

APPENDIX

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND THE WORKS :

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, as Author and as Humanitarian

The Childhood.

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck was born on June 26, 1892, in Hillsboro, West Virginia, while her missionary parents, Absalom Sydenstricker and Caroline Stulting Sydenstricker, were on a brief furlough from their Chinese pastorate. She became a child with fundamentally Oriental influences, for her parents preferred to live among the natives rather than isolate themselves in missionary compounds. Since she was taken to China as an infant, at her very early age she was more fluent in speaking Chinese first before she learned English. Most of her childhood playmates are Chinese. Madame Buck was early accustomed to the traditions, household activities, and family life of her neighbors in the surroundings.

She was a bright and excellent student, at the age of seven, she started to read Charles Dickens' and by the next ten years she has completed in reading all of Dickens's novels over and over. She

also read the works of Theodore Dreiser and Sinclair Lewis in her teen ages.

It was her mother who influenced Madame Buck in constructing and developing her writing skill. Caroline insisted in giving little Buck a lot of written exercises besides helping her with her school and tutorial assignments. In her teen ages Pearl S. Buck supported and guided by her mother to compose her own essays. Her mother also encouraged her to submit her writings to some public printed media. Starting from that time, many of Pearl S. Buck's childhood writings were published in the Shanghai Mercury.

The Journey

In the 1900's, little Pearl S. Buck and her family faced a very hard time living during the Boxer Rebellion. Many of white families were murdered and slaughtered during this period. The Sydenstrickers had to spend a year living in Shanghai as a refugee. The whites family, finally, saved by the American and British warships.

During the hard time, Pearl S. Buck and also many others with people had to feel the fear when an angry crowd of Chinese surrounded the family homes and threatened to kill the family for the crowd blamed the Christians for the disaster happened, a

drought. Her mother's persuasiveness and calm friendliness saved the family from harm and danger. Such a peril would inevitably sharpen her sensitive mind.

At seventeen, Madame Buck was sent to the United States to attend the Randolph – Macon woman's College. At this time, she began to write numerous short stories, poems and also joint the school plays. In her senior year, she won two literary prizes. She got her degree in 1914, and became a teaching assistant until the sickness of her mother recalled her back to China in order to nurse her mother.

She married to John Lossing Buck, an American agricultural specialist who is employed by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in 1917. After the marriage, the pair settled in Northern China, and Mrs. Buck became closely involved in her husband's work and familiar with the farmer's lives and traditions. By the year of 1921, The Bucks moved to Nanking, the city where John Lossing Buck had a post at the university. Pearl S. Buck had the opportunity to teach classes in three different universities majoring English literature. Beginning in 1923, her articles began to appear in numerous printed mass media such as; Atlantic Monthly, Trans – Pacific, Living Age, and the Nation.

In 1925, the Bucks moved to America in order to treat their mentally retarded first child, Carol. In the United States, she

decided to take her MA degree majoring English at Cornell. At 1926, she acquired the degree and also wrote an additional essay that was awarded the largest financial prize offered by the university, the Laura Messenger Prize in history. Still in the same year, the Bucks were returning to China. At this period, her writings which were essays, short stories, poems and novels productively printed.

At the year of 1934, The Bucks decided to live permanently in the U.S. At the same year, her marriage to John Lossing Buck had collapsed. In the following year, she married her publisher, Richard J. Walsh. Starting this period, Pearl S. Buck began to write on American topics and still continuing to write about Chinese matters until she received the Nobel Prize for literary field in 1938.

The Humanitarian Interests

Pearl S. Buck is a portrait of a very energetic American woman, when she is not in writing process, she was publishing magazine articles and many of non-fiction writings. She also paid a deep attention to the studies of racial prejudice, held many discussions about Soviet Communism and the NAZI. She also published many books for children. In 1941 she founded the East and West Association, an association designed to build a “bridge”

of harmony and deeper understanding between the Orient and the West.

During wars, Pearl S. Buck learned many things, she also maintained an understanding that many children had been fathered by American troops were badly treated. Realizing this fact, Buck founded Welcome House, an adoption agency for such unlucky children. As the peak of her humanitarian interests, she founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, which set up branches in several foreign countries to assist the half-American children fathered in many countries around the world. She also involved in the Training School in Vineland, New Jersey, Which worked to improve the mentally retarded children. Buck spoke out on issues involving freedom and human rights. She yield out about the need for India's independence from Great Britain and also objected to the treatment of Japanese – Americans who were taken from their homes and interned in many disserted camps.

The wide-range of knowledge she acquired, gave her thousands ideas to be written in her works. The universal thought (combining or connecting the west's values and the Orient's thought) made her to reach the widest audiences. This condition provided her a best-selling writer status and also made her the most widely translated author in the history of American Literature. Pearl S. Buck really worked tirelessly for human rights,

racial equality, and constructing a beautiful understanding between east and west. She still gives attentions to the Amerasian children, even though she has already died. Her royalties are still helping the suffering children by providing food, clothes, medical supplies and education opportunities through her Pearl S. Buck Foundation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY