passing one by one, one to ten, ten to hundred and so on, now there are still people that plays them. All these games are fun to tell, back to the houses, the stone houses usually have small rooms, usually two to three families in one house. They live together, help each other, even eat together. Well, most of the time, there is a small yard in the middle of the house. "Children play over there at afternoon" said grandpa. The temperature of the house is warm, no matter what time, hot summer and cold winter, always warm like a giant above, protect and make warm around.

When talk about games, it remains me about the festivals and the games, activities and foods.

Many festivals are created in China, for Shanghai, we use to have Moon Festival and Spring Festival. Me and my family usually sit at the yard of our house, watching the full moon and enjoy the

mooncakes we are eating. The moon was beautiful, perfect circle, light and bright. We talk about the stories and amazing things happened nearby. For Spring Festival, we often go outside and play. People giving the money bags which is the favorite part for most of the children. Unlike them, I more likely to enjoy the time our family are together, eating foods and chatting, makes me feel more peaceful. Shanghai is the place for me with full of great, exciting memories and childhood.

Shanghai is full of stories to tell, mine and yours. Tales and history are fascinating. The lively and huge city we live together, creating a better and amazing environment. Shanghai was an interesting city, even now, it still is. Shanghai, memories and stories; Shanghai, lively and fascinating; Shanghai, a city with dreams and life. Tales are passing and stories are created, Shanghai is becoming the best place of world, more and more people coming and creating a better city for all.

Old Shanghai

St. Paul's Convent School, Lui, Karen Tsz Ching – 13

In this humongous world, there are a variety of old cultures and traditions around, such as Europe, China and America. But if you ask me, which place has my favourite style of culture, I would say the old Shanghai. I am really interested in its unique tradition – foot binding, its old architectural style and the lifestyles of old Shanghai people. Let me explain the above features to you.

At the tail end of the Qing Dynasty, China was already a modern city, but one traditional belief that still existed – foot binding. For this belief, tiny and narrow feet were considered as beautiful, and if the girls wanted to find a husband, it was mandatory to have this process, as a result having broken feet and wrapped tightly in bandages. Bound feet prevented girls from walking so well, so this restricted the girls from going out, thus increased their dependence on their husbands. Apart from the traditional foot binding, the fashion style of women was also very traditional. They normally wore qipao as it reflected the Chinese culture.

In the early decades, qipaos were loose-fitting, generally with long sleeves together with plain hairstyles. Gradually, modern qipao was developed and people learned to wear more modern form of qipao. Modern qipaos were more form-fitting with high cut. Because of the introduction of the modern qipao, traditional skills were replaced by cheaper contemporary textiles which also led to a greater variety of designs. Unfortunately, all these modernisms came to an end in 1949.

Secondly, old Shanghai's architectural style is very special too. For example, for Shi Ku Door, its architectural style was originated from the Taiping Rebellion Period. In the houses of old Shanghai, they had doorframes made of stone materials and the door leaves were solid slab painted in black. As soon as this style was spread, this architectural style was called "Shi Ku Door". More and more people learned about it and copied it onto the doors of their own houses.

Thirdly, when comparing the lifestyles between old Hong Kong and Shanghai, they differ greatly. In the olden days of Shanghai, there were a lot of clubs all around the streets of Shanghai. This prove that the lifestyles of Shanghai people could not do without nightlife. People often went out early and returned home late, it is because they went to various music clubs and casinos.

Other than going to clubs at night, people also had activities to do during the day. For old Shanghainese people, they would usually go to parks early in the morning, often with their grandchildren. They were all doing different kinds of activities, such as practicing tai chi, martial arts or doing local dances. In the afternoon, they would go to the theatres to watch The Ancient Art of Pingtan or Shanghai Opera. Pingtan is a form of storytelling that consists of only one performer, he would do storytelling and belted singing to the audiences. This kind of leisure activity was very popular among Shanghai's elderly men in those days; in the evening, many middle aged and elderly people would go to parks to do western style of dance such as tango and cha cha.

In conclusion, I am really fond of the old Shanghai culture, because all of those features have their own uniqueness. As its culture is really attractive to me, I will continue to learn more about it and broaden my horizons!

New tales of old Shanghai – The Old Jazz Band at the Peace Hotel

St. Joseph's College, Wong Lok Tung Joseph – 12

As far back in youth as I can recall, my father has always been an avid music lover, specifically he loved American music genres rock and roll, jazz and the blues. I remember him reminiscing to me years ago about an ensemble of Shanghainese musicians who played traditional American jazz at the Peace Hotel (和平飯店) located along the Shanghai Bund.

Upon being asked to write an open composition on "Old Shanghai", something just clicked and I instantly knew how to approach the piece. I would conduct a "60 Minutes" style investigative report to uncover the real story behind this crew of merry old jazz musicians who played jazz sets at the Peace Hotel. There were so many questions to be answered, where would I begin? What was the historical significance of the Peace Hotel? How did the first members meet and consequently assemble together as a larger ensemble to play music at the Hotel? Why did they choose such an unlikely medium as American jazz? And what happened to them during the whole backdrop of almost 80 years of very turbulent Chinese history?

To find out how it all happened, join me in a time machine to go back to the 1920s. Arriving at the Paris of the Orient, 1920s Shanghai was flushed with money, new western music and political intrigue. It was a city that dazzled in opulence and fascinating imagination. The first eye-catching icon of the Peace Hotel was the portrait of Sir Victor Sassoon, a British aristocrat of Iraqi Jewish descent with a sprawling real estate empire in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Calcutta. Being the founder of the most chic hotel at the time, it was no coincidence that Sir Victor Sassoon was known for his passion for the high life and for throwing fabulous parties and flamboyant costume balls. And yes, it is the same family that gave us the name of Sassoon Road in Pokfulam, Hong Kong.

Standing in front of Peace Hotel and looking around, you would be amazed as it looked like a giraffe towering over the concrete jungle. Peace Hotel with ten storeys was the first high-rise building in the Eastern Hemisphere at the time. It was designed by architects Palmer and Turner. Construction began in 1926, and was completed in 1929. The hotel was truly a fusion of ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, and was built in the Gothic style of the Chicago School. Walking inside the hotel, you would certainly be awe-stricken by its grandeur, marveled by the distinctive copper-sheathed roof that rises 77 meters above ground and mesmerized by the white Italian marble floors. It was the most luxurious hotel in Asia and had welcomed distinguished guests from all over the world including heads of state, royalties, tycoons and gangsters. Look, the famous silent movie actor, Charlie Chaplin, was sipping his tea in the tearoom and the famous playwright, Noël Coward, was contemplating the plot for his latest novel "Private Lives" at the bar.

Listen to that new jazz sound Sir Victor Sassoon brought to town. The hotel's jazz band had been all the buzz in Shanghai's party crowd. At first, Sassoon brought in jazz bands from the U.S. and the Philippines. Then even Chinese musicians from the conventional Wuhan Conservatory of Music got into the improvisational style of jazz. Jazz music continued to flourish in the 1930s and 1940s in old Shanghai. Look, it even captured the heart of the powerful Shanghai gangster, Du Yu Sheng (杜宇生), who developed a taste for jazz music, in between running his opium and prostitution rings.

Let's fast forward to the turbulence of the 1940s, when Jazz music in Shanghai even survived the Japanese occupation. When the Japanese army approached, the foreign bands abandoned their gigs leaving the big hotels and dance venues no option but to hire the local Chinese jazz bands. The Shanghai jazz scene had survived the Japanese occupation, the Nationalists as well as the Communists. But eventually, all things came to an abrupt halt during the Cultural Revolution of 1965–1975. In this dark era, the Peace Hotel was used by Zhang Chunqiao (張春橋) of the infamous Gang of Four as the Shanghai Commune headquarters. Jazz was regarded as bourgeoisie and all the hotel ballrooms and dance halls in the city were closed for business. Music groups disbanded and were forced to find other jobs while others were forced to relocate to the countryside for manual labour.

Jazz riffs were once again dancing through the corridors of the Peace Hotel after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976 and the Open Door Policy of Deng Xiaoping. 1980 was the year today's jazz band started playing at the Peace Hotel. Despite its new phases of renovations, the steadfast band members remain as a lively musical ensemble.

In 2016, the Peace Hotel continues to operate as one of Shanghai's premium hotels not just because of its historical and architectural interest, but our old friends—the Old Jazz Band. The current Old Jazz Band is made up of six veteran musicians whose average age is 82 and the youngest member is now 79. Each of the musicians has been playing jazz since the 1940s. Each of the members, like jazz itself, showcases individuality, creativity and spontaneity. In China, these qualities were viewed with skepticism for many years. Against all odds, these legendary jazz granddaddies have never lost their love for music. Through it all, the band plays on. They keep it alive and it, in turn, keeps them alive. Nowadays the Old Jazz Band has drawn a wide audience of locals, international travelers and celebrities. The Band also took part in various performances as part of China's cultural diplomacy, playing for former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, Queen Elizabeth and numerous other heads of state. The lives and times of the Old Jazz Band musicians were also recently made into a documentary “As Time Goes By” by German filmmaker Uli Gaulke.

Today, Shanghai is known as the City of modern China. Seen through the window of its Pudong district, it features a cityscape like something out of a science fiction movie. The Peace Hotel is restoring its glamorous past that continues to fascinate imaginations—a time of adventure, entrepreneurship and dazzling style during the 1930s. This period is epitomized by the Peace Hotel with its famous address on the Bund.

