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GEOGRAPHY IN COLOUR

**A Journey
in China** G.44

BY J. A. LAUWERYS

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Geography in Colour

A JOURNEY IN CHINA

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INTRODUCTION

The photographs used in this filmstrip were taken by the Author on a tour of China in 1957. On this tour he entered China from Manchuria. After visiting Peking, he travelled by air to Sian-Fu, and subsequently southwards to Chungking. From there he went by river steamer down the Yangtze to Hankow. The filmstrip follows this route.

The Author also made a study of co-operative farming; the filmstrip CGA:B772 Co-operative Farming in China is based on his photographs.

The Land

China is larger than Europe. It stretches up to a maximum of 2,500 miles from the Pacific to the Himalayas and 1,500 miles from the heights of the Gobi desert to the South China Seas. It descends in gigantic steps from the Tibetan plateau, through the fertile loess highlands of the middle Yellow River, to the alluvial plain of North China.

Draw a line from Peking to Hainan Island: east of the line the highest land is less than 10,000ft. West of it, the land is seldom lower than 3,500ft and the mountains rise up to Everest's 29,000ft, just beyond the southern frontier.

The coast line, on the Pacific and South China Seas, is some 5,000 miles long and very varied: south of Hangchow Bay the hills come down to the sea and there are many beautiful bays and cliffs. North of Shanghai, the coast is mainly flat and dull, providing few good harbours. In spite of the long coastline, China, of course, is mainly a continental mass and the great majority of people have never seen the sea.

The climate is strongly continental. The 'rainy season' lasts from April to September in the south and from June to August in the north. Two thirds of the annual rainfall in the north and about half in the south falls in the

three summer months. In summer the whole country is so overheated that even in the north - Peking and further - temperatures of over 90°F are common. Along the Yangtze, in particular, summer is almost unbearable: hot and damp, day and night. In winter, the temperature varies greatly. It never gets really cold - seldom below 50°F - around Canton in the south. But along the Amur river and the China-Soviet border in the north, the temperature is below 50°F for eight months in the year. In the north and inland, winter is very severe: ponds freeze, snow covers the land. In fact, the climate of the Peking region is much like that of central Canada.

On the whole, the further north one goes, the smaller the rainfall. South of the Yangtze no region gets less than 30ins of rain a year - in southern Tibet, the rainfall is over 80ins and between Canton and Shanghai, along the coast, it is about 60ins. Round about Peking and north of Peking as well as between the Yellow River and the Yangtze, it is between 20ins and 30ins. Further north and west, it gradually diminishes and the land becomes a steppe or even a desert.

There are many rivers and, in their lower reaches, they carry tremendous volumes of water - hence the problem of flood control. The two biggest rivers are the Yangtze and the Yellow River, which both rise in the Chinghai province and discharge into the ocean about 500 miles apart. The Yangtze is the fifth longest river in the world - 3,500 miles long - and its catchment basin is more than seven times the area of the British Isles. The flow of water is even and the river is navigable for a great distance. The Yellow River, 3,000 miles long, has a catchment basin about three times the area of the British Isles. It is yellow in colour because it carries so much silt. It is not easily navigable, because of the treacherous currents and sand banks.

The People

Of the 600,000,000 people - about twelve times the population of Great Britain - about 80% live in the

eastern, wetter half of the country, since they depend upon agriculture. Wheat is the predominant crop of the north, where people eat noodles and steamed bread, and where farm work stops in the ice-bound winter. In the south, rice is the staple food and cultivation goes on all the year round. In the farthest south (Kwangsi and Kwantung) the climate is quite tropical; three grain crops and seven vegetable crops can be grown every year. One finds bananas and sugar cane being produced as well as rice and tobacco. In north central China, wheat, millet, and sorghum are cultivated as well as apples, pears, plums and apricots.

