Wake in Guangzhou: The History of the Earth

Guangzhou Biennale, 2008

A sample of earth is removed from Huagui lu, a street in the Liwan District, the former merchant quarters of Guangzhou.

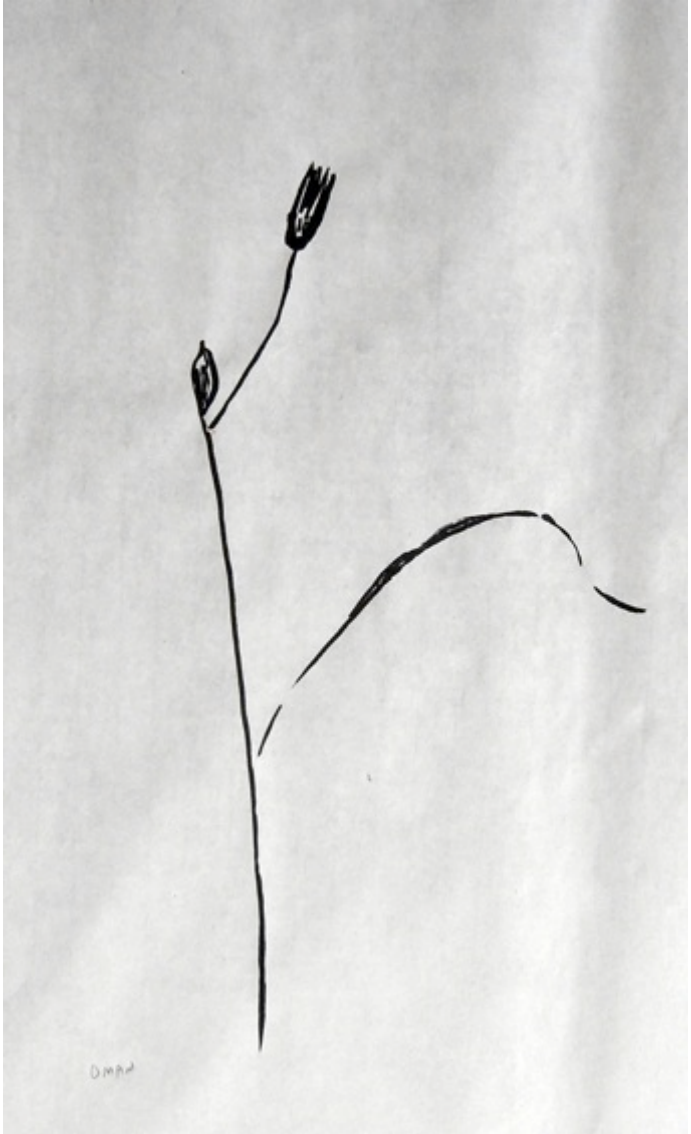
The earth sample is placed in the courtyard of the Guangzhou Contemporary Art Museum so that dormant seeds previously buried in deep layers can germinate when exposed to sunlight.

Guangzhou is a port city, formerly known as Canton, and for different periods throughout Chinese history, it was the only city through which foreigners were allowed to enter China and the Liwan District, the only place in China that foreigners were allowed to live in.

While the seeds in the mound of earth taken from the Liwan District germinated and plants grew, research uncovered the possibilities of seed carriers to the Liwan District.

IBN BATTUTA WAS A SCHOLAR
DAMASUS WHERE VENTURIS
BETHLEHEM
IRAQ
IRAN
ADEN
MOGADISHU
MOMBASSA
ZANZIBAR
KILWA
OMAN
HORMUZ
ANATOLIA
TURKEY
SINOPE
CAFFA
CONSTANTINOPOLI
AFGANISTAN
VIETNAM
GUANGZHOU
EMPEROR QIANLONG

Ibn Battuta was a scholar born in Tangier, Morocco. He liked to travel and went to Damascus where Venetians who had sugar plantations in Greece would go to trade. Then he went to Cairo-Hebron-Jerusalem-Bethlehem-Iraq-Iran-Aden-Mogadishu-Mombassa (alternatively seeds could have arrived via the Kenyan ivory trade to Guangzhou), Zanzibar, Kilwa, Oman, Hormuz, Anatolia, Turkey, Sinop, Caffa (where he joined up with the caravan of Obeg, the Khan of the Golden Horde and went to the Volga River), Constantinople (where he met Emperor Andronicos III, Afghanistan (Alternatively seeds could have arrived via the British who sent an expedition force there to put their candidate on the throne), Cambay, Calicut, Maldives (where he married into the royal family), Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Guangzhou.

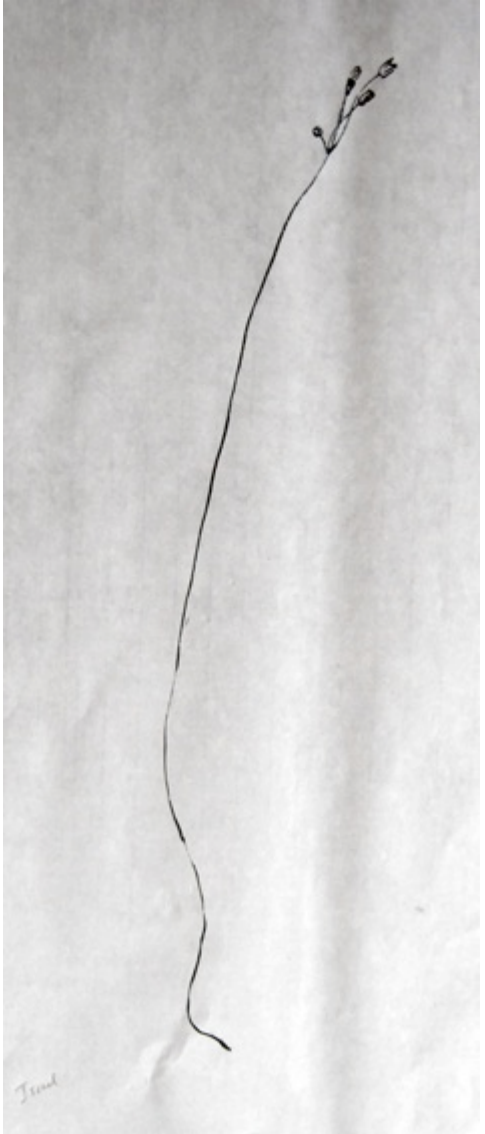


Oman

Turkey

Kenya

Zanzibar



Israel

Afghanistan

Morocco

There were impressive seed movements over 25% of the earth's surface by the Mongols.

Austria

Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit, studied in Rome, traveled to Goa, Macao and Guangzhou. He was one of many European missionaries (from different sects, who did not like each other) to come here. The Roman Empire had good road systems which encouraged seed movements.

Ae Braam Houckgeest, born in Utrecht and who traveled to Guangzhou as head of a Dutch factory, to Macao, the USA, Malacca and Batavia (of course) and met with the governor of Guangdong, and led the Dutch delegation to Emperor Qianlong's birthday celebration.

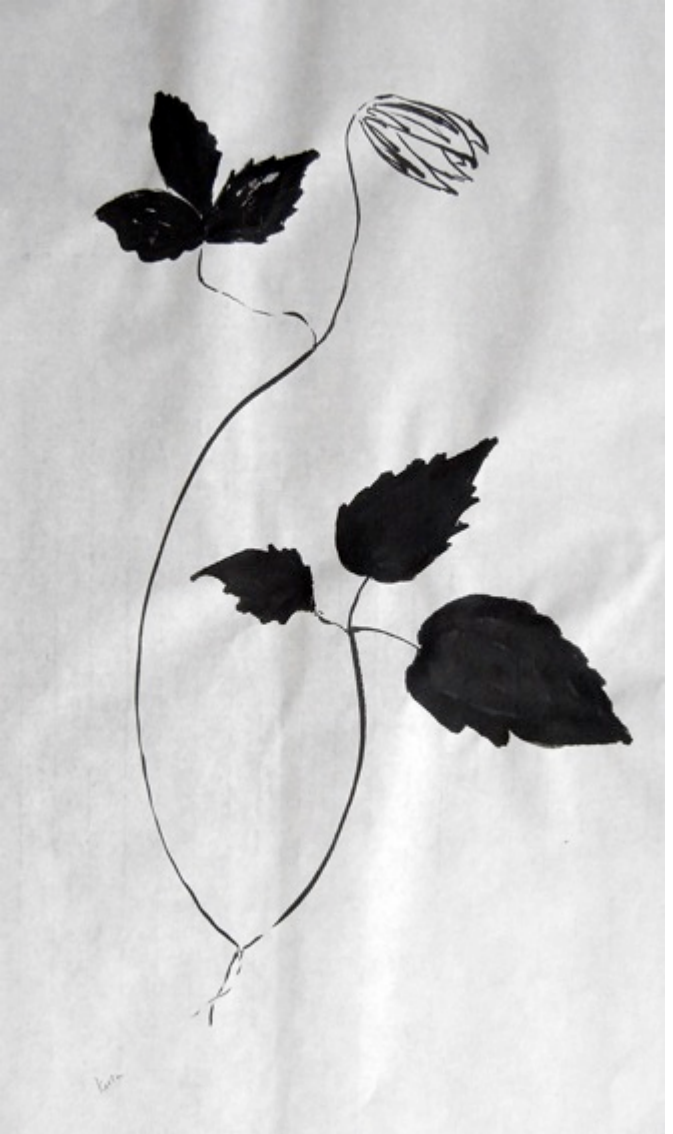
The Dutch in the 16th century Indonesia traded spices with Guangzhou, but African and Asian merchants were trading with China centuries before.

Isaac Titsingh, a Dutch scholar, merchant, surgeon and ambassador and representative of the Dutch East India Company and who met with the Shogun in Japan also came. As did Chretien Louis Joseph de Guignes, a French merchant, scholar and ambassador, who had traveled to the Philippines.

