

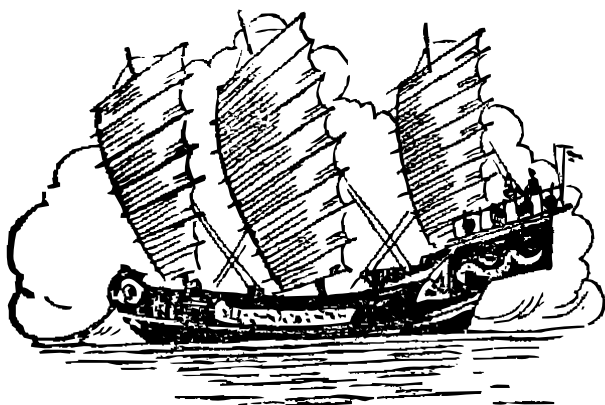
# SHANGHAI

## HIGH LIGHTS

## LOW LIGHTS

## TAEI LIGHTS

by Maurine Karns & Pat Patterson



With a New Foreword by Michael Schoenhals

First Published in 1936  
Reprinted by Earnshaw Books  
Hong Kong 2009

EARNSHAW  
BOOKS

# Contents

- I—**ASSORTED INFORMATION, ACCURATE AND OTHERWISE** 1  
(The Town – The Main Drags and General Topography – Pastimes, Pleasures and Puerilities – The Tall Building On Your Right – Chits, Good and Otherwise)
- II—**SEEN ON THE STREETS** 26  
(Shops – Merchants on the Move – Nymphs de Pave – Other Sidewalk Phenomae)
- III—**THE FLESHPOTS** 45  
(Night Life in Shanghai – Some Night Spots – Dime A Dance, China Style – Anything Can Happen at the Venus – Jukong and Blood Alley, Choice Spots Indeed – Sing Song Gals)
- IV—**THERE ARE ALSO SOME CHINESE IN SHANGHAI** 75  
(Quaint People, Really – Houseboys and Other Necessary Evils – The Begger Kingdom – Customs and Curiosa – Chinese Chow – And In Conclusion)

# information, accurate and otherwise

## **the town**

QUITE A NUMBER of years ago, somewhat before the Astor House was built, Marco Polo came to China to establish trade routes. He came to the orient with a purpose, accomplished that purpose, and went home again. Marco was apparently the last foreigner coming to China to do all of these things.

Since then Americans and Europeans have been arriving in the Whangpoo City at a rate alarming to the Chinese. Most of them have come without definite purpose, many of them have carried out a purpose

formed since their arrival, and most of them were carried away (if away they got) on the same fortuitous tide that brought them to China. Around such a colony the nucleus of the foreign settlement at Shanghai was built. And so there is small wonder that the most unique city in the world has developed here.

Greater Shanghai is divided into three sections, the International Settlement, the French Concession and the Chinese City. The International Settlement is administered by what is euphemistically termed "popular government," that is, a council of fourteen members elected by the various foreign elements living within the Settlement. In view of the large hand that the representative foreign consuls have in assisting the Council in its decisions, it might be said that the state departments, foreign offices and Gaimishus of the countrys involved have as much if not more to say about governing policy in the International Settlement than the residents and voters thereof. Of the fourteen members of the municipal council, there are five British, two Americans, two Japanese —

and – oh yes, five Chinese. The Settlement has its own municipal organization, fire and police departments, etc, not to mention its own military organization, the Shanghai Defense Corps. Members of this organization wear a very attractive uniform, rehearse their manouvers frequently out on the country side and everyone enjoys the work and the uniforms and marching to the band very much indeed.

The French Concession is owned and operated by the French, policed by the Annamites, lived in by the Russians, suspected by the Japanese (of being the center of com-communistic activities), and visited by Americans in search of a girl named Tamara, with blond braids, who dances at St. Georges. The streets have French names, at least.

The Concession, commonly known as Frenchtown, is completely under the thumb of the French Consulate General. Fifty thousand Frenchmen might be wrong but the Consul General in Shanghai is apparently infallible for his decisions are unappealable.

