

Wang Fanxi Archive

Given by Brotherton Library, University of Leeds
Written by Dr. Huang Xiyi, Leeds, Corrected by Yang Yang, Essex

Biography

Wang Fanxi (王凡西, his pen name: Shuang Shan (双山), etc; March 16, 1907-December 30, 2002), son of a merchant-scholar, was one of the young Chinese swept into radical politics by the new culture movement of the late 1910s. He was educated, until he dropped out, at Beijing University. In 1927 he went to Moscow for training. There he rallied to Leon Trotsky's denunciation of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's China policy, which had ended with massacres of CCP members and the destruction of its base among urban workers. Back in Shanghai, he worked under Zhou Enlai as a secret Trotskyist until his exposure and expulsion. In 1931, he helped set up the left opposition. Wang was imprisoned several times by Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist government. After the defeat of the Japanese in 1945, while Mao's peasant armies were advancing, the Trotskyists resumed their campaign in the cities.

In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was declared, the Trotskyists sent Wang to the British colony of Hong Kong as their external link, but the authorities expelled him before his comrades' arrest on the mainland in 1952. In 1975 he fled the sanctuary he had taken in the Portuguese colony of Macao, and went at the invitation of a group of academics to Leeds, where he remained.

Wang decided a real revolution had happened under Mao, while continuing to question the military thrust of Maoist strategy, which he saw as another link in China's endless chain of wars followed by tyrannical restorations. He argued for the centrality of the industrial workers and the intelligentsia, new urban classes that might break the chain through democratic communism.

Wang closely followed the CCP's evolution and predicted a new opposition would emerge from it. Communist officials tried to tempt him home, and he longed to return to China and his family, but he demanded the unattainable - the rehabilitation of other Trotskyists. He kept up correspondence with Trotskyists Zheng Chaolin in Shanghai and Lou Guohua in Hong Kong, but their deaths in the 1990s ended the connection.

Wang could have enjoyed a brilliant literary career. He was also a virtuoso linguist, at home in several languages and Chinese dialects. After his expulsion from the CCP, he resumed writing in time snatched from politics, to help fund the Trotskyists and feed his family. In the 1970s, his memoirs, written

in Macao, appeared in Beijing in a restricted edition. More recently, his book on Maoism has appeared and prominent Chinese thinkers wrote sympathetically about Wang's ideas, which pleased him.

In Britain, Wang influenced generations of Chinese students and he was revered by radical Chinese community leaders, who sought his advice on social equity and white racism.

His autobiography, *Chinese Revolutionary memoirs 1919-1949*, was translated by Gregor Benton.

(Extracted from the website 'the Guardian' at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/apr/21/china.highereducation>, written by Gregor Benton on 21 April, 2003).

Wang Fanxi material in Special collections, Leeds University Library

Shelfmark / Location: Special collections MS1709, stored in mobile shelves 043a

Wang Fanxi archive consists of a number of veteran Chinese Trotskyists' papers, letter, documents, reading notes, publications, etc (both in English and Chinese). There are approximately 27 (?) large cardboard boxes plus one or two incomplete communist journals. These are recorded as follows:

1. *Chinese Revolutionary Memoirs 1919-1949* (Shuang Shan's Memoirs, 1980): Oxford: University of Oxford Press (English translation), and reprinted by Columbia University.
2. *Shuang Shan's Memoirs* (《双山回忆录》): in French, Chinese (typographic printing in 1957, and English (the first three chapters translated in Macau.
3. Book reviews of *Shuang Shan's Memoirs* by Paul LeBlanc, Lee Feigon, etc.
4. *Shuang Shan's Memoirs*: prefaces of editions and correspondences with publishers.
5. Wang Fanxi's scripts (plays).
6. Wang Fanxi's manuscript I (王凡西 文稿): *On Mao Zedong Thought* (《毛泽东思想论稿》), *On the Cultural Revolution* (《论文革》), *Letters to Japanese Friends on the Cultural Revolution* (《关于文革致日本朋友的信》), *on People's Commune* (《人民公社》), etc.
7. Wang Fanxi's manuscript II: *Mao Zedong Thought and the Sino-Soviet Relations* (《毛泽东思想和中苏关系》); Wang Fanxi's translations (译稿): *Poetry and Autobiography*, by Yevgeny Yevtushenko (《诗和自传》), *Literature and Revolution*, by Leon Trotsky (《文学与革命》), etc.