Horses and cows eat lots of seeds. This is dung collection to keep streets clean.

IRAQ
IRAN
ADEN
HORSES AND COWS EAT LOTS OF SEEDS. THIS IS DUNG COLLECTION TO KEEP STREETS CLEAN
Sixty different species of weeds grow in the rice fields of Vietnam

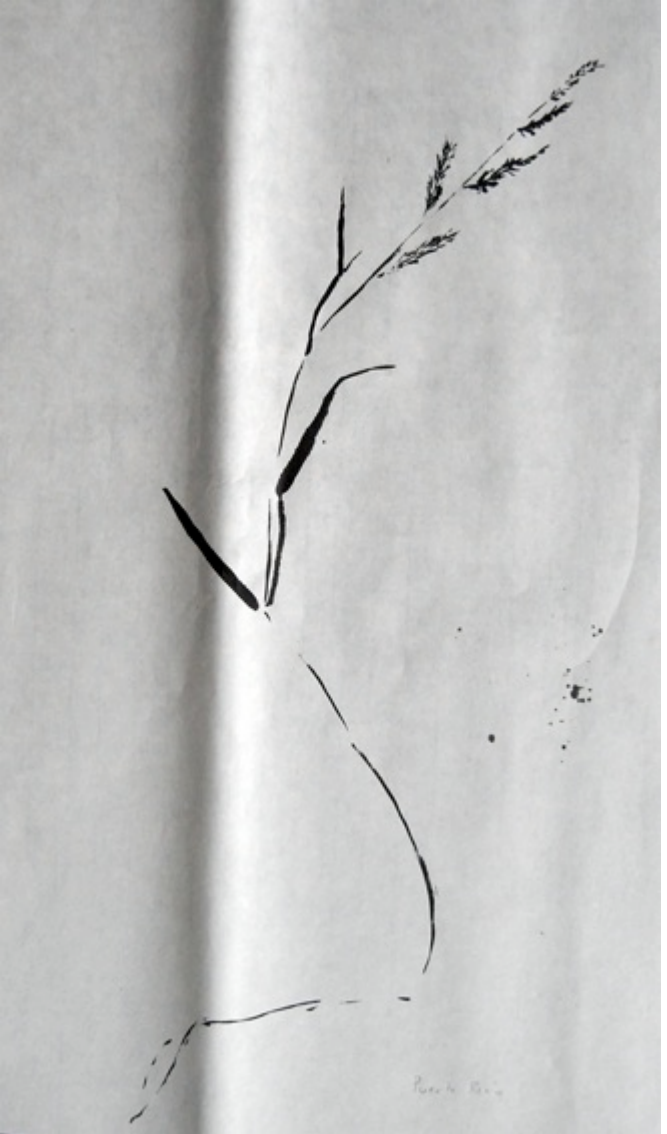
Emperor Qianlong consolidated the territory of Xinjiang where Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and the Kyrgyz live. The Evenks in Heilongjiang also became part of China along with the Mongols. He invaded Vietnam and Burma and battled the Dzungars. This is his birthday celebration.



Over the years tributes from Vietnam, Burma, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, France, the Netherlands, Java, Sumatra, Malacca (where in the 16th century 84 languages were spoken) and Sri Lanka were given.

Korea

Burma

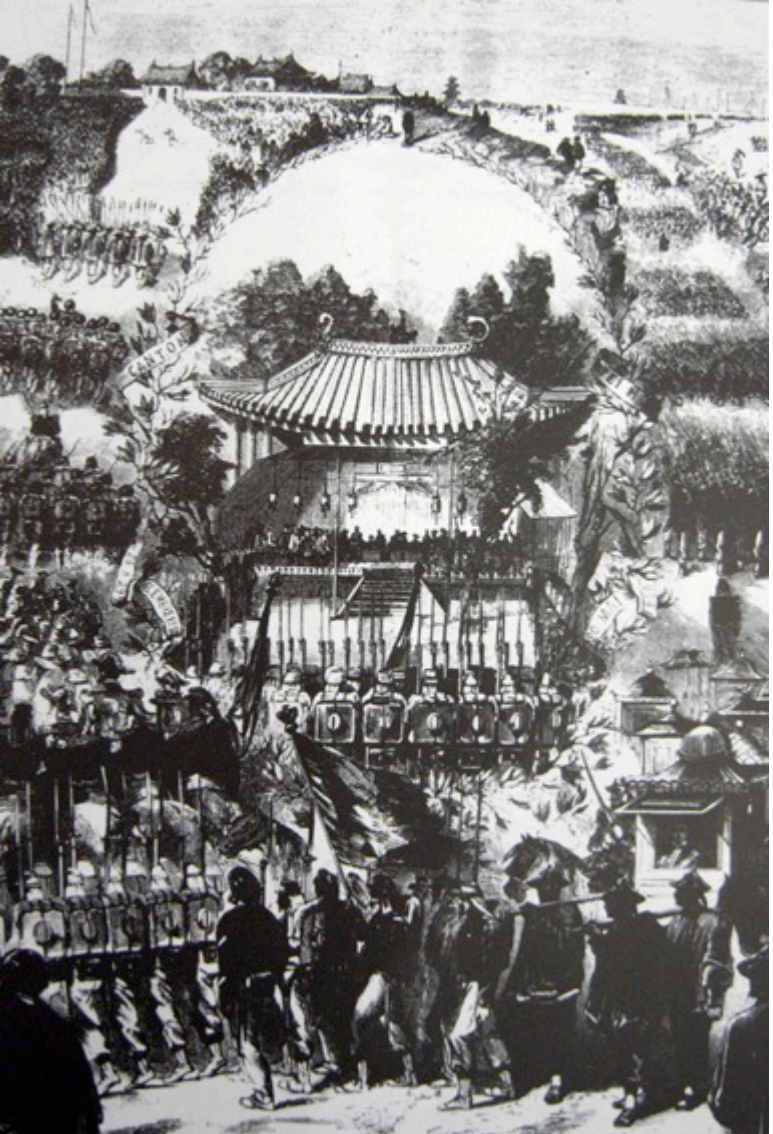


Lord George Macartney of England came and almost met Emperor Qianglong.

Born in Ireland from Scots family, studied in London, envoy to Russia, Governor of British West Indies, and Governor of Madres. His Vice-Ambassador in China was Sir Staunton who brought back a collection of 400 Chinese plants…

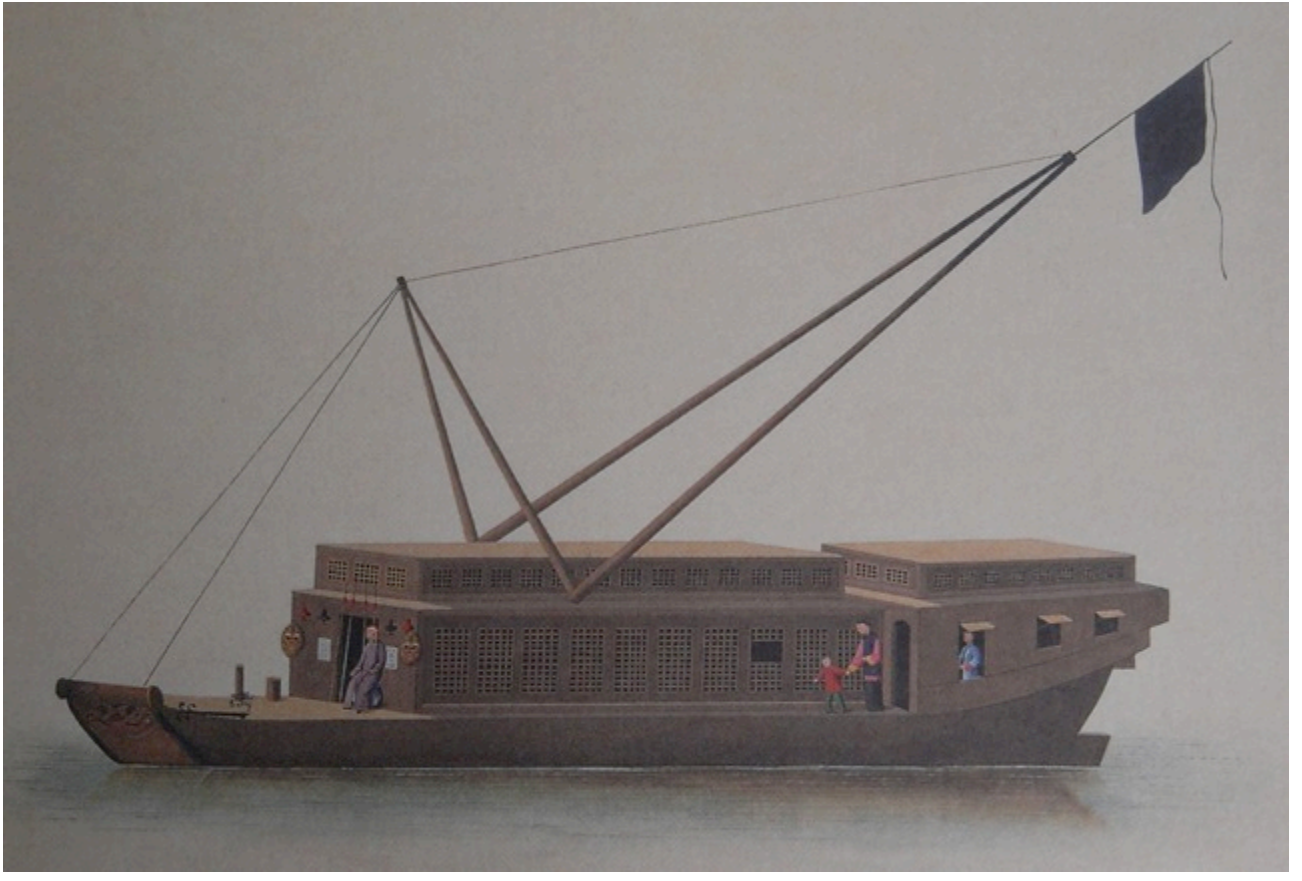
Puetro Rico

Live cattle, cranes, deer, giraffes, clocks and porcelain among many other things were given as tribute.