Now in their seventies and eighties, the Old Jazz Band musicians have literally seen the world transformed around them. Through decades of political upheaval, this group of musicians has served as a living link to Shanghai's jazz heydays. Closing my eyes at the writing desk, I can vaguely visualize socialites floating on the dancing floor in the plushy bar on the Ground Floor of Peace Hotel, immersing themselves in the melodies of “Moon River” and “As Time Goes By” played by the Old Jazz Band. This is the story of the oldest band in the world that will never lose faith and belief in their music.

The Old City of Shanghai

Ying Wa College, Bao, Tianyi – 13

There has never been a city inside a city more intriguing than the old city of Shanghai. You might say Vatican City is more majestic, but nothing can run against Shanghai for the most bewildering place ever.

The old city of Shanghai is, like the Chinese interpretation of an onion, you keep finding something more, and the more you find, the more you love it.

The city is ordinary from the outside, some bits and pieces of the once spectacular city walls that defended the city from Japanese pirates a thousand years ago, there; we peel one layer off the onion.

Then, you will find yourself in a myriad of different souvenirs, handicrafts and counterfeits. However, it is all about the different people, and the most interesting thing of all, the conversations between the bargaining tourists and the shopkeepers. There is just no shortage of entertainment. Now, the second layer is peeled..

The third layer comes out apparent, called the old city of Shanghai; the old buildings are just fascinating. The Chenghuang Miao, The Jiuqu Qiao, The Yu Yuan, all of them are masterpieces that our ancestors has left us with, and the mystique and glamour of the buildings are simply beyond words. It is a beautiful young women will be the most glamorous women on Earth.

Then, you find yourself in front of the peach garden mosque, yes, you heard it right, an Islamic mosque inside a old Chinese town, how amazing! It turns out that the mosque is celebrating its Centennial in 2017, you must have been shocked. It is also the main mosque in Shanghai. The Islamic architecture of the mosque sets it apart from other buildings on the old city of Shanghai, the stark walls, the onion domes, they are bound to be different, but they all seem to be very well harmonized with the meticulously crafted Chinese roof ornaments and the wooden decks. There is a strange synergy between them that is simply beyond words. What a mystifying and intriguing fourth layer.

We are halfway through the core of the onion, for the other half, exploration is needed, so quickly pack your bags and book a flight to Shanghai to find the other half of the onion.

The New Tales Of Old Shanghai

Ying Wa College, Wong, Cheuk Lam Matthew – 14

Shanghai is an old city with a long history . It used to be a small fishing village , whose lengthy history can be traced back to ancient times .

The earliest settlements here are from ages ago—the Neolithic era. The earliest settlements were the Majiabangs . They started living here in 5000 BC ! The people of the culture used to grow rice in fields called paddies . Growing rice was extremely crucial to their daily lives and their economic system , because their main food source was rice. In addition , they also reared pigs and other livestock , and hunted wild game for food . This shows that they are not entirely dependent on farming for food . They were later replaced by the Songzhes , a similar culture in terms of living style .

A few thousand years later we have the eastern Jin dynasty . By that time , a busy and thriving fishing village has developed in the original positions – It developed along a major river in the area of the Suzhou Creek , a tributary of the Huang Pu river . The first fortress was built there in the Tang Dynasty , It is called the Qinglong Zhen . Five years later , Huating Zhen was built there , showing the gradual increase in the strategic importance of old Shanghai .

In the year of 1074 , Emperor Shenzong of Song set up a Marine Office and Goods Control Bureau here , indicating the increasing importance of the area .It also became a military and naval base by the early 12th century .

However , for the Shanghai to become a legitimate city , we would have to wait until the Yuan Dynasty . By that time , Shanghai had a population of about 300000 and is a hub of trade via the ocean .

In the Ming Dynasty , the national importance of Shanghai continues to rise . The government specially ordered the Hunagpu River to be dredged , In 1553 , a wall was built around Nanshi in order to protect the city from pirates . It was also in this city where the Jesuits first came to China.

In the Qing Dynasty , Shanghai is starting to become a bigger economy than the traditionally larger , Suzhou .It was also the first cities opened for trade overseas.

This the tales of how Shanghai became the metropolis as today.



Non-Fiction

Group 4

The Evolution of Old Shanghai

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Tam, Audrey – 14

I really appreciated my Dad picking me up from the airport after I had my four day ice-hockey camp in Vancouver, Canada. My legs felt like they were paralysed after the intensive training at the camp! While we were passing the Tsing Ma Bridge, my Dad suddenly said to me, “Look at our beautiful city! Some people say a city is like the heart of a country, with all the highways like the arteries.” I thought about what he said and replied, “Then Hong Kong must be the heart of China!” “Not really. I think Shanghai is. Hong Kong is just a small city when compared to Shanghai.” He laughed. I could not sleep that night, probably because of my jet lag. My legs were tired but my brain was restless, I couldn’t stop thinking about my Dad’s statement. So I thought: why don’t I learn about how Shanghai became the biggest city in China? I remember our whole family once went on holiday in Shanghai. During that trip, we also bought a book as a souvenir, which happened to still be sitting on the bookshelf in our living room. It was the perfect start to my investigation!

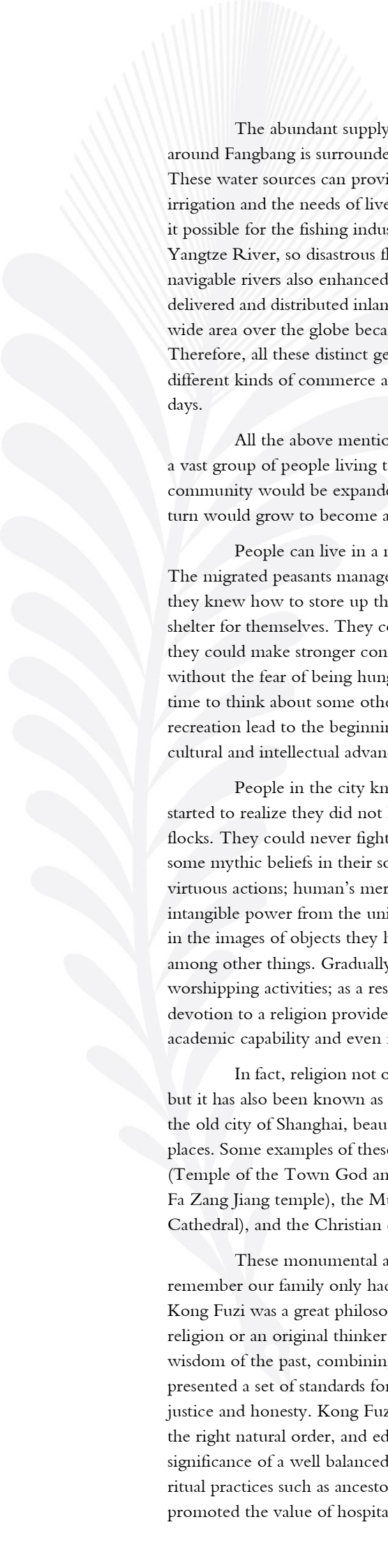
The book is called “The Old Town of Shanghai”, published by the University of Shanghai in 1999. It contains a lot of pictures and information about the old city of Shanghai and reading it recalled a lot of happy memories from our Shanghai trip. As I randomly opened the book, the page describing the Nanxiang Steamed Bun Restaurant appeared in front of my eyes. While we were in Shanghai, we had a feast there. To my surprise, the book also stated, “when the Canadian Governor General, Ramon J. Hnatyshyn came and visited the old city in 1994, he said he did not know the Shanghainese dim sum could be so tasty until after visiting Nanxiang Steamed Bun Restaurant!”

We can enjoy a lot of traditional Chinese food in Shanghai, especially in the old city. Apart from the Steamed Bun restaurant, the book also talks about the Shanghai Li Gao Tang Dian (a shop selling chinese herbal candies), Xing Long Guo Ji Hao (a store selling sweet, creamy and spiced dry beans), Da Tong Chun and Qiao Jia Zha, (shops selling glutinous rice balls). In fact, there have been a lot of entrepreneurs who established their businesses in the old city since the Song dynasty. These shops were all located on the sides of the Middle Fangbang road (also known as Old Street nowadays).

Fangbang was the earliest spot for Shanghai commercial development. It used to be a canal diverting water from the Huangpu River to the old city. In 1913, in order to improve access from the east to west side of the city, a wide thoroughfare was reclaimed from the canal. Although this place might now seem like an extremely commercial tourist attraction, no matter how it changed, one cannot deny the fact that it was the birthplace of Shanghai.

Global cities cannot arise without a good birthplace. There must have been some reasons behind the location of the Fangbang canal that drew people to this location. If we think about the geography, the site is at the middle of the east coastline of China, standing on a portion of the Yangtze delta. This delta area is known as the fertile triangle and is one of the richest agricultural zones in the country. With the adequate amount of rainfall and mild temperatures most of the year, this fertile triangle is perfect for cultivation. This “agricultural advantage” is especially true for planting wet-rice since the soil has a high clay content.

Consequently, the area easily became a great attraction for peasants to settle down in the old days. In early history, most people in China were peasants but a lot of these peasants were actually great thinkers and innovators. They invented a lot of special techniques and tools to improve their production of crops. For example, they applied the “horse-hoeing husbandry”, which required germinating seeds in rows and hoeing them completely. A famous agriculturalist, Wang Chen, also published the *Treatise on Agriculture* in 1313, to show some successful cases of hand-hoeing practiced by the less fortunate farmers. Thus, with all this knowledge and inventions, the amount of food yield could continue to increase every year. Most peasant families now had an abundance of food and fuel supply for living. This happy, stable lifestyle, however, led to a tremendous increase of the number of their descendants, resulting in an even higher demand for food and crop yield. Another problem was, after years of cultivation, the farmland would have become totally infertile. Subsequently, there was no better option for the peasants than to explore and migrate to another piece of fresh, fertile land. With a fertile land like the Yangtze delta, it was no surprise that peasants would pick it as their migration destination.