8. Wang Fanxi's manuscript III
9. Wang Fanxi's manuscript IV: Trotskyists and Trotsky (托派与老托)
10. Personal records of Wang Fanxi (王凡西 个人档案): Photocopies of Chinese Trotskyist Newspapers '*Struggle*' (托派机关报《斗争》), Appointments of Lingnan High School in Macau (60年代澳门岭南中学受聘书), Family correspondences (家庭通信), Correspondences between Wang and Gregor Benton (王凡西班国瑞通信), Applications for visa (王的签证申请), etc.
11. Correspondences and documents between Wang and comrades of the Fourth International (王凡西与第四国际友人通信、文件): with Yamanishi Eiichi 1959-1970 (山西英一), Pierre Frank, Frank Glass, and Louis Sinclair, *the Letter of Chinese Trotskyist Unification Congress to Comrade Trotsky in 1931* (1931年《统一大会致老托信》), Japanese newspaper '*World Revolution*' (日本报纸《世界革命》), etc.
12. Wang Fanxi's essays and notes (王凡西短文、立场、议事).
13. Zheng Chaolin I: the man and his deeds (郑超麟-其人其事), Gregor Benton's translation of *Zheng Chaolin Memoirs* (郑书译稿), photocopy of *Yu Yi Can ji* (复印版《玉尹残集》), *Hui Longfang Memoirs* (《回龙坊待访录》原稿), etc.
14. Zheng Chaolin II: manuscript (郑超麟 文稿)
15. Zheng Chaolin III: the man and his deeds (郑超麟 记人记事)
16. Articles of Sun Liang, Ma Si, Lou Guohua (孙良、马四、楼国华 文)
17. Documents of Chinese Trotskyists (中国托派文件): e.g. *Release the Arrested Chinese Trotskyists Immediately! An Open Letter to the Central Committee of the CCP* (致中共信); reports, statements and drafts for rescuing Trotskyists in China; Zheng Chaolin's open letters to the CCP, etc.
18. Manuscripts and drafts of Wang Fanxi, Zheng Chaolin and Lou Guohua on Chen Duxiu (王凡西、郑超麟、楼国华关于陈独秀的文稿): e.g. *Chen Duxiu and Trotskyists* by Zheng, etc.
19. The translation of *Chen Duxiu's Last Articles and Letters 1937-1942* by Gregor Benton; Chen's speeches, letters, etc.
20. Chen Duxiu Studies (陈独秀研究)
21. Correspondences between Frank Glass and Wang Fanxi (李福仁[Frank Glass]与王凡西的书信往来)
22. Frank Glass: the man and his deeds (李福仁其人其事)
23. Correspondences with FI comrades (与同志书信): Pierre Frank, Louis Sinclair, Pierre Rousset, and Sakai Yoshichi (酒井与七)
24. Peng Shuzhi (彭述之)
25. Chinese Trotskyists: published party journal in the 1930-40s, documents and studies (中国托派—刊物、文件、研究)
26. Document collection of the Fourth International (第四国际文件集)
27. Hong Kong Trotskyists(香港托派): magazines, documents and correspondences (刊物、文件、书信)
27. Cases of Wang Shiwei, Wu Zhongxian, Liu Shanqing, and Wei Jingsheng

(王实味、吴仲贤、刘山青、魏京生 四案资料)

28. Letters of Alex Buchman (白克曼的信) and a letter from Max Shachtman in 1953.
29. Archival papers of Chinese Trotskyists, from Hoover Institute, Harvard University (哈佛大学胡佛研究院档案), Trotsky's letters and papers (托洛茨基文)
30. Trotsky Studies(托洛茨基研究) and Correspondences between Wang and Alexander Pantsov
31. Letters to Wang Fanxi (给王凡西的书信)
32. Letters from Sun Liang, Ma Si, and Lou Guohua to Wang Fanxi (孙良、马四、楼国华致王凡西的信)
33. Letters from Zheng Chaolin to Lou Guohua (郑超麟致楼国华信)
34. Letters from Zheng Chaolin to Wang Fanxi (郑超麟致王凡西信)
35. *International*, the journals published by British section of the Fourth International, 1973-1983 (第四国际英国支部刊物)
36. Newspaper cuttings for characters (人物剪报)
37. *International Internal Discussion* (1976-1985); *Internal Information Bulletin; Education For Socialists*, etc. (第四国际内部讨论)
38. *International Viewpoint*, the Official Journals of the Fourth International, Jan, 1990-Dec 1992 (第四国际公开刊物:《国际观点》)
39. Research and newspaper cuttings for the Chinese Great Revolution in 1925-27, (1925-27 年中国大革命史研究、剪报)
40. Newspaper cuttings for the history of Chinese Communist Party (中共党史剪报)
41. Newspaper cuttings, documents and other materials for Chinese Democracy Movement in 1989 (1989 民运 剪报、文件、材料)
42. Newspaper cuttings of Hong Kong's return to China in 1997 (1997 年香港回归 剪报)
43. Newspaper cuttings, documents and other materials for Chinese Democracy Movement in 1979-1981 (1979-81 年 民运 剪报、文件、材料)
44. Newspaper cuttings of Chinese current situation (中国情况剪报)

(The following was recently identified and numbered in pencil)

45. Letters from Wang's relatives, friends and scholars (in the 1980s and 1990s)
 46. Correspondences between Wang and his comrades (in the 1980s and 1990s)
 47. Translations, posters and (official) letters
 48. Photocopies of publications on Trotskyism and other political issues (mainly in the 1980s and 1990s)
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