Frenchtown, also, has a municipal council but its council has advisory powers only and France's head man can take or leave their advice and it is rumored about that there is a lot of good advice gathering dust on the Rue de Consulat. In the International Settlement most of the business interests are centered, while a lot of of the monkey business interests are to be found in Frenchtown, especially on Blood Alley, marked on the maps as the Rue Chau Pao San, where there are fifteen cabarets and near-cabarets in the space of one block.

The Chinese City, so called because it is run by the Chinese, is known as Nantao, and will probably be a disappointment as a showplace to anyone outside of an enterprising sanitation engineer. A conscientious guide book says that much has been done to clean up the streets, "although much remains to be done", which is an under-under-statement. With few exceptions there is little to be seen here except native life in the raw, and to many of even the most enthusiastic viewers of native-life-in-the-raw,

the going and the smelling in Nantao gets a little rough.

**The International Settlement can be subdivided into two sections, the Settlement proper and Hongkew, which is probably the only part of Nationalist China which seems to have recognized "Manchukuo". The principal object of interest in Hongkew, outside of the Venus Café, is the Japanese Landing Party Barracks.**

**The population of the Settlement itself, outside of Hongkew which is largely inhabited by Japanese so far as foreign populations are concerned, is composed of British and Americans in major quantities and of other nationalities in diminishing amounts. The Britishers outnumber the Americans at the rate of three to one. In Frenchtown, there are almost ten thousand Russians (and it seems like twice that many on a Sunday afternoon on the Avenue Joffre) to about fifteen hundred French.**

**The bulk of the Russians living in Frenchtown are in extremely indigent circumstances, a large part of them leading**

virtually a hand-to-mouth existence, with the hand sometimes failing to reach the mouth. Most of them are refugees from the proletarian neighbor in the north, and there mere whispered mention of the OGPU on the Route Vallon is enough to clear the street.

**White Russians in Shanghai are in** a pretty tough spot. Without a consul or country to appeal to and without very much class prestige with either the other foreigners or the Chinese, they have a hard time getting on. An abnormally large percentage of their population is unemployed and those who do work receive very poor wages. Many of them compete with the Chinese in the begging business. A large number of Russian girls dance in cabarets making very attractive *wooniuhs*, and hardened by adversity, are well adapted to the business. For the most part, however, Russians in Shanghai have a very tough time of it and yet, withal, make the best of their lot and are on the whole, one of the gayest of foreign groups.

Hongkew, referred to humorously by some as the "Japanese Concession" has

become the dwelling and gathering place of Japan's nationals. Nippon's armed forces can be viewed quite often playing soldiers late at late at night upon the streets of night upon the streets of this section. In Hongkew are also to be found some of the more choice of Shanghai's night resorts, to be covered in another section of this treatise.

## **the main drags**

IN TRUE GUIDE book style, we begin at the Bund, which is the wide avenue which separates the Whangpoo River from the city. Along the bund are the stately buildings which are to be found on the picture post cards. At the extreme south end of the city's waterfront is a crummy avenue known as the French Bund. The Settlement's Bund commences at the Avenue Edouard VII or Edward the Seventh Avenue depending on your sympathies. Going North along this road, and with your back to the Whangpoo (if you can negotiate such a feat) you have

from left to right, a collection something like this, (leaving out those not of interest) the Shanghai Club (longest bar in the world, by gad, suh!), the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (with the imposing dome), the Bank of Communications and the Central Bank (two Oriental Big Shots) the Palace and the Cathay Hotels. A few more buildings and just before the ricksha coolie begins to pant at the incline fronting the Garden Bridge, to your left you have the China-side domicile of His Britannic Majesty, of England, Scotland Ireland and Wales, and points west.

**Just on the other side of the Garden** Bridge one finds on either side of the road, the Astor House and the sky-scraping Broadway Mansions. Facing the Astor House is the gloomy structure housing the consulate of the Soviet Union. Right next door is Herr Hitler's representative in China. A little further along is the Japanese Consulate. Just one big happy family.

Nanking Road, starting at the Bund and traversing the business part of the Settlement is probably the Town's principle