In the signing of the treaty between China and France lots of people participated.

Rice boats from Vietnam, Thailand, Guangxi and Hunan Province arrived in Guangzhou.



Sixty different species of weeds grow in the rice fields of Vietnam.

EMPEROR QIANLONG
A SEED CARRIER
THE FORMER GERMAN CONSUL
HORSES AND COWS EAT LOTS OF SEEDS THIS IS DURING COLLECTION TO FREED STREETS CLEAR
Sixty different species of weeds grow in the rice fields of Vietnam
THERE WAS A COMPLAINT MADE BY THE American William Chest Campbell against the mercenary of the British Cantin Club, JOSE MARIA ELA DA SILVA, FOR PROHIBITING CRIMINALITY ENTERING THE CLUB'S HOUSE

Russia expanded further and further east in search of animals for their fur. Border conflicts began with China along the Amur region. There was a Siberian Fur Store in Shanghai.

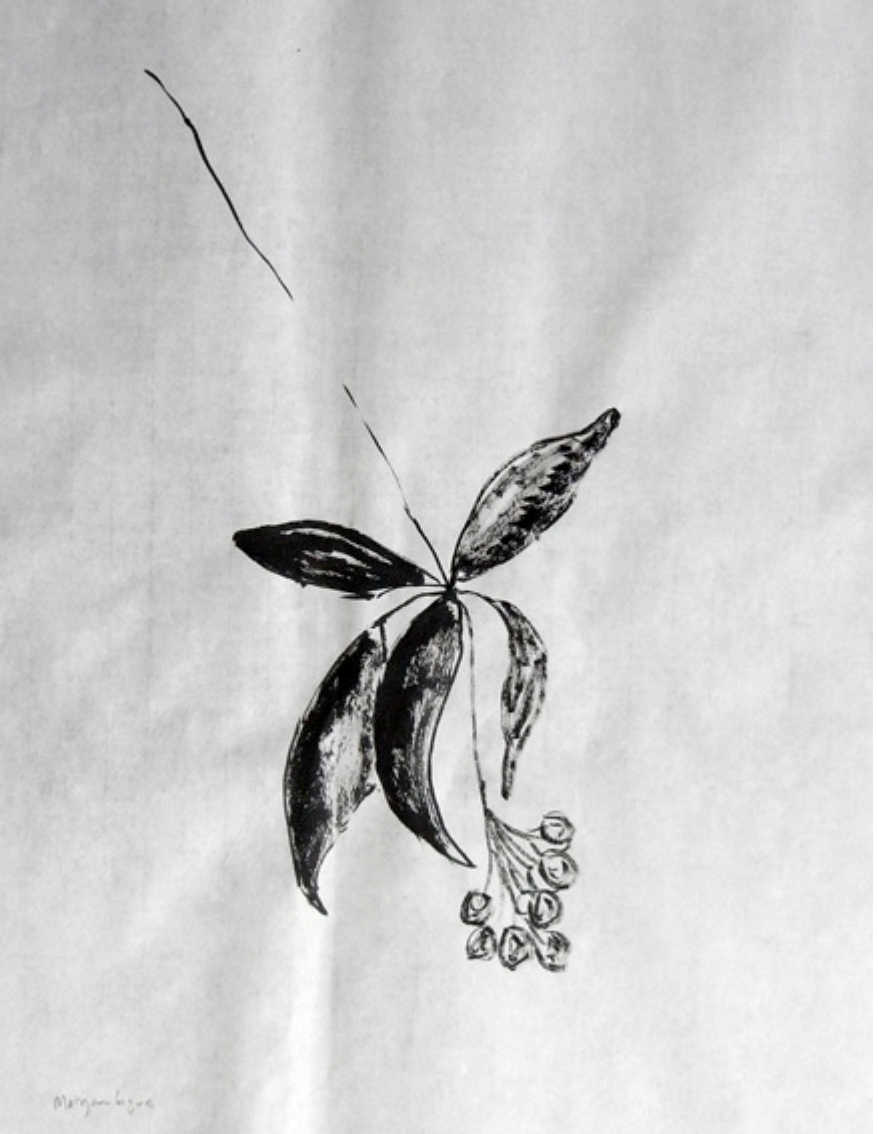
Russia

Mongolia

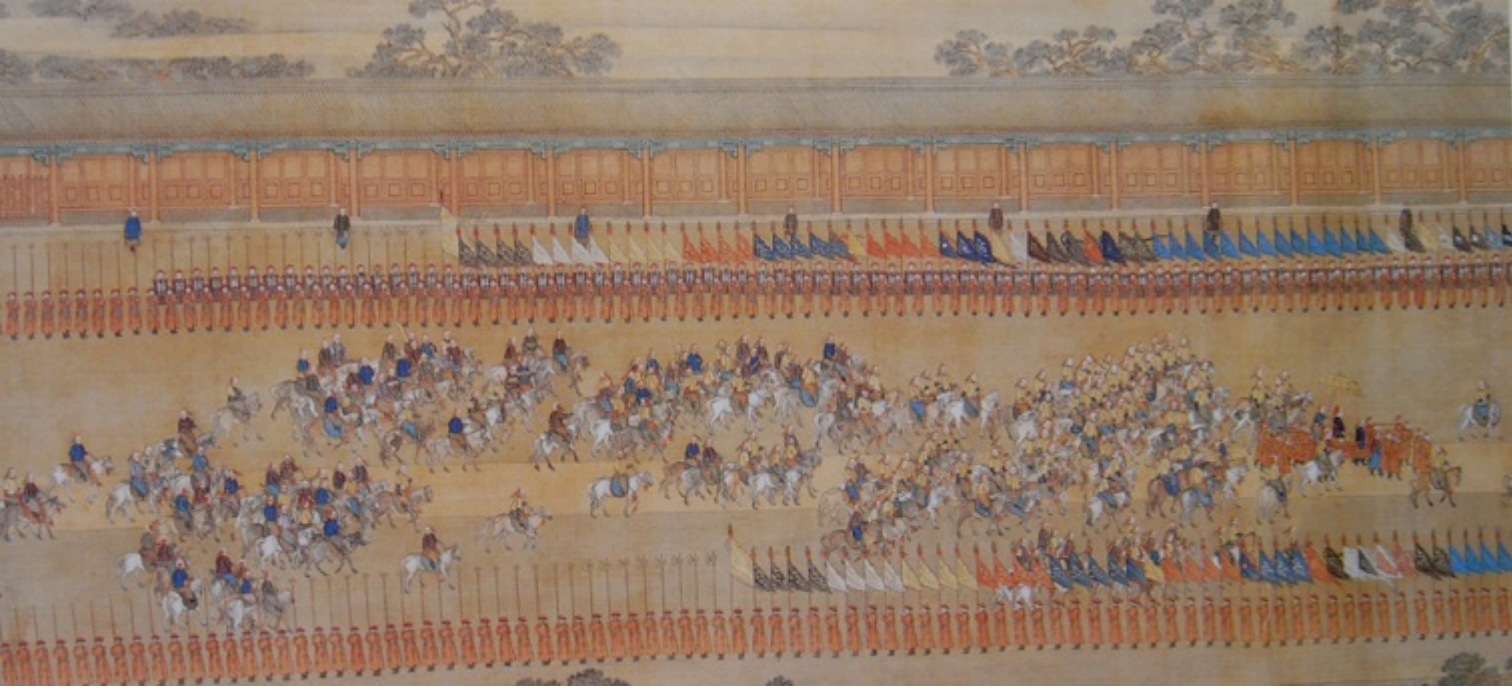
The railroad in Kenya was built by Indian workers.

Macao was a colony of Portugal for hundreds of years. Seeds could have arrived there from any of its colonies, like Mozambique. Foreign merchants could only live in Guangzhou for half of the year, many then moved to Macao for the rest of the year.

This is the ceremony where Portugal returns Macao to China.



Alternatively seeds from Mozambique could have arrived via Africans who escaped enslavement by the Portuguese in Macao.



Emperor Qianlong's southern inspection tour with many officials, soldiers and horses helped seeds move along. (Painting by Giuseppe Castiglione, a Jesuit from Milan, who was the court painter of Emperor Qianlong.)

A seed carrier.

In the foreign merchants' area, peddler's came to sell olives, pastry, tea, cloth; there were also cobblers, tailors, weavers, barbers, shoemakers and doctors.

Wu Bengjian (also known as Howqua) was an official Hong Merchant allowed to trade with foreigners. He worked with Hong Kong and the USA. He entertained Lord Macartney and his entourage just south of the river.