About 94% of the population are what we, in Britain, call Chinese. They themselves speak of the Hans. Although they think themselves one nation, they do differ quite markedly in appearance. The southerners are shorter and somewhat darker than the northerners.

The remaining 6% - about 35,000,000 people - occupy more than half the territory. They speak quite different languages, dress differently, have their own songs and customs. They are divided into at least 45 different 'nationalities' which are often separately administered. Ten of these nationalities number more than a million: the Chuangs (in Kwangsi province); the Uighurs (Sinkiang); the Huis; the Yis; the Tibetans; the Miaos; the Manchus; the Mongolians; the Puyis; the Koreans. These minority populations, incidentally, in many cases speak languages which have no affinity to Chinese; some of them resemble European languages more than they do Chinese.

About 100,000,000 Chinese consider themselves Buddhists. There are 10,000,000 Muslims, 3,000,000 Catholics, 700,000 Protestants and 20,000 Taoist priests and nuns. All of them are free to practice their religion, though the Government does not now support religion beyond keeping beautiful and historic temples and shrines in good repair.

In contrast to Britain and northern Europe, most of the Chinese live in villages of which there are more than

half-a-million and get their living by cultivating the land. In England, four people out of ten live in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants and few have to do without urban facilities such as good roads, cars, telephones, cinemas, running water. In China, fewer than one in ten live in cities; nine out of ten live in a very simple way far from all city comforts. The Chinese home seems to our eyes a bare and not very comfortable place. There is no fireplace to sit round; fires are used for cooking, not for heating. In cold weather everybody simply puts on more and warmer clothes: a coat padded with cotton wool. Occasionally, in the north, fires are lit under the brick stove-bed and a small charcoal brazier may be provided for the feet. There is very little furniture. Only the well-to-do have carpets or chairs: usually there are benches or stools.

As said above, the main food in the north is steamed bread - looking like white buns - or noodles; in the south, well cooked rice. Each person gets a bowl - which will be refilled - and eats with chopsticks. On the table will be placed from three to six rather small basins containing turnips, carrots, beans or other vegetables, bits of fish, eggs, meat balls - all of them cooked in delicious gravy. These are mainly used to flavour the rice or bread or noodles. There is no sugar, no butter, no milk. Vegetable oil is used in preparing the flavoured dishes. It sounds simple - and it does save washing up - and it is always excellent and full of flavour.

Of course, from time to time - for a wedding or at New Year - there is a feast with twenty or thirty courses and then very little rice or bread is eaten. It is then that rare and very expensive delicacies are served - such as shark's fin soup, bird's nest soup, ancient eggs (preserved in lime) and so on. Incidentally, the flavour of these famous specialities fully justifies their reputation!

A fairly typical home in the country would consist of an open courtyard, flanked with store rooms for tools and

crops. In front is the main living room of the house, where people sit and eat. From this room you would be able to move into two or three others which would be bedrooms. One or more of them might be used by the son of the house as a room for himself, his wife and children. Above the main room is a loft, where you would almost certainly find a coffin, all ready for the Head of the Household who would think it a great comfort to know that his body will be decently buried.

Culture

The Chinese have tremendous respect for learning and education. Traditionally, the scholars were the highest of the four classes - the others being the farmers, craftsmen and merchants. Perhaps, in part, this came from the difficulty of learning to read and to write the Chinese language. It is not like ours, or other European languages, an attempt to write phonetically; that is to represent each sound by a written shape. Each Chinese character stands for a distinct idea (or word). Thus, for example, 人 stands for 'man'; 口 for mouth; 田 for field. These characters would at once be recognised by a Chinese, anywhere, or by a Japanese or Korean. In different parts of China, they would be pronounced quite differently just as in Europe the character '5' is pronounced 'five' by an Englishman; 'cinq' by a Frenchman; 'cinco' by a Spaniard; 'vijf' by a Dutchman and 'fünf' by a German. Thus the cultural unity of China is based upon the unity of the written language. This is a tremendous gain. The price paid is the immense difficulty of learning the characters of which there are many thousands: a twelve-year-old may learn 1,200 of them, enough to write a simple letter. At sixteen or seventeen he should know about 3,000. A university graduate should know about 6,000 or 7,000. A great scholar, between 12,000 and 20,000. The dictionary contains more than 50,000. A great part of education at all levels consists of learning reading and writing. The system will evidently need to be simplified if China is to develop a modern industrial civilisation. But these characters are exceedingly beautiful; they form an intrinsic part of Chinese art and

have influenced the development of painting in a decisive manner.