The abundant supply of water also makes Fangbang a very attractive place to settle. The area around Fangbang is surrounded by the Huangpu River on the east and Suzhou Creek on the north. These water sources can provide abundant water not only for human use but also for plough land irrigation and the needs of livestock. The short distance between the coast line and Fangbang also made it possible for the fishing industry to bloom. Moreover, the old city area was not too close to the Yangtze River, so disastrous flooding could be narrowly averted. These water routes formed by many navigable rivers also enhanced an excellent logistic system. The excess nourishment could easily be delivered and distributed inland or overseas. At the same time, foreign goods could enter the city from a wide area over the globe because of the Fangbang area's seaward facing location on the Yangtze delta. Therefore, all these distinct geographical properties can explain why the population grew and so many different kinds of commerce and entrepreneurship could flourish on the sides of the canal in the old days.

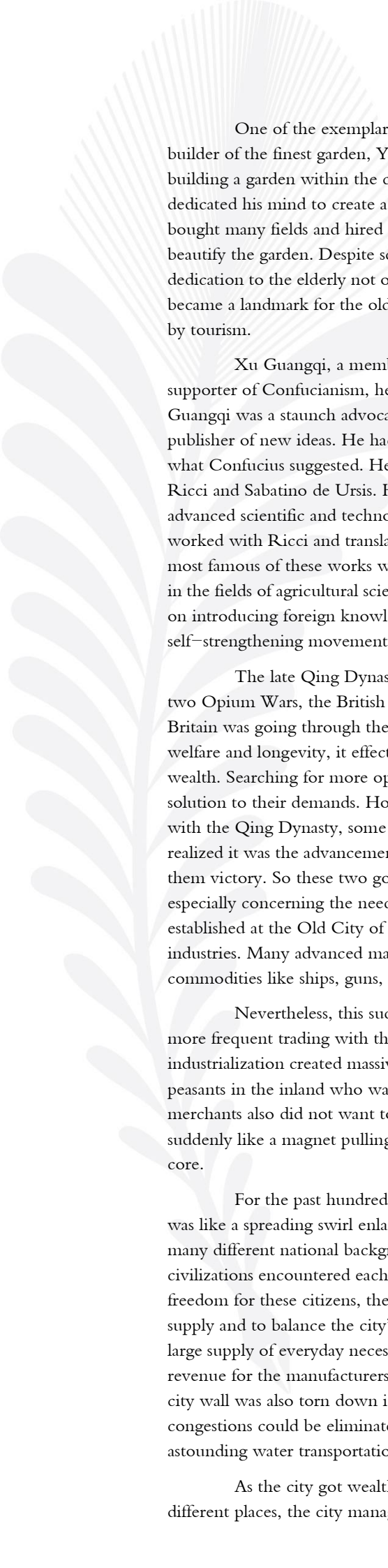
All the above mentioned ideal conditions at the area for agriculture and commerce resulted in a vast group of people living together in a stable, safe community. After a certain period, this community would be expanded and separated into some small strategically located villages, which in turn would grow to become a thriving city.

People can live in a much more secured and rich environment in a city compared to a village. The migrated peasants managed to produce more than enough food and fuel, and more importantly, they knew how to store up the excess supplies for the future. They also knew how to build better shelter for themselves. They could build a strong wall that surrounded and defended the whole city area; they could make stronger constructions with better facilities for themselves to live in. Moreover, without the fear of being hungry, attacked or homeless, the original migrants could have more free time to think about some other aspects for life other than just farming. This newfound time for recreation led to the beginning of a cognitive revolution. A new platform was well prepared for some cultural and intellectual advancement.

People in the city knew that they had to keep their assets wisely and safely, but they also started to realize they did not have the power to safeguard the yield of the crops or the fecundity of the flocks. They could never fight with natural disasters. Since ancient time, most people have embedded some mythic beliefs in their soul. These beliefs indicated that people's prosperity depended on their virtuous actions; human's meritorious conduct linked to assistance from the universe. However, this intangible power from the universe was so remote that people started to seek help from deities shaped in the images of objects they have seen on Earth. These objects could be humans, animals, rocks, trees among other things. Gradually, people's process of seeking help through these deities became a form of worshipping activities; as a result, a notion of religion was developed. People now realised their devotion to a religion provided support to prolong their lives, conquer incurable diseases, upgrade their academic capability and even nourish emotional capacity.

In fact, religion not only embraces individuals' hopes for good health, happiness and prosperity, but it has also been known as the third great unifier of humankind, alongside money and empires. In the old city of Shanghai, beautifully built religious monumental architectures can be found in many places. Some examples of these structures being the Confucian Temple (Wen Miao), the Taoist temples (Temple of the Town God and Baiyun temple), the Buddhist temples (Chen Xiang Ge Nunnery and Fa Zang Jiang temple), the Muslim Mosque (Peach garden Mosque), the Catholic church (Dongjiadu Cathedral), and the Christian church (Qingxin Tang).

These monumental architectures remain popular as tourist attractions these days, but I remember our family only had a chance to visit the Confucian Temple during our trip. Confucius, Kong Fuzi was a great philosopher in the Era of the Warring States. He denied himself as a founder of a religion or an original thinker of a doctrine. He regarded himself as a 'transmitter' of existing ideas and wisdom of the past, combining both knowledges into an ethical system – called "Li". This system presented a set of standards for moral behavior for all people, including issues about the importance of justice and honesty. Kong Fuzi hoped the chaotic situation of China at his time could be returned to the right natural order, and education was the key to the restoration of the society. He emphasized the significance of a well balanced relationship between human and nature, supported the existing Chinese ritual practices such as ancestor worship, the primacy of the family, respect for elders and loyalty, and promoted the value of hospitality – he believed it was a delight to have visitors from afar.



One of the exemplars of a Confucianism influenced individual would be Pan Yunduan, the builder of the finest garden, Yu Yuan, in the Ming dynasty. He clearly declared that his intention of building a garden within the city wall was an expression of filial piety. He allocated all his wealth and dedicated his mind to create a perfect place for his parents to enjoy their leisure at their old age. He bought many fields and hired Zhang Nanyang, a leading expert for laying rockeries at the time, to beautify the garden. Despite squandering all his revenue and putting his family in severe debt, his dedication to the elderly not only shaped a decent role model for the later generations, but his Yu Yuan became a landmark for the old city of Shanghai, enhancing an appreciable amount of income generated by tourism.

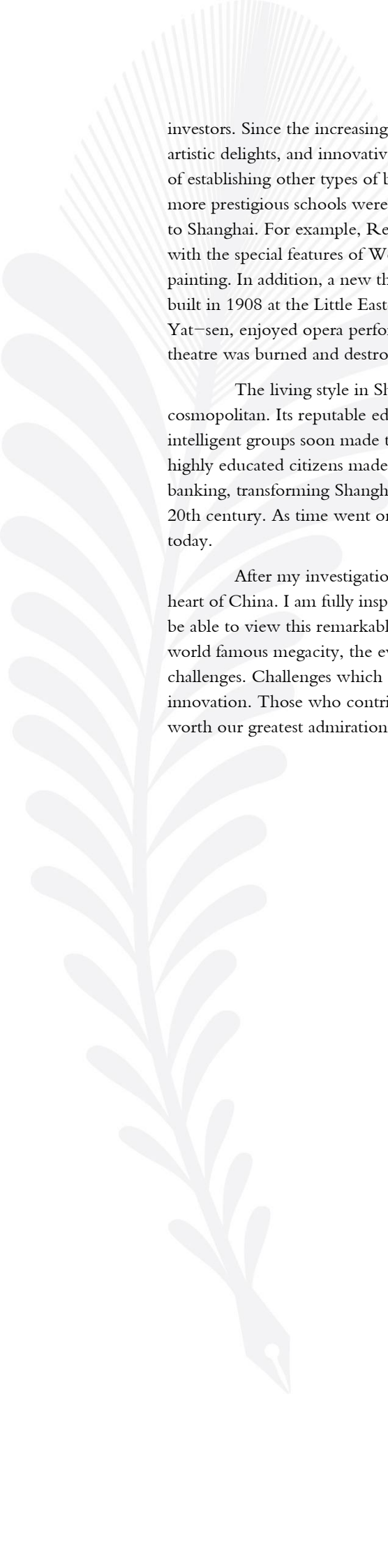
Xu Guangqi, a member of the elite Hanlin Academy in Beijing, was another exemplar of a supporter of Confucianism, he later ascended to become the Grand Secretary of the Qing Empire. Xu Guangqi was a staunch advocate of Confucian doctrines, a committed intellectual and an enthusiastic publisher of new ideas. He had a great pleasure meeting friends who came from foreign countries as what Confucius suggested. He was a friend, colleague and collaborator of the Italian Jesuits, Matteo Ricci and Sabatino de Ursis. He was highly interested in Western civilized culture, particularly its advanced scientific and technological theories, and was fully receptive to the European learning. He worked with Ricci and translated many great pieces of Western scientific publication to Chinese; the most famous of these works was Euclid's Elements. Due to this, Xu Guangqi greatly influenced China in the fields of agricultural science, astronomy, mathematics, geography and Christianity. His hard work on introducing foreign knowledge to China was a prelude for the Westernisation and self-strengthening movement in the Qing dynasty.