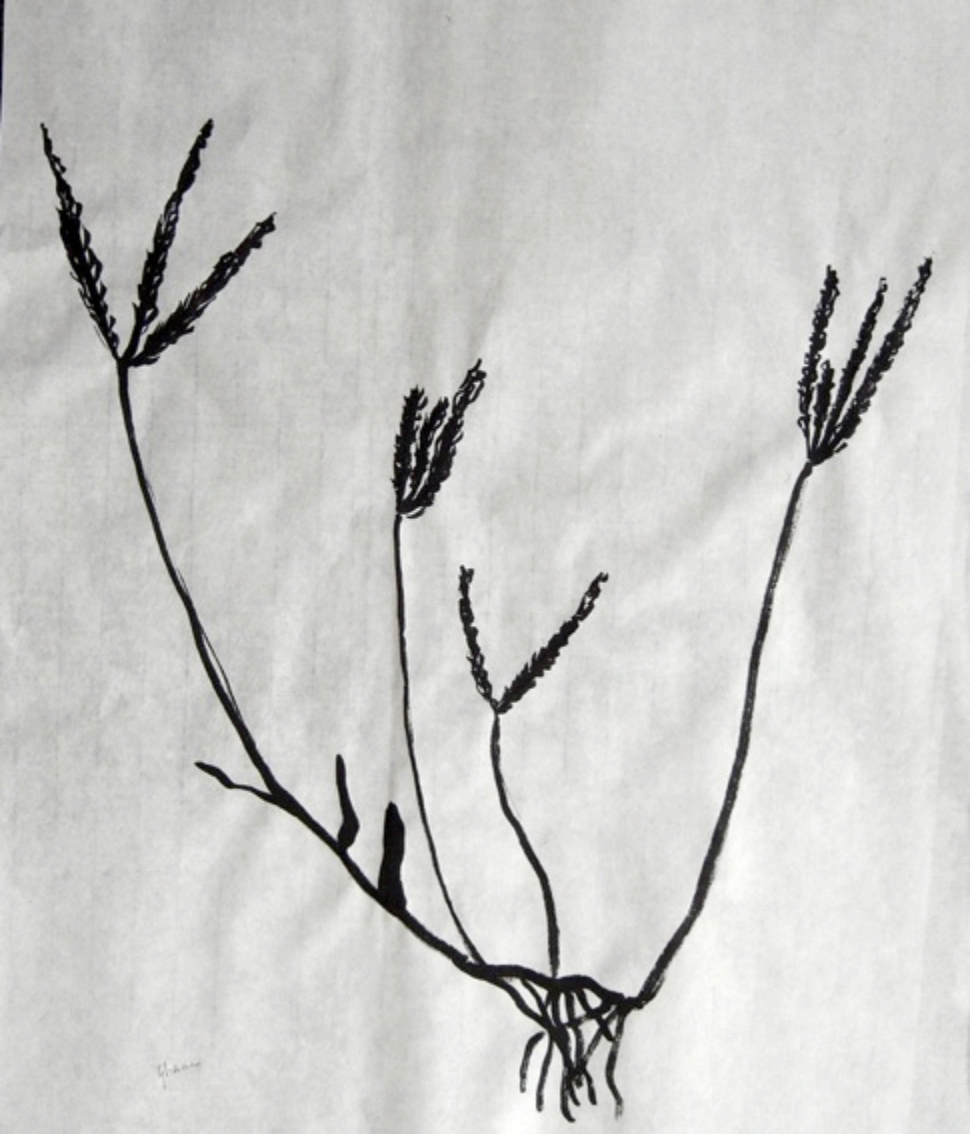
Kwan Luen Chin (known as Tingqua) made a painting of Wu's house. Tingqua had a studio on #16 New China Street, near the foreign merchants and their goods.

Tingqua's studio.

Augustine Heard (from Massachusetts) (from Samuel Russell & Co. and Partner) (trading in tea and opium) collected Tingqua's works. The grandfather of former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt was also a partner trading with Guangzhou.

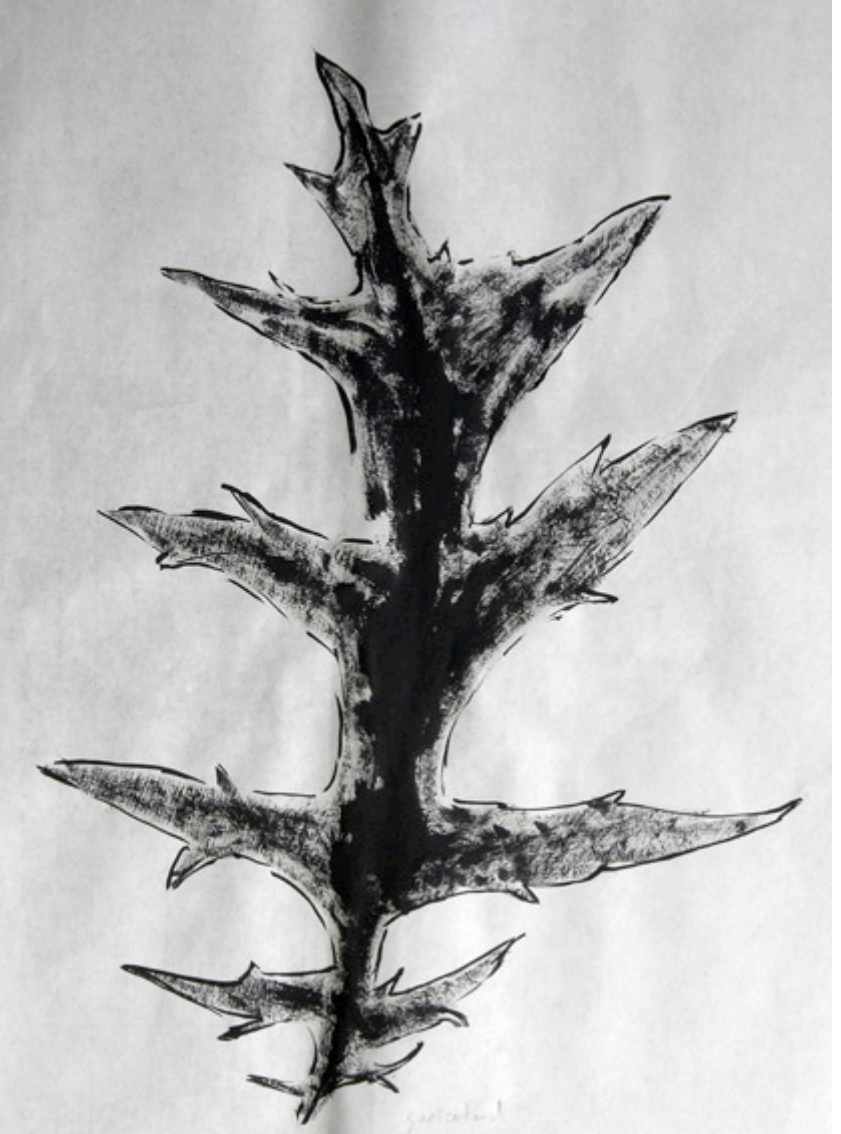
Massachusettes

There was a complaint made by the American, William Clark Campbell against the secretary of the British Canton Club, Jose Maria Eca da Silva, for prohibiting Chinese from entering the Club's theater.



Ghana

When Hong merchants visited their families' or friends' graves seeds could come back with them.



Mr. Bovet, who was establishing a luxury watch market in China, refused to give a fellow merchant, who rented the warehouse with him, the key to open the lock to leave. He then attacked Mr. Merwanjee and his staff when the merchant took his sword away he ran away. He was from Switzerland.

The former German Consul in Shamian Island in Guangzhou. Germany had made Tanzania into a colony.

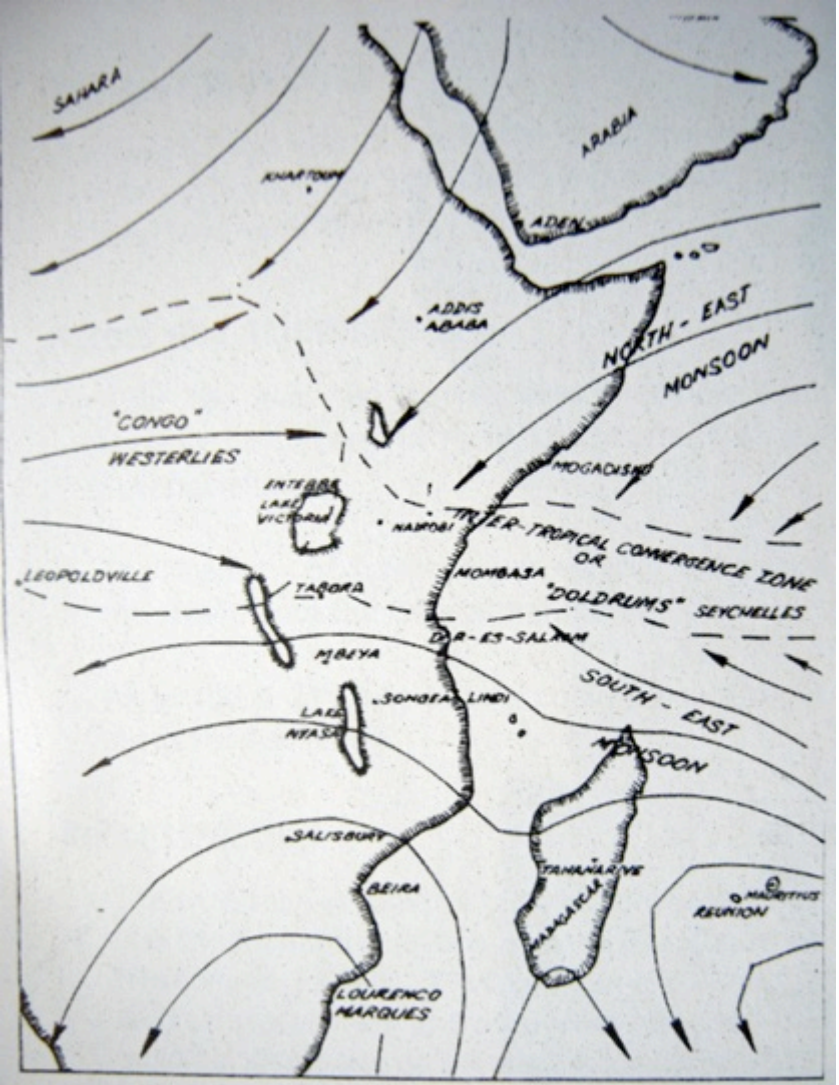


Chart showing a typical wind distribution during the month of April in East Africa

This is a chart of wind distribution in East Africa during the month of April. Seeds can come from many places by being blown.

