

Later, when I had a bicycle, I sometimes would explore the neighborhood. The western part of the city, a little beyond the western end of Yi He Road, was a large undeveloped area. Going southwest, near the end of the paved road was the Jinling Women's University 金女大. It was a lovely campus, with lawns, trees, and palace-like buildings. Further west, the gravel roads climbed gently, and then there was the Qing Liang Hill 清凉山.

On Qing Liang Hill, there was the Qing Liang Temple 清凉寺. It was an old temple built in 10th century. There was also a lovely three storied old building Sao Ye Pavilion 扫叶楼 which was built by an artist three hundred years ago. The temple and the pavilion as well as the surroundings were heavily damaged during the Japanese occupation. So the place was rather deserted and was not a popular place for visit by the public.

In contrast to Qing Liang Temple, the Ji Ming Temple 鸡鸣寺 was very popular in Nanjing. Situated on a hill close to National Central University, it was adjacent to the city wall. Beyond the city wall was the Xuan Wu Lake 玄武湖. One could walk easily from the temple onto the city wall and enjoy the view of the lake. There was also a three storied pavilion in the temple, Hua Meng Lou 豁蒙楼. They served tea there, and the interior walls were full of paintings and calligraphies of celebrated artists and dignitaries.

But I rather liked Sao Ye Lou than Hua Meng Lou. Sao Ye Lou was quiet. Its aging look and desolation had a special kind of beauty. I went back for a brief visit in 1979. I could not get inside the building. The temple and the pavilion had become a factory during the Cultural Revolution. They were just starting to restore it for the purpose of tourism. I climbed up the hill. The nearby city wall was no longer there, and you could see the masts of the boats on the Qing Huai River 秦淮河. There used to be nothing in the neighborhood. Now there was the huge campus of the Nanjing College of Hydraulic Engineering, later renamed as Hehai University.

Beyond Qing Liang Hill, My bicycle ride would lead me to an unexpected countryside. There were rice fields, orchards, farm houses among bamboos, all within the city wall. I had read an essay about the Xiao Pan Gu 小盘谷, where some intellectuals took refuge at the end of Ming Dynasty. This must be the place. I believe this area must have now been transformed into a modern urban district.

Sometimes in the summer, I might bicycle to Xuan Wu Lake. I would take a reclining chair from a tea house, and lie down under the shade of the bamboos. The air was hot and humid. But lying there without thinking of anything was indeed very relaxing.

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后来，有了一辆自行车之后，我有时候会在周围转悠。颐和路西头再过去的城西部分，是一大片没有开发的地区。往西南走，快到铺好马路的尽头，有金陵女子大学（金女大）。金女大的校园很可爱，有草地、树木、宫殿式建筑。再往西，有一条平缓上升的石子路，直通清凉山。

清凉山上，有座清凉寺。这是一座建于 10 世纪的古庙。还有一座三层小楼叫扫叶楼，是三百年前一个艺术家盖的。日占期间，古庙和扫叶楼以及周围的建筑都遭受严重破坏，因此这个地方基本上荒废了，也没有多少公众前来参观。

与清凉寺相反，鸡鸣寺在南京是旅游胜地。它坐落在国立中央大学边的山上，靠近台城。城墙下就是玄武湖。从庙里很容易走到城墙上，观赏玄武湖。这庙里也有一座三层高的楼，叫豁蒙楼。楼上有茶座，墙上满是出自著名艺术家和名流的书法绘画。

但我还是喜欢叶楼胜过豁蒙楼。扫叶楼很安静，它的沧桑和凄凉自有一种独特的美。1979 年我又短暂游历过此处。文化大革命期间，庙和楼曾经成了一个工厂，那会儿刚开始重新装修用于开发旅游。我爬上山坡，城墙已经不见了，可以看到秦淮河上的船桅。那周围本来什么都没有的，现在成了南京水利工程学院的校园，该校后来更名为河海大学。

翻过清凉山，我骑车出乎意料的会到达一片村野，有稻田、果园、竹林中的农舍，这些都在城墙里面。我曾读过一篇关于小盘谷的文章，其中讲到明末有些遗老隐居在小盘谷，应该就是这个地方。我想，现在这里一定是改造成现代化的市区了。

夏天的时候，我有时会骑到玄武湖。找一把茶座的躺椅，躺在竹影底下，空气又热又湿，但躺着什么都不想实在是非常惬意的。