

XI - 79 - 3. A Play About China

U. A letter to Miss Smedley from Yung Wung dated February, 28, ----
discusses choice of Chinese names for the play.

February 28

Dear Miss Smedley,

I was very glad to receive your letter. I have been wondering how you were getting along. Now I will try to answer your questions.

1. The name of the General ~~Yang~~ Wang Shih-pu - how about Yang Bei-tao^{北陶}? I think this would be easier for an American audience than shih-pu. The young officers would not call him "Old Yang" but "Old Uncle," which is respectful but also affectionate.
2. Do you think Chou Tai-ying^{太炎} would be all right, and easier to pronounce? His close friends would call him Tai-ying.
3. How about Pao-chang^{宝章} for Wu's first name? or maybe Pao-ting? His wife would call him by his first name in the presence of friends.
4. I think Lin Ching^{林清} is easier to say than Lin Yung. Her close friends, and her husband in the presence of friends, would call her Lin Ching, because when someone has a one-syllable first name her last name is used too, If her husband speaks to her

alone, he would call her just Ching, or "my Ching"
or "dear Ching."

5. "The Old Man" is a good name for the ^{soldiers and} officers to
call the general when he is absent. "Old Uncle" is
good when addressing him - it is "老伯" in
Chinese. But this is only for the two young officers.
The others should address him as Commander-in-chief.

Mrs. Lattimore came here a few weeks ago to
see her niece and me, and we had a lovely time. Her
niece has given me your book for a birthday present,
and I am reading it, though I have not finished it
because I have so much homework to do. Who is the
actress from Shanghai who was your secretary? I have
several friends from there who went to the north-west.

Take good care of yourself and have a
pleasant trip. If there is anything more I can do to
help you with the play, please ask me! I would be very
very glad to help. You know I like you for a long time.

Yours

Yung Wang

王 雲

Tsai Loh = my body guard