Lu Chi Kuang (known as Mowqua) was also a Hong merchant. He was painted by George Chinnery (Tingqua's brother, Lamqua, was his protégé.) who was born in London and whose father was a merchant with the British East India Company. George traveled to Bristol, Dublin and India.

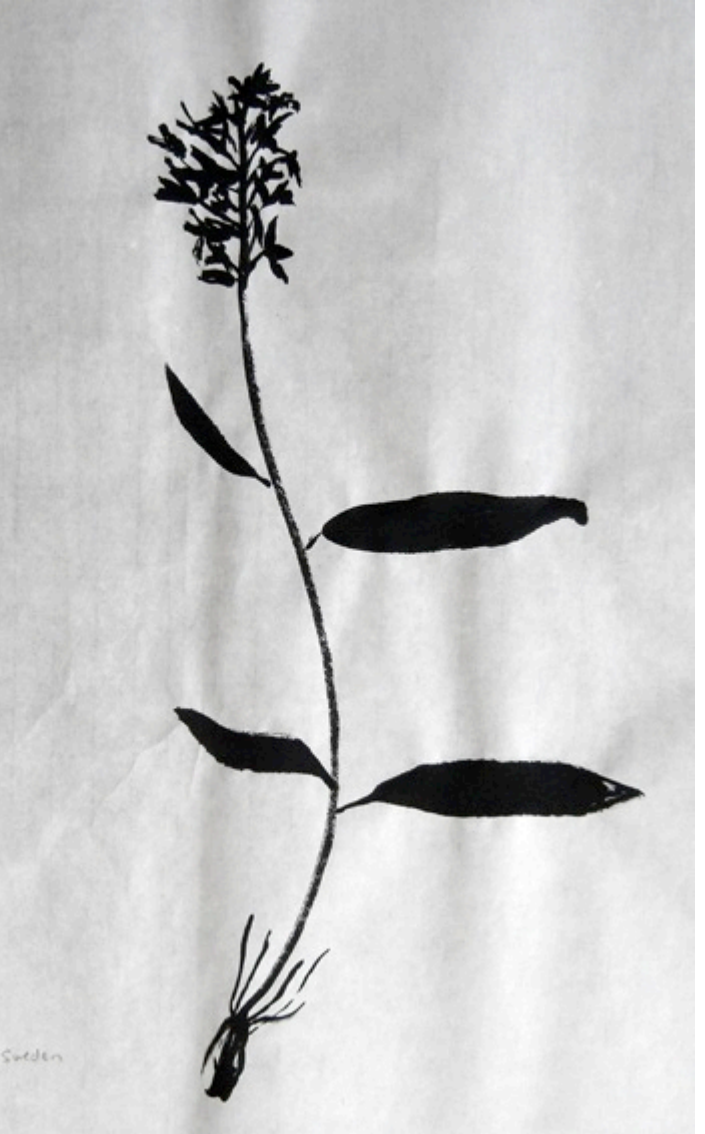
Mowqua along with Howqua became involved in an incident involving Captain Craig, Mr. Percy and Commodore Hugh Lindsay who forced their way into the walled city of Guangzhou (an area forbidden to foreigners) in order to petition the Superintendent of Maritime Customs who met often with the Governor who might have gone ice skating with the Emperor in the forest.

The Emperor and his entourage ice skating.

NOT ONLY PEASANTS

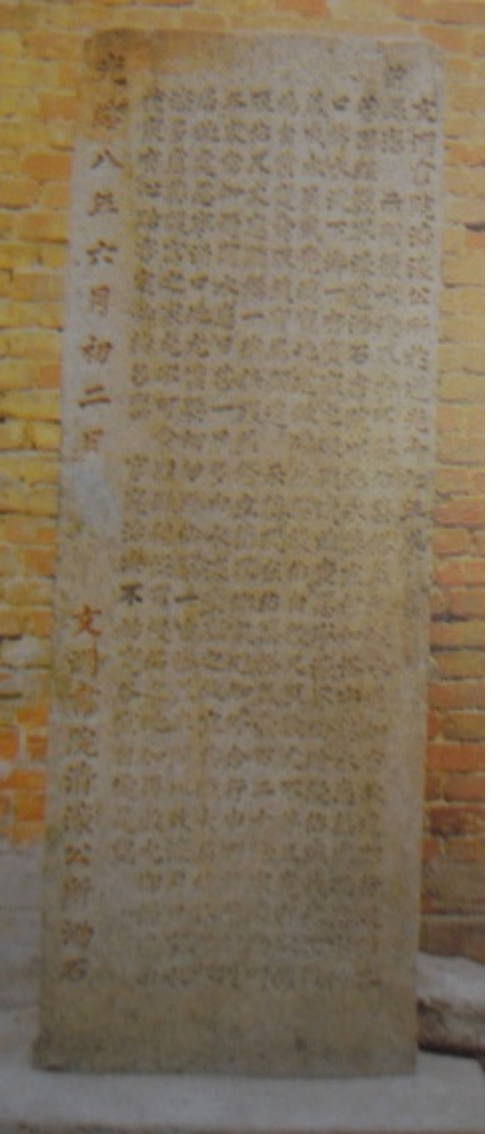
Pan Khequa was also a Hong merchant working with the British East India Company, Sweden and Denmark.

He had studied in Manila and his family was originally from Fukien.



Sweden

重地
逸進

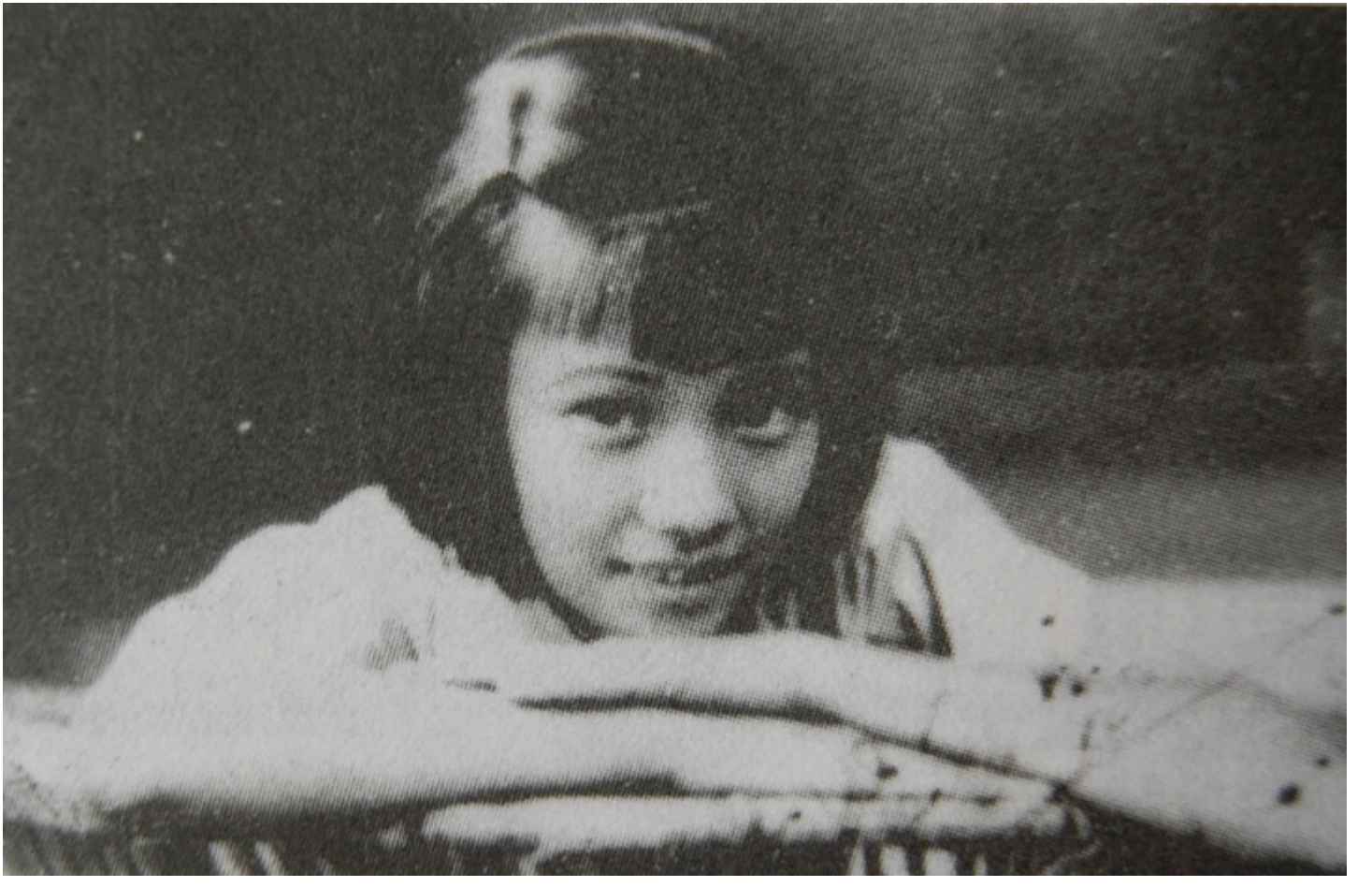


At his entertainment house he met with ambassadors, government and military officials and kept a salon with Mr. Wu and invited Zhang Wei Ping, Xiong Ying and Jing Jing. He had 7 sons some were merchants. One was a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society.

A plaque to commerorate Mr. Wu's and Mr. Pan's Salon.

The Gotenberg.

A warehouse in the Liwan.



Wu Liyi was an artist in the district. Her grandfather was a merchant trading with Chile.

When the wall of the city was taken down seeds mixed more freely.

Many entertainers who travel frequently live in the Liwan District.