The late Qing Dynasty witnessed a plethora of "turning points" in Chinese history. After the two Opium Wars, the British made Shanghai one of the six open ports in 1843. In the mid-1700s, Britain was going through the Industrial Revolution. Although industrialization improved human welfare and longevity, it effectively sharpened the British capitalists' appetite for more resources and wealth. Searching for more opportunities, they found that trading goods with China would be a solution to their demands. However, at the time when the British were having the violent interactions with the Qing Dynasty, some open-minded governors like Li HongZhang and Zhang Zhi dong, realized it was the advancement of the British technology on military ships and equipment that brought them victory. So these two governors carried out a Westernization and self-strengthening movement, especially concerning the needs for upgrading military power. In 1865, the Kiangnan Arsenal was established at the Old City of Shanghai; it was started to set up many different kinds of manufacturing industries. Many advanced machines were imported from the United States, producing equipment and commodities like ships, guns, and cannons.

Nevertheless, this sudden and rapid development of manufacturing industries as well as the more frequent trading with the West demanded a much larger amount of labour forces. This industrialization created massive job opportunities, not only for the local residents but also some poor peasants in the inland who wanted to flee from famine. On the other hand, bureaucrats, landlords and merchants also did not want to miss the valuable chance for making a great fortune. Shanghai was suddenly like a magnet pulling both human and financial capital from all over the world towards its core.

For the past hundred years, the population increase in Shanghai was so rapid that the Old City was like a spreading swirl enlarging from the city center and outwards. These newcomers were from many different national backgrounds. Shanghai became a point where different cultures and civilizations encountered each other. In order to provide enough food, warmth, power, movement and freedom for these citizens, the Chinese government adjusted some policies to enhance the production supply and to balance the city's demands. Food, cotton and clothing industries flourished, generating a large supply of everyday necessities for everyone both in Shanghai and outside Shanghai, as well as a big revenue for the manufacturers. Highways and railways also began to be constructed. Furthermore, the city wall was also torn down in 1912; the site became Remin and Zhonghua Road. As a result, traffic congestions could be eliminated and citizens could save time while traveling. Along with its original astounding water transportation routes, Shanghai was becoming a more complex and stable city.

As the city got wealthier, safer, and more convenient for people, and goods had free access to different places, the city managed to attract an even more diversified portfolio of employers and



investors. Since the increasingly wealthy, secured population were eager to pursue higher education, artistic delights, and innovative enjoyments, people with a good sense of market needs started to think of establishing other types of businesses, such as those for learning, art and entertainment. More and more prestigious schools were established. More and more artists, actors and opera singers also migrated to Shanghai. For example, Ren Yi managed to combine the characteristics of Chinese traditional art with the special features of Western art, forming a unique Shanghai school (Hai Pai) style for Chinese painting. In addition, a new theatre, with advanced special light and stage effects for Chinese opera, was built in 1908 at the Little Eastern Gate. Even our founding father of the Republic of China, Sun Yat-sen, enjoyed opera performances and gave some of his speeches in this theatre; however, this theatre was burned and destroyed in a fire accident during the performance *Zou Mai Cheng*, in 1927.

The living style in Shanghai definitely became much more colorful, enlightened and cosmopolitan. Its reputable educational institutes could attract more elites to be its new citizens. These intelligent groups soon made the society even more advanced and wealthy. Additionally, a big group of highly educated citizens made it possible for the city to develop tertiary industries like finance and banking, transforming Shanghai into a national financial centre in China and the Far East in the early 20th century. As time went on, Shanghai grew into the incontestable metropolis we know it to be today.

After my investigation, I realised that my Dad's statement was true. Shanghai was truly the heart of China. I am fully inspired to visit Shanghai again. Armed with my newfound knowledge, I will be able to view this remarkable city with new eyes. From its humble beginnings as a small village, to a world famous megacity, the evolution of this city was greatly blessed by nature, but also filled with challenges. Challenges which could only be overcome by people's courage, prudence, dedication, and innovation. Those who contributed to the successful construction of this glorious city are definitely worth our greatest admirations!

New Tales of The Old Shanghai

Island School, Noguchi, Aika – 14

Shanghai, the largest city in China with a resident population of about 23 million is the most vibrant and fascinating city in the country of China. No other cities in China could beat the unique colonial past of “Old Shanghai”.

The term Shanghai in mandarin, 上海 means above the sea. It sits on the south edge of the mouth of the Yangtze River Delta in East China in the middle portion of the Chinese coast. As the city gained its character and personality, it was known as the cosmopolitan city, as it was familiar with many cultures and countries, it is most commonly known with its change of fashion and style and the fabrics used. The French, Americans, British, Germans and Russians arranged their recognizably different Western approach of houses, mansions and fashion which left an unending statement to all the residents living there. The quick modernization and step up of China during the first 20th century affected the ways how people in Shanghai displayed themselves.

Chinese clothing has roughly 5,000 years of history behind it but unfortunately I will only cover about 100 years back in the fashion timeline.


From foot binding to western yet traditional dresses, in the 19th centuries, Shanghai was the eye opening fashion center of China. As the Chinese National lead the country, the traditional dress developed in a broad style.

In 1911 to 1920's, Shanghai wasn't the stylish city as it was today. Foot binding was still very frequent and normal. Women's ideal foot size were about 7 centimeters or 3 inches. It was also known as “lotus feet” because after wrapping your feet in layers of gauze it was placed inside a lotus shaped shoe. There were about 3 kinds of “lotus feet”, the golden lotus with a 3 inch foot, a silver lotus with a four inch foot and the iron lotus with feet larger than 5 inches. Girls with iron lotus feet would usually be dismissed and have a smaller chance of getting married. The golden lotus was considered beautiful and fashionable in that time, it was necessary to have this when finding a husband. One of the theories for getting foot binding was when ladies misshape their feet it would restrict the women from leaving the house so they relied mostly on men which eliminates the possibility of participation in politics and having a social life.

The traditional clothing in 1920's were very loose fitting and baggy. The design had kept to the same dull style, flat and smooth lines for the chest and a slight curve in the hips. Women either wore Chinese jackets with patterns and closed collar fasting similar to the Qipao, large long sleeves matched with oversized trousers or dresses which resembles the ‘Qipao’, originally from the Manchurian but developed into a oversized pajama like dress in 1920. Towards the end of 1920 pants were replaced with maxi skirts.

From 1920 to 1930, some western styles were brought into the traditional clothing. For example, the Qipao developed into a form fitting dress to flatter their body shapes. Ladies would get the dress tailored to suit their own taste and sense of style. Sometimes women worn their tailored Qipao dress with a high cut updo waves or a low bun. The unique approach to the Qipao was advertised by Chinese movie stars. As time goes by, the Qipao popularity grew, which meant businesses and shops needed to provide more rare and expensive materials like silk, wool and satin. So as most people and companies were on some budget they found the quicker and cheaper way to provide the consumers the dresses by modifying to a cheaper textile that had still had elegant patterns.

In the Ming dynasties women bound their breasts with snugly fitted vests as a tradition and when it was 1927 a ban on it occurred, which started a movement named the “Natural Breast Movement”, another ban was on earrings because they thought that it was distracting and drew beauty from the natural body. Despite the ban, breasts bound continued in 1930. By the time it was in the 1940's the Qipao was turned



into a high cut dress with a revealed leg and shoulders, almost like what the westerners wear in summer. There were multiple variations of sleeves and collars, V necks, long sleeves, slit sleeves and ruffled collars and more. One of the most popular patterns were having various nature of florals. Some of the designs woman tailored were more risk taking and some were more of the safe choice. Many people enjoyed designing their own Qipao as they would mix up their styles with the modernized clothes and adding accessories to give the style more of a unique 'pop'. In 1949, foot binding was put an end to.

In 1950, a few people only wore the Qipao. It almost died out from the stereotypical Chinese everyday lifestyle. The dresses were more categorised as cultural clothing worn on special occasions. Many Qipao businesses and collections around Shanghai were either gotten rid of, destroyed or even burned. Women started wearing tighter and revealing clothes to emphasis their feminine curves, and as Western styles became the "new thing", the makeup and accessories that goes with it became bolder and adventurous. The popularity of the traditional Qipao dresses were introduced to Hong Kong, mostly known as the Cheongsam as Cantonese was one of the main languages in Hong Kong instead of Mandarin. Designers today are creating sophisticated and fearless Cheongsams and the new trend is the fish tail.

I Remember You

Marymount Secondary School, Lowe, Zoe Grace – 16

The early decades of the 20th century were China's identity crisis. A barrage of influences, internal and external, let loose; side effects included: revolution, strife, bloody war. In the midst of it all, Shanghai was an island – not in that circumstances were any less turbulent, but in that it absorbed every influence in stride. It took many identities. People named it the Paris of the East, the New York of the West, and so on. By the 30s, Old Shanghai was in full bloom, bearing such fruits as finance, cinema, literature, animation, sea trade, uprising. Just like the Peach–Blossom–Grove in the old fable – blossoming, breathtaking and far–removed. A thousand nicknames and analogies were slung at Shanghai by the influential crowds that passed through it, and every one stuck. Eventually, politics and culture moved back north. The world withdrew from Old Shanghai. Did a real city exist under it all?