There is scarcely need to mention here that Chinese pottery, porcelain, sculpture, wall-papers etc. have been admired in the West for generations. Chinese music, which is very different from that of Europe, has on the contrary been very little admired and even in China is now being replaced by Western forms.

Government

Since 1949, China has been called a 'People's Republic'. Although other parties are allowed to function - provided they are not hostile to Socialism - there is no doubt that the Communist Party, of which the chairman is Mao-Tse-Tung, is dominant and wields full power.

Government is highly centralised. Nevertheless, there are six 'Greater Areas' divided into between three and six provinces (there are 30 of these altogether) as well as two autonomous regions: Inner Mongolia and Tibet. Each of these has a good deal of control over local affairs, such as roads and schools.

It is probably fair to say that the central point of policy of the Communist Government is the development, as rapidly as possible, of industrial production. This involves, in the first place, the improvement of communications - railways, roads, bridges etc. Secondly, the building and equipping of factories; i.e. heavy capital investment and urbanization. Thirdly a big increase in the total amount of education provided at all levels and a re-orientation of school curricula away from classics and literature towards science and technology. The result of the application of this policy during the period since 1949 are evident everywhere: towns are growing rapidly - Peking, for instance, has grown to a population of between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 - and many other cities have doubled in size. Factories, blast furnaces, railways and bridges are being built - but there is far to go. At the moment (1957) the production of steel is below

6,000,000 tons a year - less than a third that of Britain for twelve times the population. Schools and colleges are being built rapidly and teachers trained: it is said that there are now twice as many students and pupils as in 1948 and that about half the children of China are now attending school for at least four years.

The necessary condition for rapid progress is seen as 'socialization'. This has two aspects: first, the institutional; that is, replacing private enterprise by public ownership and control, setting up State-owned factories and farms, turning private into collective farms and so on. Secondly, fostering loyalty to the State, the Party and Communist doctrine by propaganda, State-controlled adult education, and through the 'right' teaching in the schools for children.

Historical Note

The old adage about 'centuries of Cathay' etc. has given many Europeans the idea that China has had hardly any history and that Chinese culture was and is a static thing. The very opposite is the case. The history of China is an immensely exciting one and as varied and full of drama as that of Europe. There is no room here to say anything about this - but there are many excellent books which are easily available. A few dates may, however, be given:

Chou Dynasty	circa 1500 - 220 B.C.
Chin and Han Dynasties	221 B.C. - 221 A.D.
T'ang Dynasty	618 A.D. - 907 A.D.
Sung Dynasty	960 - 1127
Ming Dynasty	1368 - 1644
Manchu Dynasty	1644 - 1911
Opium Wars	about 1840
Taiping Revolution (Peasant's Revolt)	1850 - 1865
Attacked by Britain and France in 1857, France in 1884, Japan 1894	
Boxer Rebellion	1899 - 1901
Overthrow of Monarchy	1911

New Revolution

1919

Period of Kuo Min Tang. Japanese
attacks. World War II. Civil War.
Final Communist victory 1949

NOTES ON PICTURES

1 The mountains north of Peking and the Great Wall, Irkutsk

Coming into China from the North one leaves Irkutsk, on Lake Baikal, at about 9 a.m. and two hours later, travelling in a two-engined Russian-made plane of the Chinese Air Lines (eighteen passengers, drinking tea out of large Chinese-made thermos flasks!) one lands at Ulan-Bator in the Mongolian People's Republic - the landing field has been made by running a steam roller on to the sand. Then another three hours southwards over the dreary wastes of the Gobi desert, following the new railroad, and always bumping up and down very uncomfortably. Mountains come into view and, far below, the Great Wall of China running up and down the ridges. Note the ancient terracing on the bottom right - as well as the arid, bleak, chilly, desert look of the country.