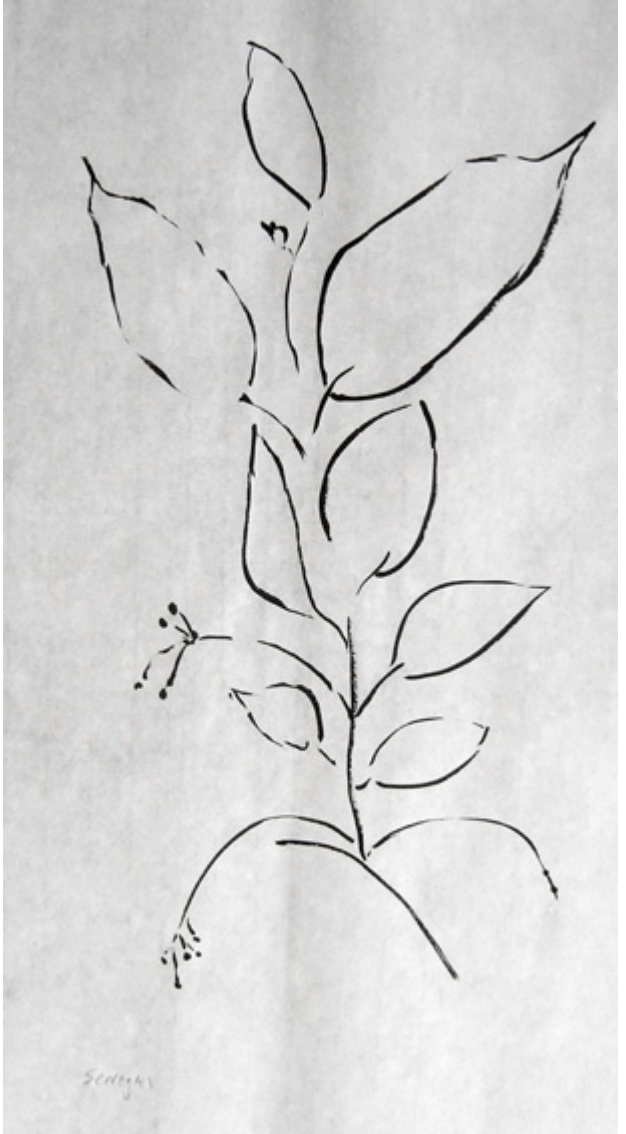
HONDA
HONDA

Not only peasants are in the rice fields but soldiers and experts. All their seeds can mix with the rice.

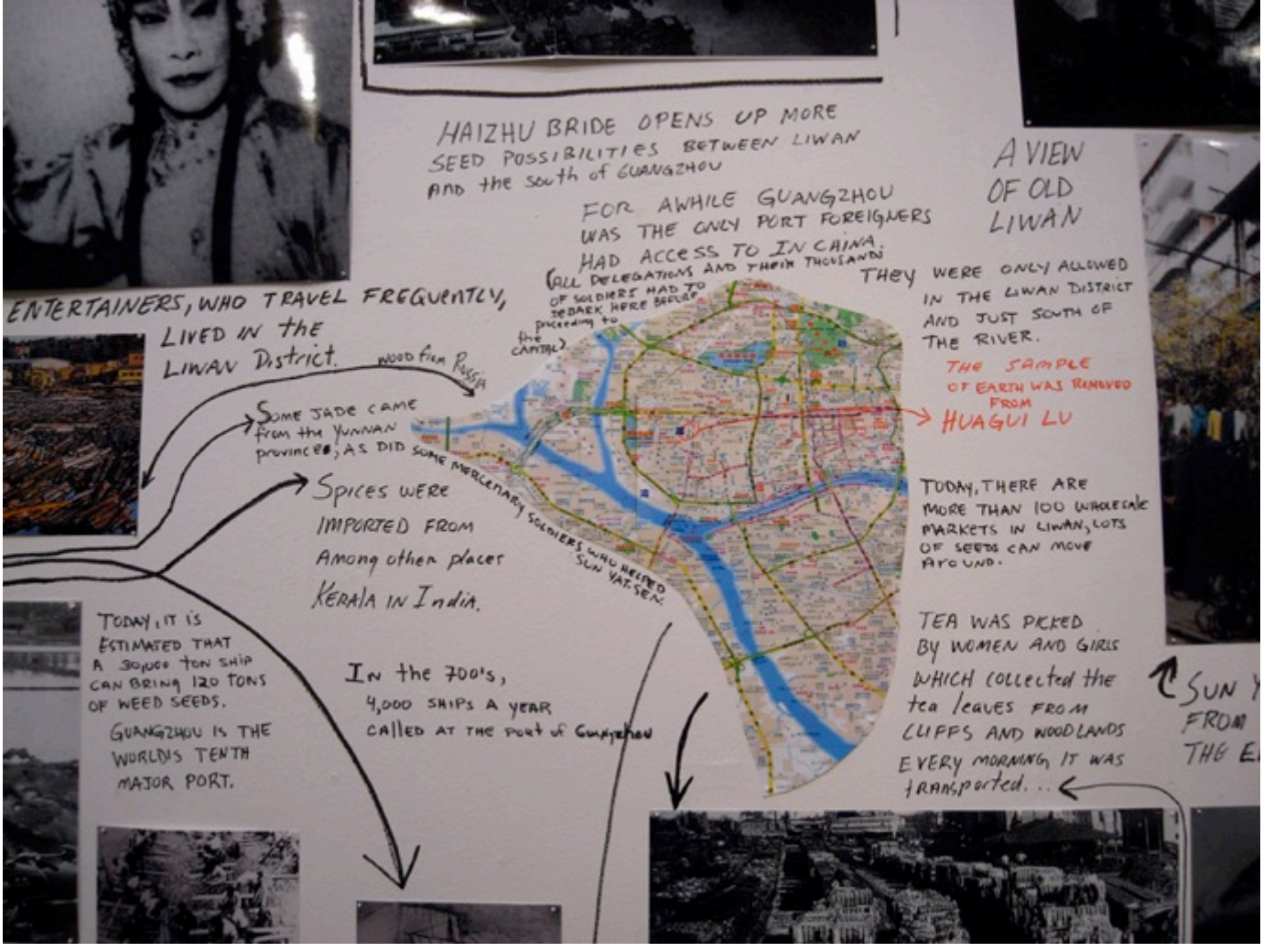
MERLAND PEAK
WHO SUPPORTED
SUN YAT-SEN
WAS BORN IN
BULACAN AT
SEEDS AND
EASEMENT
SOME COTTON CAN FROM THE
USA, WORKED BY ENGLAND
PEOPLES FROM ALL OVER ASIA
SEEDS FROM THEIR HOME FOUND
PERHAPS ARRIVED WITH
WITH THE COTTON
SOME SILK TRADED IN
GUANGZHOU WAS MADE
IN SHUNDE
NOT ONLY PEASANTS
ARE IN THE RICE FIELDS
BUT SOLDIERS AND LOCKS
ALL THEIR NEEDS CAN MIX
WITH THE RICE

Haizhu Bridge opens up more seed possibilities between Liwan and the south of Guangzhou.

Hong Kong



Senegal



The sample of earth was removed from Huagui Lu.

Guangzhou is the world's tenth major port.

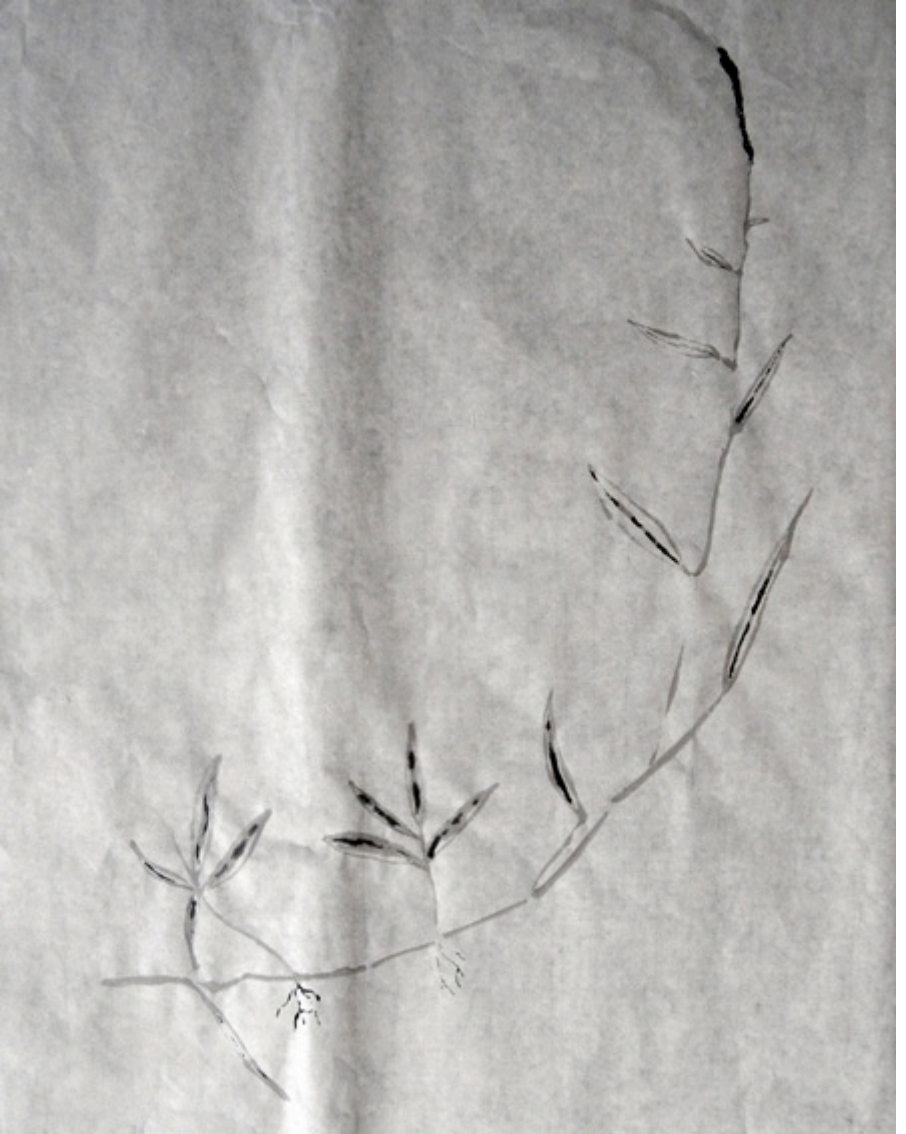
Today, it is estimated that a 30,000-ton ship can bring 120 tons of weed seeds.