Things change, but Shanghai is still a name that everyone knows. A national tourism group urges prospective visitors to come see Old Shanghai's 'faded grandeur', trying for excitement but coming across with nostalgia. 'For this was the Bund, where the great trading houses and banks had their headquarters!' Elsewhere on the internet, a profile on Shanghai cinema admits that it has played no real part in China's recent resurgence in film, but giddily asserts that this is, after all, where 'the pictures started moving'. 'Faded grandeur' is perhaps not just a product of mistranslation, but a fairly good metaphor. It seems these days Old Shanghai is charming the way a curious old book is, enamouring the way a luxurious antique is. When the town itself is an artifact, what do you put in the museums?


To be fair, Old Shanghai hosted its share of historical milestones. It was a hotbed of the Xinhai Revolution. It was a meeting place for intellectuals and activists. Song Jiaoren, a founder of the Kuomintang had only just led the party to victory in the parliamentary elections when he was assassinated on a train station platform. The cinematic heroes of Shanghai did not stray far from the real ones – the protagonists of many a moving picture (be they gallant Communists or daring Nationalists) had died onscreen in pursuit of glory for their cause.

Surrounding provinces were ruled by warlords, the capital by politicians, Hong Kong and Macau by colonists, but Old Shanghai had a unique 'ruling class'. Chinese merchants, businessmen from Germany, bankers from the US and Britain, starving artists from Russia and more presided over the local scene. Other places produced tea, cotton and labour – Shanghai produced movies and poetry and a fair share of propaganda, to be candid. It's a struggle to make clear what exactly about the city made it such a haven unto itself. Perhaps it was some excess Hollywood fairy dust, perhaps just the detachedness of the 'Orphan Island'.

When you look at the collage of a city you see it has kept a memory of every guest. Now, it makes memories to go. Tour guides advise you to visit the inner city at night, when the buildings look like crystal palaces, and to tour the Bund at bustling midday, so that you can imagine how it was in the old days with all the compradors running around. A little illusion is what you need to spice up your trip. They tip you off on the most authentic architecture in the French Concession, so you can feel like you're strolling down a Parisian boulevard. What's the point of it all?

Old Shanghai is made of artifacts of another time, remnants of another place, political intrigue straight off of a film reel. Its oneness was an insulator. Many of the people who came were looking for something that didn't exist anywhere else. How much was real and how much was fake? The hordes of people who once called themselves Shanghai–dwellers, what do they say when they look back at it?

In the old story, when the main character left the Peach–Blossom–Grove, he was not to tell anyone of the idyllic paradise. As legend has it, he did anyways. He and others who had heard the tale spent years searching for it afterwards, but he never found it again. Soon, people stopped looking.



Upon closer assessment, the city's nicknames get a bit romantic. A street map of Manhattan is like metal grating, building block on building block. Haussmann's Paris is a barricade of stacked arrondissements. Shanghai streets make a grid as well, but not a perfect one – one under some sort of external pressure. Blocks lay at ever-so-slightly-oblique angles. No regional government or urban planner ever took the time pen out the streets of Shanghai. This was a city thrown together by a wave of influences coming at it from every direction. The French and British and American concessions are so dazzling up close, but from afar they are bamboo scaffolding, ready to buckle under pressure. The city is tired.

Everything who passed through Old Shanghai left something there and took something away. Of the many guests it has hosted, time has been the least gracious. Perhaps it cannot boast the connections it once had, but people don't simply look at the Old City and wonder, 'where?'. Artists and merchants and men of war from every corner of the world can close their eyes, conjure up visions of neon streets in the Bund, a glowing waterfront, and recall another time. That is what has set the city apart – that even with its, and even in its 'faded grandeur', countless people look back at it and say, 'I remember you.'

Teacher of Chiang Kai Shek: "Pockmarked" Huang Jin Rong

Shanghai Singapore International School, Hsieh, Leo – 16

Living near the French concession of Shanghai, Huang Jin Rong was a classic example of the gangsters in the 19th century. Started out as an owner of a fruit store, Jin Rong got in contact with many detectives working in the French concession accepting bribes in nearby teahouses. Since he was a local Chinese, he had the skills to deal with gangsters and made many friends in teahouses. Always trying to climb the social ladder, Jin Rong tried to join the French concession gendarmerie when they announced they wanted more local Chinese to maintain order, surprisingly, he managed to join the gendarmerie at the age of 24.

The self-made detective

Jin Rong started from the bottom of the gendarmerie, following detectives to collect estate taxes and work as an enforcer of the detectives. With his hard work and dedication, he was promoted to gather intelligence on gangsters, he returned to teahouses and his connections which brought him valuable information. With these information, he helped to solve many cases of burglary and murder, however, in some cases it was him orchestrating the crime.

The owner of a local food store panicked as his shop sign got stolen. Terrified, he quickly asked neighbors if they have seen anything, one of them "tipped" the owner that Huang Jin Rong is the man you should find. The owner stormed into the police station, asking for Huang Jin Rong, and Jin Rong came out with the shop sign in perfect condition, and got his reputation of a efficient detective. In fact, Jin Rong asked one of his connection to steal it and bring it to the station, and orchestrated the incident.

Jin Rong used his position and his connection to gangsters to his advantage, he organized drug trafficking, gambling, and other businesses. Especially after he rescued the wife of a French official where he was awarded a golden medal and promoted to the only Asian captain of the gendarmerie.


Criminal Empire:

Despite not as wide known as Du YueSheng, JinRong had many connection to the green gang, helping their business in the French concession with his power in the gendarmerie, the green gang's power grew exponentially and had infiltrated into different agencies in the French concession. As one of the earliest supporters of Chiang Kai Shek and his regime, after the crash of Shanghai stock exchange in 1921, JinRong helped him to get back on his feet with generous donations. In response to his generosity, Chiang Kai Shek helped the green gang to grow in old Shanghai and also became a student of Huang JinRong.

As the pro-Japanese regime established under Wang Jingwei, JinRong refused to betray his country, and used the green gang as a tool to fight the Japanese. Using his connection, he was able to bring down many Japanese officials and organized supply raids and ambushes for KMT with his intelligence from the underworld.

New order:

As the war of resistance ended with Japanese retreat in 1945, and Huang Jin Rong at 78 years old, it seemed like the apex of his career. However, as the KMT start losing ground and eventually retreating to Taiwan, Jin Rong lost the politicians support for his empire. Despite the gradual collapse



of the green gang with Du YueSheng fleeing to Hong Kong, Jin Rong remained in Shanghai and started to reshape the green gang into a legitimate business. He published an apology letter after the PRC was established with the government finding him to be actually changing, they find JingRong to be valuable in stabilizing Shanghai. JingRong and started doing public service to try to repent on his actions, but his past caught up with him as people wanted him to pay for his sins. JingRong passed away in June 20th of 1953 at the age of 86.

Legacy:

Huang Jin Rong lived a legendary life that matches his peers such as Du YueSheng and Zhang Xiaolin, he protected the new republic in China, he became friends with Wang JinWei and Chiang KaiShek, he imported food supplies for local Chinese after Japanese occupied Shanghai, he founded one of the biggest cinemas in Shanghai and was a patriot until his death. He was fearful of his actions as he became older, and tried to repent his sins. The best gift he got from the new government was that they forgave his actions, he told his students to help the government, and he stopped illegal business completely and gave his business to the government after his death.

The Legend of Wang Ya Qiao

Shanghai Singapore International School, Kimizono, Max – 16

1 936 October 20 in GuangXi, he would never expect it was his best brother who stabbed from the back. 5 gun wounds, 3 knife, he never live to see China winning World War 2, and the victory of the party he supported at 1949. He was a gangster, an assassin but also a patriot. His Axe Clan had continued to eliminate enemies and traitors of China even after his death. Wang Ya Qiao, a man long forgotten by history, perhaps more would praise him even he had survived.

Born in Anhui, he was raised in a relatively poor family, always bullied, humiliated by the landlord. Wang developed the hatred on the upper ranks. He was intrigued by Sun's ideas and joined the rebel in a young age.

However Sun never succeeded, he was unable to take the power back from the warlords, Wang knew he had to do more to change China. Jiang Kai Shek was not the one; he is just like the others, disloyal to Sun's ideals. Wang therefore broke up with his fellow brothers, Daili (Head of intelligence for GMD) and Hu Zong Nai (top ranked general under Jiang).

At 1921, Wang came to Shanghai, he set up a trade union with more than 100000 members. It became one of the strongest gang in Shanghai after parading in front of a famous entrepreneur with axes. After so, the "Axe Clan" became the most fearsome gangster group in Shanghai. Du, Huang, Zhang (leaders of Qing Bang) had no choice but to back down against the tough force.

Wang, also turned into the most ruthless killer at that time, planning multiples assassinations of upper classes like Xu Guo Liang (head of police), Zhao Tie Qiao (Head of China Bank), Shiragawa Yashinori (Japanese general) and more importantly several attempts on taking out Jiang Kai Shek, and Wang Jin Wei (president of the pro Japanese government). As a loyal supporter of Sun and Patriot, his targets are either enemies of China or Sun's ideal.

His hatred on Jiang Kai Shek increased when Japan invaded Shanghai, the Axe Clan organized strong rebellion but was no match, Jiang chose to chase down GCD instead of retaliating the intruders. Wang chose to assassinate, as usual, hunt down this leader that does not love his country.

He had everything well planned; Jiang went to Lu Shan for vacation, leaving him vulnerable. Wang ordered his men to hide their weapons in well-packed hams and stalk Jiang. Jiang was having a walk in the woods when one of the assassins drew his weapon and busted two rounds. It was a failure. The assassin was immediately killed and buried without a trace. Jiang sent Dai Lin to investigate but there was no clue. At the same time, in Shanghai train station, Wang plotted another assassination on Jiang's diplomat, Song Zi Wen, however the assassin had mistaken and shot Song's assistant. Wang got out of both and wasn't caught.