2 The top of the Great Wall of China

This wall is one of the most gigantic feats of mankind - a prodigious monument to man's energy and organizing skill as well as to the ruthlessness of kings and rulers. China has always been menaced by invasions of nomad tribes from the Mongolian steppe. These, often fierce warriors, looted, killed, burned the cities. To keep them out, the Great Emperor Shih Huang Ti (often called the 'First Emperor' - about 221 - 210 B.C.) extended previous bits of wall built across passes. He extended the wall to the sea in the east and westwards for a distance of 1,400 miles. Prisoners, criminals, even peasants were forced to work. Even now the Chinese say that a million men died at the task of building and that every stone cost a human life.

Under later emperors (such as Wu, about 141 - 87 B.C.) the Wall was extended until its total length was 2,300 miles, always at the tops of ridges, up and down the mountains. It was a very effective defence in an age when artillery was unknown: think of nomads on horses coming against it after a long and tiring ride, to be confronted by

soldiers on top armed with stones, spears, bows, and swords. Unfortunately, it had to be garrisoned and the garrison troops needed food and supplies - but the roads and paths were poor, the Wall far from fertile land or cities. Also, the captains at the gates were often bribed by the nomads, and they betrayed their trust. Still, the Wall proved so successful that the nomads tended to stay away from China. Instead they turned west, attacking the weaker Roman Empire. There is little doubt that the building of the Great Wall of China was one of the many causes that led to the Fall of Rome.

It fell into disrepair and was rebuilt and strengthened 500 or 600 years ago by the Ming Emperors - what is seen now is largely Ming building.

The part of the Wall here seen has been somewhat restored during the last few years. Note that it is wide enough to allow the rapid movement of troops along the top, but that chariots or carts would not be able to use it as a road.

3 Gate through the Great Wall

North of Peking there are two walls: the outer facing the Gobi desert, then the inner about 30 miles nearer the North China Plain. This is the Main Gate through the Inner Wall. Through it must have passed great conquerors like Jenghiz Khan. Note the farms, seen through the gate.

4 The main Audience Hall of the Forbidden City, Peking

Peking became the capital of the Chinese Empire only about 550 years ago, under the Ming dynasty. It is a bad site for a capital: in an arid plain, far from the centre of the country, with poor communications and only 40 miles away from the passes through the Great Wall. There is a main city wall, then nearer the centre another wall and moat surrounding an inner city, called the Forbidden City, which was completed in A.D. 1422.

It consists of a series of magnificent courtyards, great

halls and many smaller buildings. Here was the Palace of the Emperor, the offices of the Higher Civil Service, the barracks of the Central Guard. The whole assembly - probably about a mile square - is most impressive and was no doubt intended to impress upon all, the majesty of the Son of Heaven.

Today it is still central to Chinese culture. All great state ceremonials take place in front of the South Gate (of Heavenly Peace). It is here that Chairman Mao Tse Tung takes the salute at the demonstrations.

The golden yellow tiles, covering the roofs, were reserved for imperial buildings.

The Audience Hall, where kings and ambassadors were once received by the Emperor, is now a museum. (Note the marble bridges and the clothes worn by the people).

5 View in the Forbidden City

In the courtyards of the Forbidden City there are many bronze castings of animals - most of them have a symbolic meaning. Thus this lion symbolizes strength and loyalty. The workman strolling down wears what has almost become the national dress - blue jeans, cheap and strong.

6 The roofs of the Forbidden City

View from a bedroom window in the Peking Hotel. Note the golden yellow tiles. On the left, the roofs of the Gate of Heavenly Peace, on the right, roofs of the Audience Halls. On the extreme right, the private palace of the Emperor - where only his family and the palace eunuchs were allowed. Incidentally some of these eunuchs still live in the close neighbourhood of the palace.

7 The Temple of Autumn, Peking

This is one of a group of buildings centred round the Temple of Heaven. Along the marble avenue, the Emperor walked slowly twice a year to commune with God. He was

followed by the members of the Government and by the Higher Civil Service, while guards lined the route. He walked eastward at the New Year, entered the temple all alone and meditated. The hope was to ensure plentiful spring rains and thus a good harvest. In the autumn he walked to the smaller Temple of Autumn at the other end of the avenue shown here.

(Note: the face pad worn by the girl on the right. It keeps out dust in the summer, cold air in the winter and is common in the north. It is nowadays thought to be very scientific and modern).

8 The Temple of Heaven, Peking

This picture shows one of the world's most beautiful buildings, the Temple of Heaven. The roof is of blue tiles. The really important part of the edifice is the white marble surround. A few hundred yards away is the Altar of Heaven itself which looks much the same; the central point of that altar was considered to be the central point of the Universe. In the sacrifices here performed were centred the religious functions of the Emperor. His rule was bound up with the fates of the gods of soil and grain. Therefore, at the Spring Festival, the Emperor always ploughed a furrow with a primitive hand plough before entering the Temple. The last time the ceremonies were performed was in 1915.

Most of the buildings in the Far East are built largely of wood - they are not very durable for they rot or burn. In the 1870's the Temple of Heaven burnt down. It was rebuilt exactly as before - thus the present building is itself not old but is an exact replica of an older structure (dated 1420 A.D.)

9 Avenue leading to the Ming tombs, near Peking

The Ming Dynasty dates between 1368 and 1644 A.D. The capital was Peking and only at the end, when the Mongols invaded the north, was it moved to Nan-King (which means Southern Capital). The first thirteen Ming Emperors built

themselves magnificent tombs in a great valley, surrounded by hills, some 20 miles north of Peking. A fine avenue, flanked by marble statues of beasts and warriors, leads up to the central temple.

10 One of the Ming tombs

Three of the thirteen Ming tombs have been restored. Ten have not. This is one of the unrestored tombs; there is vegetation growing on the roof. If nothing is done, there will be nothing left but complete ruins in another fifty years, though seen like this, the beauty and antiquity of the place is remarkable.

The two men are not Chinese, but European visitors. The shorter figure is a Chinese girl interpreter.

11 The Summer Palace, near Peking

The heat in Peking is oppressive in summer. So the Emperor and his Court moved out into a vast and beautiful park, in the midst of lakes and streams, about 10 miles away where they had built pleasant houses and pavilions. The older Summer Palace was burnt down and looted by British and French armies in 1860. It was then restored and rebuilt by the famous and reactionary Empress Dowager in the 1890's. But it is rather a poor imitation of the original. Here is one of the central pavilions on a Sunday afternoon, when the place is crowded with trippers. Note that it has been repainted by the new government.

12 A Collective Farm in north central China

This photograph, as well as Pictures 13 and 14, were taken on the Red Light Collective Farm about 20 miles east of Sian-Fu, on the Wei River which is one of the two main tributaries of the Yellow River. It is in Shensi Province, about 600 miles from the nearest ocean and about 600 miles southwest of Peking. In fact it consists of several villages which have been joined into a single co-operative producing unit under a committee of management, elected by the peasants. Before 1949, the land was owned by 45

landlords of whom only 15 lived on their farms, the rest living in Sian.

The total area available is 2,000 acres and there are 6,000 mouths to feed (1,200 families). Every year, this population increases by nearly 250. So very hard work is necessary to produce enough food. The main crops are wheat and chick peas. The village also produces many vegetables, which are sold in Sian. Thus, they have for sale garlic, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, marrows, cabbages, and so on. Most of the work is done by hand: machinery is lacking.