In the 700s, 4,000 ships a year called at the port of Guangzhou.

For a while Guangzhou was the only port foreigners had access to in China. (All delegations and their thousands of soldiers had to debark here before proceeding to the capital.)

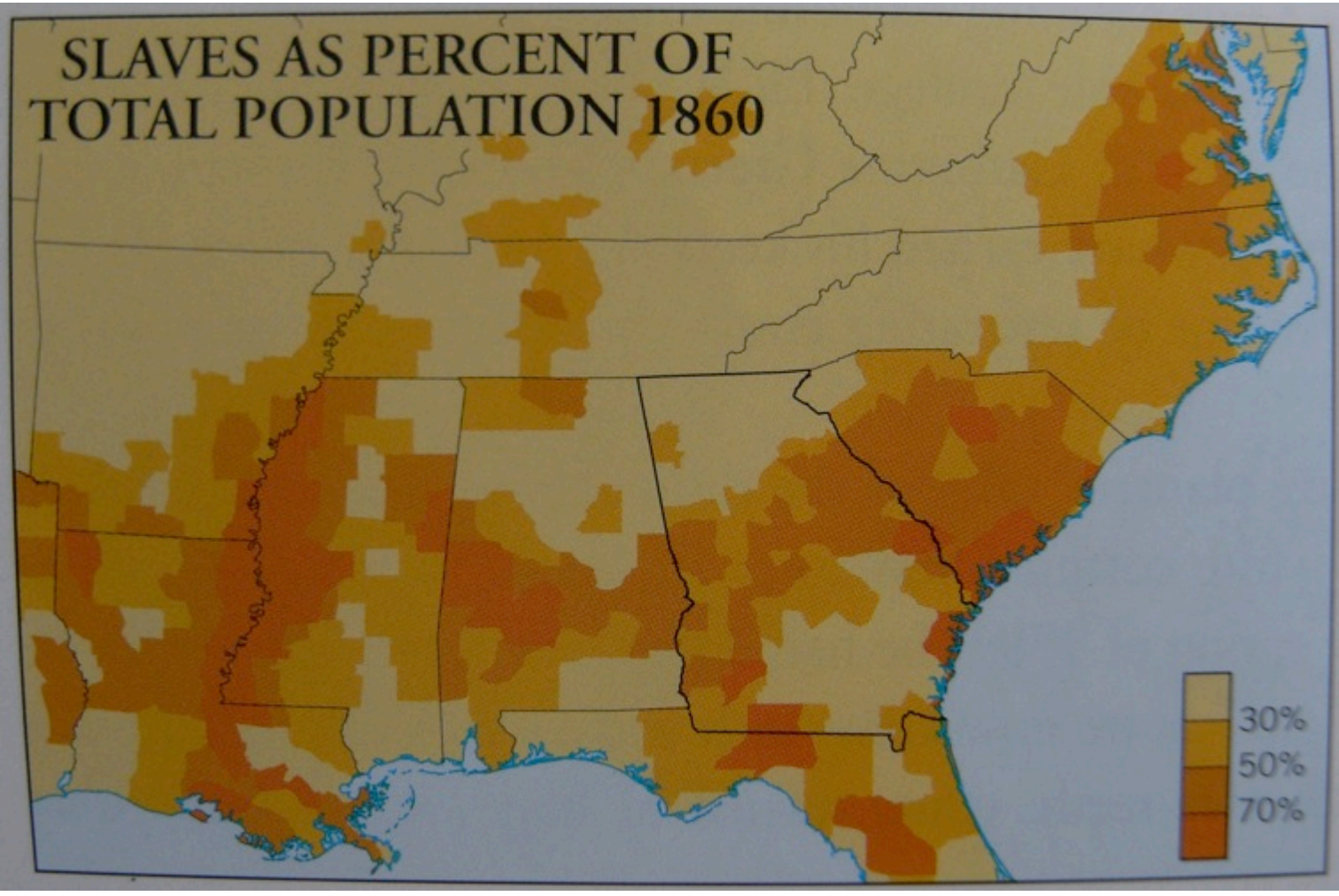
They were only allowed in the Liwan District and just south of the river.

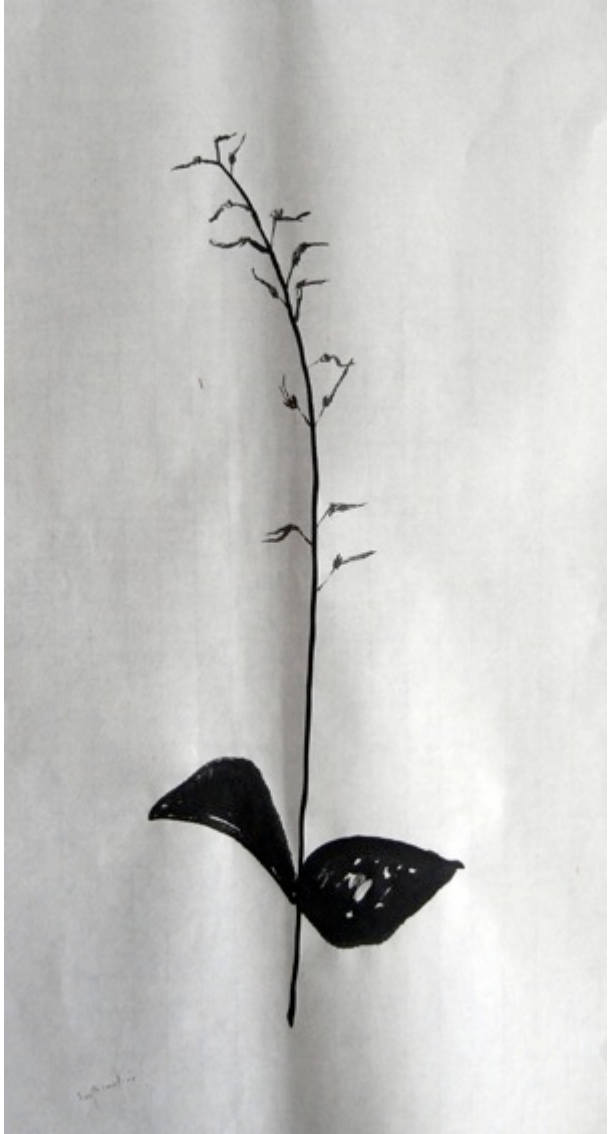
Today, there are more than 100 wholesale markets in Liwan, lots of seeds can move around.



Spices were imported from among other places Kerala in India.

Some cotton came from the USA, worked by enslaved peoples from all over Africa. Seeds from their hometowns perhaps arrived here with the cotton.


SLAVES AS PERCENT OF
TOTAL POPULATION 1860
30%
50%
70%



The cotton plantations had been forcibly removed from the original owners, the Cherokees.

South Carolina

Some silk traded in Guangzhou was made in Shunde.

Tea was picked by women and girls who collected the tea leaves from cliffs and woodlands every morning it was transported.

A view of old Liwan.

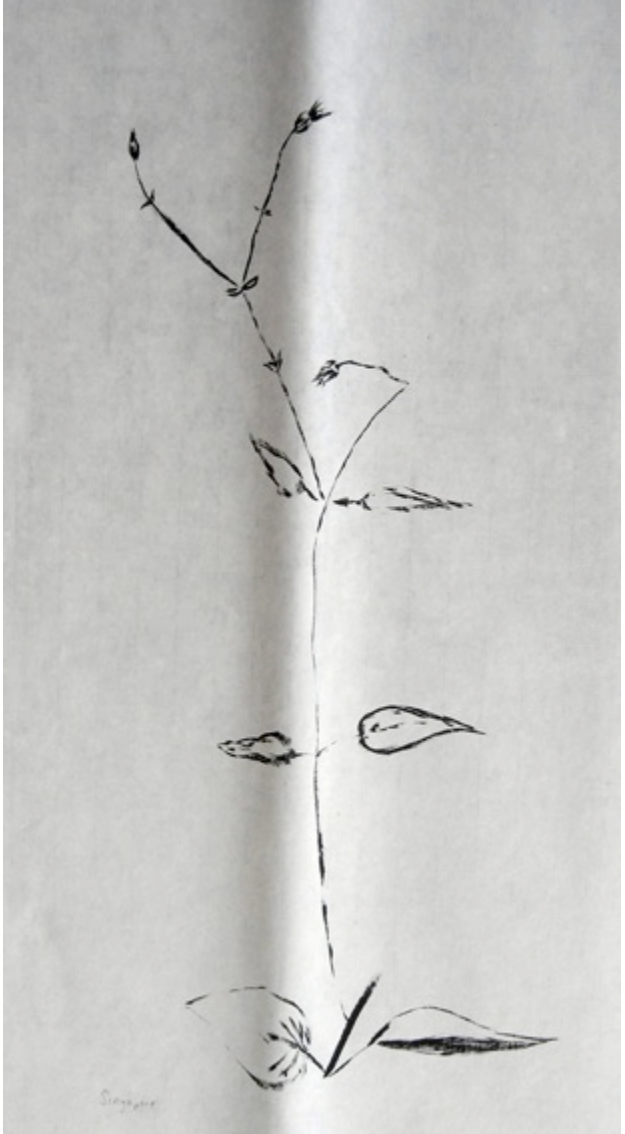
Sun Yat-sen, the leader of the first Chinese Revolution, after returning from his studies abroad opened the East-West Pharmacy near Huagui Lu.