It was until 1932 when the truth was unraveled when Dai caught one of Wang's assassins during another attempt on an officer. Dai Lin managed to interrogate and found out the truth. Jiang, knowing that Wang is a capable man ordered Dai to negotiate with Wang. He hoped Dai could use his relationship with Wang to form alliance. The negotiation failed, Wang felt that Jiang was too disloyal to follow. It was then when Wang knew that he could not stay in Shanghai anymore. After a few other tryout on taking out Jiang and Wang Jin Wei, Wang Ya Qiao flew to Hong Kong. Dai Lin, under the order of Jiang, was desperate to catch Wang.

Wang has one weakness. His care for his men, left Dai a hole to breach through. Dai bribed Xu Wan Jun, wife of Wang's assassin (caught in jail), and ordered her to contact Wang to meet up in Wuzhou. Wang accepted without hesitation. He reached XU's house at October 20 midnight, he opened the door and was ambushed by a handful of dirt. Wang was attacked by 10 agent sent by Dai Lin, he managed to break free and pull out his pistol but it was too late. He was stabbed and shot, together with Xu. at the age of 47.

The Axe Clan did not stop, they stayed active in Shanghai, together with Du Yue Sheng. They murdered the mayor of Shanghai. After the war, the clan broke down, the assassins chose to live a quiet life. Comparing to Du, Huang or Zhang, these people had live a much peaceful life. Their contribution during war was crucial and should be praised.



Non-Fiction

Group 5

Escaping Shanghai: An interview with my grandfather, Han Chin

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Chan, Nicole – 16

Sitting in his home in Kowloon, with famous Chinese paintings hanging above his chair, my grandfather, Han Chin, enjoys the cool, refreshing air from his open window. His hooded eyes stare at me, his age showing on his haggard face. The brightness of the sun shines through the window onto his limp silver hair. In front of him sits a picture of himself when he was much younger— a lean, well-dressed young boy with innocent eyes.

As he sips his steaming chrysanthemum tea, he sighs and frowns as he contemplates my question. His eyes have a far-away look as he says, “Well, well my dear granddaughter...I will start from the beginning of the journey.”

With only one sack in hand, eight year old Han Chin and his family left Shanghai, China in 1950 and escaped to Hong Kong. His dad had told him that they did not know what would happen in China because in the North, the communist government “Zhong hua,” had just come into power. His parents feared what the communist party would do. There were already many rumors circulating Shanghai about mass executions under the new party. His parents had heard that grand ballrooms such as the one at the Canidrome in the French Concession of Shanghai were now being used for executions of people known as “counter-revolutionaries.” Although Han Chin’s parents had never been politically involved, their fears about the changes in their beloved Shanghai grew greater each day. At the time, the government didn’t allow citizens to exit Shanghai, but his parents felt they had to. They were more scared of what the communist party would do than they were of breaking the government rules.


As Han Chin prepared to go, he gathered his little sack of clothes and his favorite stuffed toy. Tightening his grip on his possessions, he determined to bring his favorite items with him. He loved his house in the middle of the city, which included a staircase he liked to slide down on. His parents told him that this may be the last time he would see the house. Looking back his house as he walked away, Han Chin thought about all the memories.

“But grandfather,” I ask, “that was such a scary situation for such a little boy. What would have happened if the police caught your family?” I watch as he scrunches his eyebrows, and his wrinkles show more deeply on his forehead. He sighs, “Men, like my father needed a permit to leave to get into Hong Kong whereas women and children were exempted from needing permits at the time we left. My father didn’t have one, which made the journey even more dangerous.”

More people were arriving at the Kowloon–Canton Railway Station from different directions at the same time his family did. Only two guards stood at the station entrance, checking for the small red mark that his parents had secretly forged on the yellowed paper that his dad held. As he boarded the train and it started to pull out of the station, he heard the clanking, clattering sounds of the tracks, the screeching and grinding of the wheels, and the hum and rattling of the engine. Young Han Chin worried that the police would find out that his dad was travelling illegally. He peered around, seeing only a multitude of legs and rough, calloused hands. A sudden jerk as the train stopped, made him shudder with fear. He thought, *what is happening? Did someone find out?*

He saw a tall shadow walking towards him. The guard bellowed, “Give me your passport!” He looked at each one of Han Chin’s family members intently. Unwillingly, Han Chin’s parents handed their passports over and looked down. Han Chin’s body trembled with terror. The next thing he heard was the loud stomping of huge, raven-black boots as the guard left the carriage. His high-pitched whistle pierced Han Chin’s ear drum as he signaled the conductor of the train to start the train again.

“After several days, the train jerked and stopped abruptly at our destination,” Han Chin says. “I remember walking down the rusty steps of the train. I walked towards the China–Hong Kong border, holding my dad’s hand. It felt warm and moist, and I knew then that he was nervous but excited. When we got to the Mainland border check, the solemn-faced Chinese guards took a long time to check every single Chinese character that was on the papers.”



My grandfather looked out of the window into the distance. I could see his eyes glistening as he recalled the memory. “We were directed to the Hong Kong border to get our passports checked again. Guards that were dressed differently smiled as they opened our passports. It felt as if they were welcoming us to our new home. We crossed the border and my parents started to jump and squeal, finally revealing the excited feelings boiling inside. I shrugged. It looked exactly the same to me, just a piece of land that looked similar to Shanghai.”

His family didn’t go back to Mainland China until Han Chin was an adult. By then, Shanghai had become a breathtaking, cosmopolitan city where everyone wanted to live and experience the vibrant spirit. As Han Chin looks back at me, his eyes are very intense. “At the time, everyone wanted a new life, so we had to do what we had to do. The problem is: escaping the issue doesn’t always solve it.” Starting a new life in a foreign place where both parents had no jobs and no money, Han Chin and his family struggled and almost regretted their decision. Now an old man himself, Han Chin recalls how he fought alone to start businesses in Hong Kong and internationally. Looking at me, my grandfather smiles and then gazes at his favorite painting – one of old Shanghai.

Name is changed

Since my grandfather is extremely elderly, he is unable to remember some details, so I filled in those details as accurately as possible myself by doing historical research.

Building a Metropolis

Sha Tin College, Chan, Yi Lin Elin – 16

As the saying goes, “Rome wasn’t built in a day”. Building a successful and powerful city is not an easy task. Some of the most renowned cities in the world have endured a long history of hardship and difficulties before finally finding their foothold as a revered metropolis, just as New York is the city that never sleeps, Paris is the city of love, and Hong Kong is the city that never stops rushing. As history will tell, building a prosperous and long lasting city requires lots of different parts working as a whole, like a well oiled machine. Shanghai, the Paris of the East! Shanghai, the New York of the West! Shanghai, the most cosmopolitan city in the world, the fishing village on a mudflat that literally became a great metropolis overnight.

How is the metropolitan city evolving? Shanghai was merely a small fishing village up until 1842, after the first opium war when the British named Shanghai as one of the treaty ports that would be open to foreign trade. Under the administration of the British, French and American, Shanghai ceased to be the small fishing village it used to be and assumed its place as the leading business city in Asia with the best art, architecture and lifestyle for the rich. Despite the exploitation of lower-class Chinese for cheap labor, migrants from other parts of China were still attracted to the city. However, the glory days of Shanghai did not last long; the city weathered raids, invasions and the occupation of the Japanese in the 1930s and ‘40s. When World War II was at its height in 1943, most foreigners had fled the city, ending 101 years of Shanghai’s history as a treaty port. After WW2, fighting in China worsened during China’s three-year civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists. With the war ending in the Communist’s victory, the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”) was established. Most, if not any, remaining foreigners or middle to upper class Chinese businessmen fled the country.

As the Communist party took over, Shanghai’s exotic lifestyle fell into a deep slumber. Despite extreme famine and drought, reform and suppression, Shanghai remained the largest contributor of tax revenue to the central government in the decades that followed. Finally, in 1992, the 14th Party Congress endorsed the concept of a socialist market economy, reviving the economy, beauty and charm of Shanghai. Once again, Shanghai was redefined by the internationalism it had first achieved a century ago. Shanghai’s power was so recognizable that in 1990, Deng Xiaoping – China’s leader at the time – chose Shanghai to rival Hong Kong by 2010. The Shanghai World Expo in 2010 elevated the city onto the global stage again.

Today, with a population of 24 million as of 2015, Shanghai represents only 1.8% of the total population in China and 0.07% of the nation’s land area. Yet, Shanghai contributes to 3.7% of the nation’s GDP, one-fifth of the country’s port cargo handling volume and one-eighth of national financial revenue. It is a global city with substantial influence in commerce, culture, finance, media, fashion, technology and transport. It is a major financial center and the busiest container port in the world.

Shanghai is an international financial center with Chinese characteristics. Starting from the first public display of electric lighting on the 26th of July 1882, the Bund has been one of the most noted landmarks of Shanghai. The Chinese literal translated name for the Bund means the “outer bank”, referring to the Huangpu River, because this part of the riverfront was located further downstream than the “inner bank” area adjacent to the old walled city of Shanghai. The Bund is the starting point of Shanghai’s concession as well as Shanghai’s development as a modern city.