The photograph was taken in early spring. The Chairman of the farm and the Agricultural Adviser (sent by the Provincial Government) are showing some visitors round the fields. This is a seed bed in which tomato plants have been raised. The mats have been rolled away: they protected the young plants from the winter frosts. At the back are peasant homes.

13 Village street

Note the earth road, the homes and the method of carrying loads. A similar method is found all over the world: man (and woman?) is still the chief beast of burden.

There are few animals in China, except pigs; food cannot be spared for them.

14 Irrigation ditch

The climate in this part of China is dry (rainfall about 20ins), so the peasants have to rely upon irrigation. They have a few wells, but in the main they use water from the Wei River, which here makes a sharp bend. Ditches are dug and the water flows naturally through them - there is quite a fast current. Note how the fields (in which young corn is growing) are below the level of the water.

The irrigation ditches are a blessing to the villagers: they provide drinking water (boiled with tea leaves);

water for washing clothes etc. Sewage, of course, is saved as much as possible: it is used for fertilising the fields.

It is interesting to note that this area of China has been continuously inhabited for countless thousands of years (old stone age remains have been found near this village) and continuously cultivated for at least six thousand years, yet the land retains its fertility. Such is the skill of the Chinese farmer.

15 The main gate of Sian-Fu

This town, formerly called Ch'ang An, was for long the capital (from, say B.C. 200 to about A.D. 900). It was first provided with a wall about 1,100 B.C. There are now about one-and-a-half-million inhabitants - three times as many as in 1949. This is still smaller than it was in ancient times. In A.D. 742 it was the largest city in the world, with a population of nearly 2,000,000. It was then a rectangle six miles by five, surrounded by a wall.

The present wall was mainly built about 600 or 700 years ago. It is about 40ft thick at the base, 25ft thick at the top and over 60ft high. The core is hard clay, faced outside and inside by large bricks (24ins x 6ins x 5ins). Every 50 to 100yds there is a bastion and great towers are built at the corners and over the gates. Surrounding the whole there is a deep, wide moat.

A wall of this kind was not only a useful defence against an enemy but also against floods. The only way of taking a city surrounded by such a wall was to blockade it and starve the people.

In 1926 Sian-Fu was besieged for five months by an army well equipped with field artillery, but without heavy guns. The damage done to the walls was insignificant.

Since 1949 the gate has been bricked up and roads cut through the wall on both sides to allow motor traffic to

pass. Note, however, that most of the traffic still consists of carts drawn by men and that the traffic policeman has little to do.

16 The Drum Tower, Sian-Fu

Northern towns are usually rectangular in shape and divided into four smaller rectangles by two long straight avenues. The junction is defended by a Drum Tower. This was a fortified four-way gateway built over the crossroads. If there were riots or disorder each quarter of the town could be isolated from the others.

In the three storey pagoda-like tower were stationed troops. Here too was the great drum which acted as a public timepiece and marked the hours of the day. Note that it has been recently restored and painted.

There were few streets in the four quarters of the city; houses and dwellings were put down anywhere, haphazardly, rich and poor mixed. Hence the maze of lanes.

7 Road leading to Sian-Fu

About four or five miles outside the walls of Sian, there is one of the oldest monasteries of China - built about 1750 years ago - with a very high tower. The view was taken from the top of this tower and it shows the long straight road (built recently) to the town. In the foreground are farms, clustering round the monastery, then wheatfields, then the new blocks of workers' apartments. Factories are being rapidly built, men and women flock in from the villages; there is a terrible shortage of houses.

8 Hall in Chungking

Chungking, an important city in Szechwan, was the capital of China during the Second World War. It is beautifully situated on a high hill, overlooking the Yangtze River.

The photograph shows the new central Hall, built in 1955

as a meeting place for lectures, party meetings, concerts etc. One of the wings consists of a modern hotel. The structure resembles somewhat that of the Peking Temple of Heaven, which was taken as a model. It has been very strongly criticized as being unnecessarily expensive.

19 Rice fields and terracing, Szechwan

The province of Szechwan (population over 50,000,000) is very mountainous. The climate is warm and wet - ideal for rice growing, for this crop needs much water during the period of growth. Note the telegraph poles and the prosperous farm in the background.

20 Rice planting, Szechwan

The photograph was taken in early spring on the Red Flag Collective Farm. The young plants, raised on the nursery bed, are being planted out in clumps of about a dozen. The men work with incredible speed and diligence.

21 The docks at Chungking

Although Chungking is a busy port there are no docks in the European sense. The river boats are mostly beached and unloaded by hand.

The foreground is the left bank of the river. The hills in the background are on the far bank. Note the width of the Yangtze, although the ocean is more than 1,500 miles away.

22 The dockers of Chungking

Since the city is high above the river, the cargoes have to be pulled up the hill. No doubt machines and trucks could be provided, but they would cause unemployment. First, before this hand labour is displaced, factories must be built and machines bought. The coolies (the word means 'bitter-strength') work terribly hard and for long hours.

23 Boat on the Yangtze

The Yangtze is a fast-flowing river and it takes much hard work to move boats against the current. Since the trip may take weeks or even months whole families live on the boats, mooring at night near a village. When the wind is favourable a sail is raised. Most boats carry a long pole at the front. This is lowered quickly if a rock or sand-bank is noted: it acts as an emergency brake.

24 The Gorges of the Yangtze

Between Chungking and Hankow, the Yangtze flows very fast between high mountains. The gorges are among the most impressive and beautiful sights on earth.

There is no road along the river and no embankment - only a precipitous path. Note the height of the flood level, marked by the changing colour of the rocks. The Japanese armies never succeeded in forcing their way through these gorges: hence Chungking was always safe.

The photograph was taken from the deck of a river steamer, built in Shanghai in 1953. It does the journey from Chungking to Hankow, down the river, in three days and three nights. To go up the river takes between one and two weeks.

25 The new bridge at Hankow

The modern city of Hankow was largely built by British, European and American business interests. It has now been amalgamated with nearby towns and is called Wuhan. It is a busy and rapidly growing centre of industry and commerce, about 650 miles from Shanghai and the ocean.

A big bridge has been built across the Yangtze which is here a mile wide. It has two levels: for road and rail traffic. For the first time in history, north and south China will no longer be separated by the mighty stream.

Russian technicians helped with the planning and with the

early stages of construction. At one time 16,000 skilled men were at work here. There were many machines, though fewer than there would have been in the West.

The photograph shows one of the abutments, largely built by hand.

26 The bridge across the Yangtze

The last stage: just before the junction.

BOOKS FOR FURTHER READING

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title and Publisher</u>	<u>Date</u>
Selected articles	China in Transition (Peking 1957. From Collett's, Museum Street, London WC1)	1957
Fitzgerald, C.P.	China, A Short Cultural History (Cresset Press)	1954
Payne, Robert	China Awake (Heinemann)	1947
Rattenbury, H.B.	Face to Face with China (Harrap. Beautifully illustrated)	1945

Up to date information can be obtained from the Britain China Friendship Association, 228 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

Other Common Ground filmstrips include:

Geography in Colour

ASIA

- CGA:B772 Co-operative Farming in China by R.C. Honeybone
CGA:B440 Farmers and Boatmen of South China by
E. Thorndike
CGA:B787 Oil in the Middle East by G.H. Dury and
T.J. Chandler
CGA:B517 Mountain Life in High Asia by Tom Weir
CGA:B426 Village Life in India by A.D. Uppadine

AFRICA

- CGA:B715 Life among the Arabs by G.H. Dury and
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