



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, 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.

If you have a chance to visit the terracotta warriors, I am sure you will find them amazing too.



Non-Fiction

Group 2

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 of companies go there to build factories and buildings 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.

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!



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 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 out broke of hyperinflation also made people 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!



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!

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 Jing Rong is the man you should find. The owner stormed into the police station, asking for Huang Jing Rong, and Jing Rong came out with the shop sign in perfect condition, and got his reputation of a efficient detective. In fact, Jing Rong asked one of his connection to steal it and bring it to the station, and orchestrated the incident.

Jing 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.



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.

Shanghai Glamour

Singapore International School, Tam, Andrea – 16

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.