The Bund stretches for one mile along the bank of the Huangpu River, to the west of this stretch of the road stand 52 buildings of various Western classical and modern styles, most of the buildings were first constructed before 1930s and have since hardly undergone any changes. Their architectural style is generally considered Eclecticism, with some buildings predominantly displaying Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, Renaissance Revival, Baroque Revival, Neo Classical or Beaux-Arts styles and Art Deco style. Most of the buildings along No. 1 to 33 of East Zhongshan Road are occupied by banks, with the remaining being commercial buildings housing national organizations, restaurants, clubs, shops, etc. The old Hong Kong & Shanghai bank building at No. 12 was once the most potent symbol of British financial might in the Far East. Nowadays, the Bund is not only a tourist attraction but also the centre of international finance, earning the fame of “Oriental Wall Street”.

The financial district has since extended across the river to Pudong. Along the riverside are modern buildings including the tallest skyscraper in China – Shanghai Tower, which is 632 m tall with 128 floors. It is currently the

second tallest in the world. Most of the buildings along the river side are filled with banks, finance and insurance companies. The Shanghai Stock Exchange, the world's 5th largest stock market by market capitalization at US\$3.5 trillion as of February 2016, is also located in Pudong. After its closure following the establishment of the PRC, the stock exchange was finally re-established on November 26, 1990 after a 41-year hiatus. However, unlike the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, it is still not entirely open to foreign investors due to tight capital account controls imposed by the mainland authorities. These decisions are subject to manipulation by the Central Government with little to no transparency.

Apart from the financial industry, Shanghai is also hailed as the centre of fashion in China. From Mao Suits to Victoria Beckham, the city is on track to becoming the Fashion Capital of the Orient.

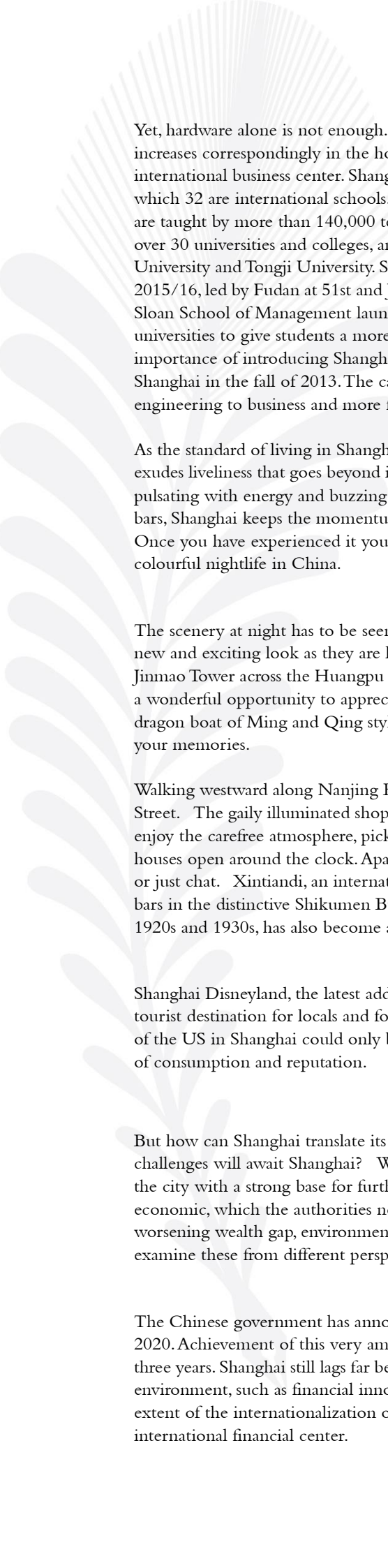
The Shanghai fashion story found its roots in 1843 when it was opened as a commercial port. It quickly became one of the first cities to be exposed to western thoughts and cultures, including fashion. It was the first city that dared to try something new. The iconic "Cheongsam / Qipao", which remains the most recognized symbol of the Shanghai fashion scene, is a perfect example of "east meets west". Modernized from the traditional Manchurian qipao, the new style contrasts sharply with its inspiration which was designed to intentionally conceal the figure and be worn regardless of age. The Shanghai qipao went along well with the western overcoat and the scarf, portraying a unique East Asian modernity and epitomizing the boldness of the Shanghaiese population. The Shanghaiese styles have seen a recent revival of stylish party dresses and the fashion industry has been rapidly revitalized in the past decade. When China's first lady Peng Liyuan wore a cobalt blue qipao-style knee length dress during her visit to Spain in 2016, her attire was praised by international media for its elegance and dignified image. Her style has quickly become a fashion statement which is now widely followed by Chinese women across the country and even overseas.

Besides nurturing its own unique designs, Shanghai is the target of global luxury brands like Hermes and Louis Vuitton as well as affordable brands such as Zara and H&M. Shanghai Fashion Week, held in April and October, is a major semi-annual business and cultural event of national class hosted by the Shanghai Municipal Government. The event, where many renowned international designers present their latest work, has become a venue for designers targeting the Chinese market. However, the primary purpose is to showcase homegrown Chinese designers. If Michelle Obama has Jason Wu, Peng has mainland designer Ma Ke, who is the head of the Exception de Mixmind label! As a result, more and more Chinese designers are exploring the international fashion world.

Shanghai was the birthplace of Chinese cinema when motion pictures were introduced to China in 1896. The first Chinese film, *The Battle of Dingjunshan*, was made in November 1905. In 1909, Asia Film Company, which is China's first film company, was established in Shanghai as a joint venture between American businessman Benjamin Polaski, Chinese comprador Zhang Shichuan, and Chinese theatrical talent Zhen Zhengqiu. Shanghai's film industry went on to blossom during the early 1930s, generating Marilyn Monroe-like stars such as Zhou Xuan. Shanghai's film industry continued to develop into the bright star in the world film industry that it is today. Shanghai is no longer simply a film backdrop for foreign blockbuster movies; it has developed into an incubator for original content and a center for film shooting and post-production.

Furthermore, the Shanghai international film festival is gaining acclaim as one of the biggest film festivals in Asia. SIFF focuses on awards, markets, forums and film exhibitions, with the goal to build an international platform, and promote the development of the Chinese film industry as well as the exchange and cooperation between Chinese and foreign films. In recent years, with the growth of China's economic strength and the rise of its international status, Chinese films have attracted more and more attention from a global audience. SIFF, held in June annually, has become a great event for filmmakers worldwide, whose universal industry appeal and international influence on the world's multicultural film culture and development of the film industry have also been praised by people inside and outside the industry.

Have you ever wondered how everything you buy from China comes to your country? It is thanks to Shanghai's comprehensive infrastructure development. The Port of Shanghai, which covers the size of 470 football pitches and handles more than 736 million tonnes of cargo annually, is the busiest port in the world and will remain so with China's breakneck economic growth. Shanghai also has two international airports, something no other city in China can boast. Pudong International Airport handles 60% of flights, while the remaining 40% uses Hongqiao International Airport. As one of the main Chinese airline hubs, the city has opened connections with nearly two hundred cities, half domestic and half international. Direct flights connect the city with dozens of international air terminals, facilitating both business and leisure travel.



Yet, hardware alone is not enough. As the city continues to develop, the need for education, the ‘software’, increases correspondingly in the hope that the next generation will further Shanghai’s reputation as a leading international business center. Shanghai has more than 930 kindergartens, 1200 primary and 850 middle schools of which 32 are international schools. Over 760,000 middle schools students and 871,000 primary school students are taught by more than 140,000 teaching staff. Shanghai is a major center of higher education in China with over 30 universities and colleges, among them prestigious names such as Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Tongji University. Six universities in Shanghai were featured in the QS World University Ranking 2015/16, led by Fudan at 51st and Jiao Tong at 70th. Joint programs, such as the Fudan IMBA program with MIT Sloan School of Management launched in 1996, were created between the world’s top universities and Shanghai universities to give students a more global perspective. Representing the need for internationalism and the importance of introducing Shanghai to up-and-coming leaders, New York University opened a campus in Shanghai in the fall of 2013. The campus now offers a wide range of courses, from literature and art to engineering to business and more for 900 full time students and 125–150 semester study-away students.

As the standard of living in Shanghai improves, so too the quality of life. Being a city that never sleeps, Shanghai exudes liveliness that goes beyond its daytime activity. At night, the city’s clubs and bars are its heartbeat, positively pulsating with energy and buzzing with excitement. From the seediest watering holes to sophisticated lounge bars, Shanghai keeps the momentum going well into the night with some of the trendiest nightspots in Asia. Once you have experienced it yourself, you will understand why Shanghai is dubbed the city with the most colourful nightlife in China.

The scenery at night has to be seen and the Bund is a must. The ornate classical and modern buildings take on a new and exciting look as they are lit up by an abundance of coloured lights. The Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower across the Huangpu River are a magical sight. During night-time, Huangpu River Cruise presents a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the nightlife on the Bund. Whether you are on a deluxe boat, an ancient dragon boat of Ming and Qing styles or even Shikumen style of old Shanghai, the sight will forever remain in your memories.

Walking westward along Nanjing East Road, you will quickly reach the famous Nanjing Road Pedestrian Street. The gaily illuminated shops are an exciting backdrop to the cheerful crowds who come here after dark to enjoy the carefree atmosphere, pick up a bargain or enjoy a tasty morel. Although most shops close at 10pm, tea houses open around the clock. Apart from enjoying a lone taste of tea, you can invite several friends to play cards or just chat. Xintiandi, an international gallery of fashion shops, themed restaurants, coffee houses and open-air bars in the distinctive Shikumen Buildings spotting architectural styles from both the east and west from the 1920s and 1930s, has also become a popular venue for young people to discuss work or talk about life.

Shanghai Disneyland, the latest addition to the megacity, further confirmed the significance of Shanghai as a tourist destination for locals and foreign visitors. The decision by Disney to build its fourth theme park outside of the US in Shanghai could only be viewed as a vote of confidence in the potential of the Chinese city in terms of consumption and reputation.

