

Another Nankai friend is ZHANG Ji-Yuan 张纪元. He lives now in Nanjing. But we have not seen each other for 62 years.

He was in the same year in Nankai with me, but not in the same class. After war, he also went to Nanjing, and attended Jing Ling Middle School, but again not in the same class. We were not very close. He is a native son of Nanjing, and lived with his mother.

He had a good friend ZHANG Xiao Xiang 张孝祥 in Jing Ling. ZXX 's father was at that time the Minister of Interior in the Central Government. Early in 1949, JY went with XX' s family to Taiwan. JY did not live with XX' s family. Somehow an empty warehouse was available to XX's family, and JY lived there by himself. Not that many friends from Nankai and Jing Ling were in Taipei. So we often got together even though we were not in the same school there.

JY was also fond of literature and writing. At that time, Central Daily News, the KMT official organ, had just moved from Nanjing to Taipei. One day, I noticed in it the appearance of a serial of a romantic novel with an exotic title. It was about the love story of an interpreter-officer in the Sino-American army stationed in the jungle in India with a local girl during the 2nd World War. It was a rather charming novella. I mentioned this novel to JY and wondered who could be the author. He said that he wrote that.

A young writer, PAN Lei 潘垒 who later became fairly well-known in Taiwan, had just arrived and started a literary magazine "Treasure Island Literature" 宝岛文艺. He asked JY to be on the editorial board, and had JY' s essay to be the first article on the first issue of the magazine.

Soon, it was time for our graduation from high school. Although JY's Chinese was very good, he was almost totally ignorant in mathematics. He would get zero mark for mathematics in college entrance examinations in Taiwan.

At that time, CHIEN Mu 钱穆 had just established XinYa College 新亚书院 in Hong Kong. Their entrance requirement in mathematics was very low. So JY left Taipei for Hong Kong and enrolled in XinYa in 1950.

We heard that he did not stay in Hong Kong long. After a year or two, he went back to Mainland. One reason was probably because his mother was in Nanjing. Nothing further was heard from him.

One day in 1980's, I received a call from a man. He said that he was a younger brother of JY, and he somehow got the phone number from a friend. He was in New York, working in the office of Chinese Delegates' Mission to the United Nations. The next time I went to New York, I called on JY's brother.

JY' s brother and his wife both worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His wife Xu Er Wei 徐尔维 was a fairly high ranking official. She was one of the interpreters present when the American scholar Roxane Witke interviewed Chiang Ch' ing 江青 in 1972. After PRC replaced

ROC in the United Nations, she was given the post as supervisor for all the Chinese interpreters in UN. Her husband was allowed to come to New York to work in the Chinese Delegation to UN.

I learned from JY's brother the skeleton of JY's experience after his return from Hong Kong. He was first sent to work in Northeast. Then he became a rightist. Later he settled in Huai Yin teaching Chinese in a teacher's college. He was married and had children.

I wrote to JY, and told him things about our mutual friends. In 1990's, I learned that he had retired and moved to Nanjing, and had a home phone. So I called him. He said that he was almost completely blind. He had almost never done any creative literary writings after he returned to Mainland.

I often thought about going to Nanjing to visit him, but somehow had not done yet.

=====

张纪元是我在南开的另一个朋友，现在住在南京。我们已经 62 年没有见面。

在南开，他跟我同级而不同班。战后他也到了南京，而且也读金陵中学，可又不同班。我们不算关系特别密切的。他是南京本地人，跟他妈妈住。

在金陵中学他有个好朋友，叫张孝祥。张孝祥的父亲时任中央政府内政部长。1949 年初，纪元跟着孝祥一家去了台湾。纪元不住在孝祥家，孝祥家当时有个空的库房，纪元就自己住在那儿。在台北，南开中学和金陵中学的朋友并不太多，所以我们尽管此时不同校，倒还常常聚到一起。

纪元也喜欢文学和写作。那时候，国民党的中央日报刚从南京搬到台北。有一天，我注意到它刊载了一篇连载的罗曼蒂克小说，有异国情调的篇名。小说讲的是二战中驻扎在印度丛林一支中美部队的翻译官跟一位当地女孩之间的爱情故事。这是一篇满吸引人的中篇小说。我跟纪元提到这篇小说，在猜想谁会是作者。结果他说就是他写的。

一位年轻作家潘垒，他后来在台湾相当出名，那时刚到台湾，创办了文学杂志《宝岛文艺》。他邀请纪元做编委，并用纪元的文章作为创刊号的开卷之作。

很快就到我们中学毕业。尽管纪元中文很棒，可数学几乎完全不通，要是参加台湾的联考，他数学会得 0 分。

当时，钱穆在香港刚开办新亚书院，那里数学入学要求很低，于是纪元就于 1950 年去香港就读新亚书院。

我们听说他在香港没待多久。一两年以后，他回到大陆。一个可能的原因是他妈妈在南京。此后，就再没有他的消息。

1980 年代的一天，我接到个电话。打电话的人自称是纪元的弟弟，是从朋友那里拿到我号码的。他在纽约，在联合国中国代表团工作。于是，下一次去纽约时，我去找了纪元的弟弟。

纪元的弟弟和弟媳都在外交部工作，弟媳徐尔维官阶相当高。美国学者 Roxane Witke 1972 年采访江青的时候，她是现场的翻译之一。中华人民共和国取代中华民国出席联合国之后，她被委任为联合国中文翻译部的负责人，她丈夫也获准派驻纽约联合国的中国代表团工作。

我从纪元弟弟那里大致获悉他从香港回去后的经历。一开始是到东北工作，然后划了右派。之后安排到淮阴，在一个教师学院教语文。他结了婚，有了孩子。

我给纪元写信，告诉他我们共同的朋友们的事情。1990 年代，我得知他退休，住在南京，家里有电话。于是我就给他打电话。他说自己基本上完全瞎了，回到大陆后基本上完全没有写任何创造性的文学作品。

我经常想着去南京见他，但至今还没有成行。