But how can Shanghai translate its success and prestige today into the driving force behind tomorrow? What challenges will await Shanghai? While the rapid economic growth of Shanghai in the last 35 years has provided the city with a strong base for further development, it has also created a lot of hidden problems, both social and economic, which the authorities need to address. The list goes on: competitiveness nationally and globally, a worsening wealth gap, environmental degradation, large scale migration from the countryside into the city. Let’s examine these from different perspectives.

The Chinese government has announced a clear goal for Shanghai to become an international financial center by 2020. Achievement of this very ambitious target depends on both the Chinese and global economy for the next three years. Shanghai still lags far behind global financial centres such as London, New York and Tokyo in its “soft” environment, such as financial innovation and products, rule of law, free capital flows and human capital. The extent of the internationalization of the renminbi will also play a critical role in positioning Shanghai as an international financial center.

The cost of living in Shanghai has surged, catching up with and even surpassing its global peers. To combat surging property prices, the government has implemented a series of countermeasures, including a 70% down payment requirement of second homes. For the masses, owning a property in Shanghai has become an impossible dream.

The fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in 2015 put forward five development ideas of innovation, coordination, green development, opening-up and sharing. Sustainable growth, not at the expense of the environment, is the goal. Accordingly, Pudong will pursue an innovation-driven, more balanced and green economy. Innovation quality and efficiency will replace investment speed and scale. The community will also play a more active role in the process. Naturally, slower growth will be inevitable.

With Shanghai currently operating at its peak, what could be expected in the future? Although Shanghai is a key player in China's economy, it is important to remember that it is not the only player. At present, Shanghai faces competition all around, from not only China but also the rest of Asia. As a result of rising costs in Shanghai, some businesses may opt to move their non-mission critical functions to other lower-cost cities. Shenzhen, for example, is a formidable competitor. The recent linkage between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges will give companies, especially those in the tech sector, an incentive to list on the Shenzhen Exchange over the Shanghai Exchange. After all, Shenzhen is slowly becoming the Silicon Valley of China. More entrepreneurs may choose to build their business in Shenzhen to be closer to the technology hub. The Port of Yantian in Shenzhen is currently the third largest container port in the world by volume, just two places behind Shanghai. Korea is building a reputation as an up-and-coming fashion capital, rivaling the progress Shanghai has made. The US\$8 billion Qingdao Studio of tycoon Wang Jianlin promises to take the spotlight away from Shanghai. The recent One Belt, One Road initiative of the central government will begin to redirect attention and resources from the coastal region towards the inland and the west as Deng Xiaoping had intended when China began its economic reforms.

So how will Shanghai maintain its leading position in China as more versions of Shanghai show up on China's map? The rise and fall of cities throughout the history of human civilisation may suggest that there is no guaranteed formula for success. It will be up to the next generation of leaders to develop the vision and strategy necessary to take Shanghai to the next level. They will have to tackle urbanisation of a magnitude never seen before. They will have to seek out growth opportunities most suitable for the megacity. They will have to balance the growth with the preservation of the environment. Most of all, they will have to ensure that all citizens, rich or poor, reap the benefits of prosperity. Perhaps, instead of rivalling the up-and-coming cities around China, Shanghai should cooperate with these cities so that Shanghai may continue to grow with its glorious past and build a stable future with the rest of China.

(2998 words)

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Shanghai Glamour

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The Extravagance of Old Shanghai

Humble, at the same time extravagant, and at its heart overflowing with style. She is defined with elegance, while embracing tradition with open arms – this is the spirit of Old Shanghai; the fusion between the new and the classical, and where western style begins to meet the east.

Nanjing Road

Endless cars passing like the flow of water, shopfronts glimmering in neon lights... When speaking of Shanghai, the mention of Nanjing Road is unavoidable. Located in the city center, and extending from the Bund to Xizang Road – it remains to be the main and most popular shopping street in the whole of Shanghai. So then you may ask: how did this all come to be?

Curiously, Nanjing Road had its beginnings with a race of horses. In the 19th century, businessmen from the west began to see immense economic potential in Shanghai, and many decided to settle in the city. With an influx of westerners followed a spread of leisure culture from the west to the local people of Old Shanghai – and horse-racing became a part of this. A racetrack was consequently established near the Bund, spanning around 500m. This marks the beginning of Nanjing Road.

To local Chinese residents, this track was known as “ma lu” – which when directly translated, means “Horse Road”; this is now also the colloquial expression for the main road of any street. When “Shanghai Jockey Club” was established around this area, “Horse Road” was remodeled to become the entrance road to the club building, and was renamed to be “Park Lane”. The club included a large garden, and an encircling lane for horseracing; this not only provided a new source of entertainment, but also had the enticing prospect of winning money. Thus, it gained popularity fast with locals – and this area soon became the entertainment hub of the city.

Afterwards, high-end department stores began to emerge, eight in total, along with numerous franchised shops. Many western restaurants appeared around the area as well. Every weekend, or whenever a horse race occurred, street-hawkers would line the sidewalks, as the street bustled with people! Subsequently, the road underwent its second name change: when the Municipal Council officially named it as “Nanjing Road”. And as the city prospered, the road was further widened – with an increasing number of high-end stores, becoming even more lively and hectic (especially at night!).

Poster Commercials, Beautiful Women

Another mark of the full glamour of Old Shanghai would be poster commercials of the time. Poster commercials were hand-drawn advertisements, including: bold imagery of women in their swimsuits, women in long qipao, film stars, singing stars, extravagant beauty. Focused on indulgence and the luxury life, commercials of the time became synonymous with beautiful women, and only depicted the most fashionable clothing and hair.

The sweeping reach attained by all poster commercials is simply astounding: they were seen all over the streets of Shanghai, where the painted pieces of beautiful women and the advertised product (often tobacco, cosmetics) lined the walls. Complementing their commercial purpose, the posters were drawn with such detail that their

beauty could be appreciated as artwork. In addition to this, everybody, no matter their social status, were able to view – turning it into the most accessible form of art. Some were given along when the product was purchased, and most were placed on the windows of the most prominent stores, or even as wall art inside the homes of the people!

A Girl's Pursuit of Indulgence

With western shops scattered all over Old Shanghai, ladies in the city were introduced to the charm of western fashion, and this radically altered their perception of beauty. Shopping culture was on the rise, and the excessive, materialist lifestyle became all the more alluring. Below is a glimpse on the little things Shanghai girls adored!

The Brilliance of Makeup – A Lady's Must-haves in Old Shanghai

To have hair like a dream of cloud, to glimmer under the sight of others... No matter where the girl is from, or what her background is, she desires in some way to be beautiful, and has the right to dress herself up as such. Here is the allure of makeup: on the bare face of an ordinary girl, with a few touches here and there, red lipstick vibrant as day... Look at her now! The ordinary girl has thus transformed into a princess!

When a lady sits in front of her dressing table, and opens her makeup box, what would she find inside? In Old Shanghai, she would always see: a powder compact, a tub of snowflower cream, a little jar of lipstick, and a bottle of perfume. In those days, there were no foundation, concealer, or whatever else we have today – thus perfumed loose powder became the base product of all looks, and occupied a designated space in the tables of all ladies.

Just these few items was more than enough for a beautiful makeover, and a bump of confidence! And where would she have bought all this? None other than the four big department stores: sincere, wingan, xinxin, huiluo. The first two: sincere and wingan, still have branches in Hong Kong and other parts of China to this day.

The Splendid Heels of Shanghai Women

By the end of the Qing dynasty, the practice of foot binding was completely abolished. Once seen as a symbol of beauty, women from all social classes sought “3 inch golden lotus” feet – which entailed the practice of binding their feet from young, undergoing great pain to prevent growth and maintain the smallest feet possible.

Thankfully, with change in the feminine beauty ideal, women no longer sought “lotus” feet, and were instead attracted by a new, less painful trend – high-heel shoes.

In those times, if a lady were to seek a charming outfit for her party, it would normally consist of – a one piece qipao, matched with the most beautiful high-heel shoes. Not too different from today, when visiting an Old Shanghai department store, a lady would be able to find: Peep-toe heels, the mary jane style, those with a butterfly ribbon on the tips, rounded and resembling the crescent of the moon... there are too many to be listed!

High-heel shoes became the must-have for all socialites and ladies of Shanghai – to go to all sorts of parties and dinners, and to present themselves glamorously. By the time a girl turned 16, she would no doubt already have owned her first pair of high-heels. This was the extent of which they were sought-after and adored.

The Importance of Chic Hair

A chic girl will never disregard her hair! With shifting trends and advancements in technology, along with the emergence of high-priced salons in the Bund from the 30s onwards, ladies were able to transform their hair to a variety of new styles. Referring to Hollywood stars as their style icons, they began to sport longer and more voluminous hairstyles – a marked change from the short bob cut inspired by the 1920s revolution.

Using fire-tongs as tools, they created waves in their hair, just like actresses in the movies. This trend spiked with the electric curler's appearance in the 40s, and by then, women were spotted in the street with hair in a large variety of styles: dramatic curls resembling the waves of the ocean, smaller curls like dough-sticks, big, luxurious hair, and much more.

With all this said, from the crowded streets, to the luxury department stores, to the indulgent pursuit of beauty... When Old Shanghai is imagined, there is an image of immense vibrancy: an elaborate convergence point for both western and Chinese influences, and a burst of culture. In reminder of all that it was, may the extravagance and reverence of this glorious past, and the glamour of Old Shanghai – be forever remembered.