Some jade came from the Yunnan Province, as did some mercenary soldiers who helped Sun Yat-sen.

Chu Yonyun was an opera singer living in Liwan. She traveled to USA, Canada and Vietnam.

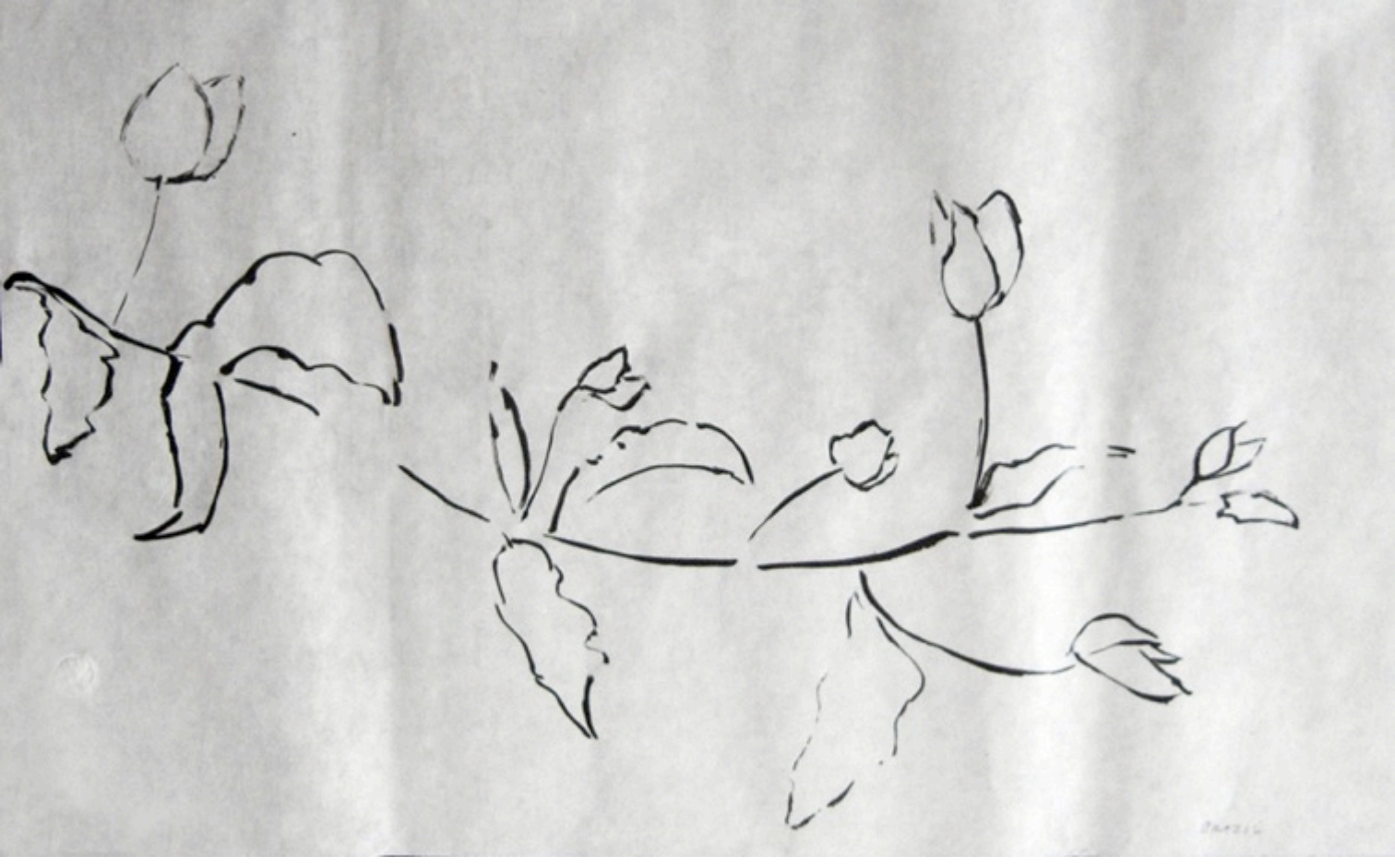
Seeds can easily catch onto the mud caked on the bicycle wheels.

Mariano Ponce who supported Sun Yat-sen was born in Bulacan. He studied in the Universidad Central in Madrid. Fled to France, then Hong Kong and Yokohama (where there were lots of American soldiers.) He later became a diplomat in the Philippines.

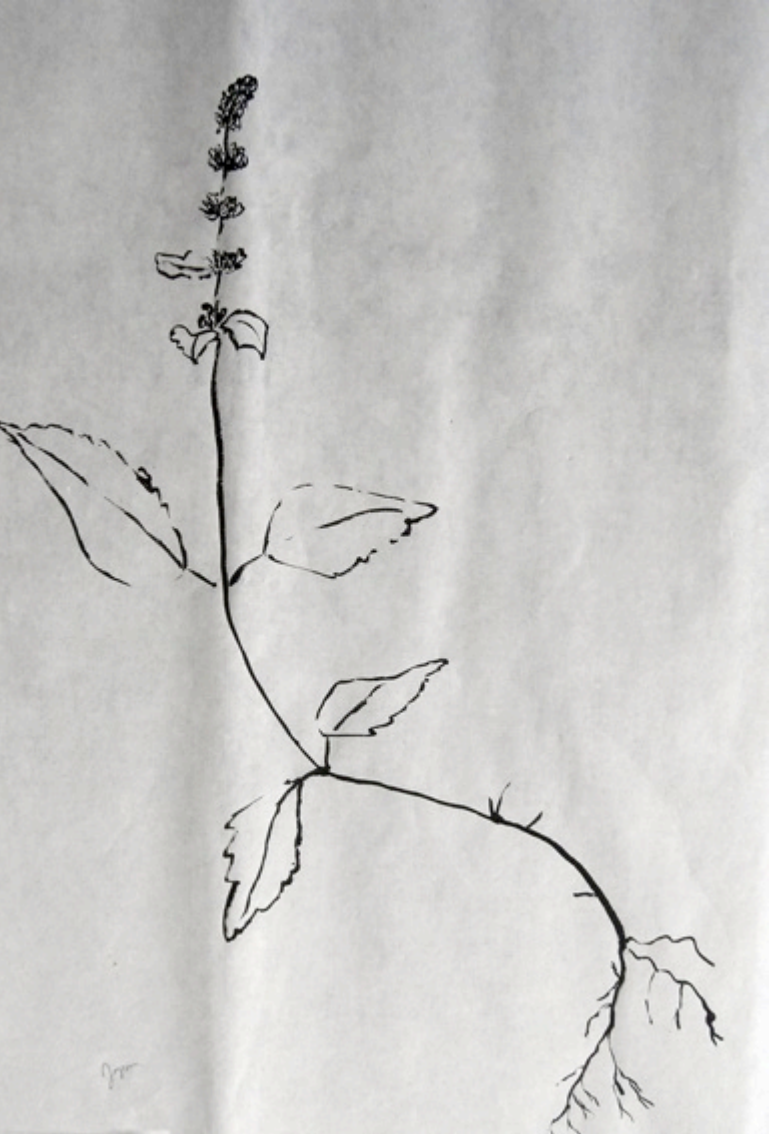


Singapore

Sun Yat-sent and his friends: Yang Heling (from Macao) Sun Yat-sen, Chen Shaobai (from Xinhui) and Wang Lie (from a farming family). He also had three merchant friends here who owned rubber, timber and pineapple plantations.



Brazil



Sun left to continue his studies in Hong Kong, then Macao, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Europe, the USA, Canada and Japan.

Nixon had soldiers in Cambodia. They came from across the USA and Puerto Rico.

USA

Students of Guangzhou in Baiyun Mountains. Perhaps some lived in Liwan.

Some fans used here are made in Xinhui.

Frederik IV with his army in Copenhagen traded with Guangzhou.

Sun Yat-sen's family in Honolulu, where lots of flora grows. Sun received an award from King Kalakava, who was the first king to travel around the world.

Hawaii

Sun at Six Rong Trees Temple meeting with Buddhists who walk to many places.

Sun with colleagues including Huang Xing in Shanghai.

Sun with Mei Wu Zhuang Ji, the couple worked in films in Japan. Actors travel to many sites.

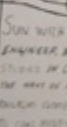
Sun worked at the Boji Hospital here, where patients and doctors come in and out.

Kang Deli, Sun Yat-sen and Qiao Yi Sheng in London.

Sun with Zhan Tianyou, engineer born in Liwan, studied in Connecticut, joined the navy in Fuchow. Built the railroad connecting Tientsin to coal mines in Tangshan.

Sun with his colleagues: Huang Xing, Moyong Jie, Zhang Ji and Song Jiaoren at the home of Gongqiyincang in Japan.

THREE SEED CARRIERS



"WITH ROSES TUCKED UP I PUSHED MY BARROW."

STUMBLING FALLING SLIDING AND RISING.

SUN WITH ZHAN TIANYU ENGINEER, BORN IN LIMIN, STUDIED IN CHANGCHUN, TAUGHT THE ART OF FLYING BUT HE BECAME COMPETITIVE TENNIS TO TAKE PLACE IN TIANJIN.

YUAN SHIKAI, MILITARY LEADER, WHO SUN YAT SEN HAD TO MAKE PRESIDENT OF CHINA, FLEEING IN BEIJING.

HIS COAT IS A GOOD SEED CATCHER.

SUN HUNTING WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND OTHERS. ANIMALS CARRY SEEDS IN THEIR FUR.

SOONG CHING LING WITH BRITISH PHYSICIAN.

SOONG CHING LING AT THE 2 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE MADE UP OF THE MISSIONARY, CHRISTIAN, CONFUCIAN AND TSILIANISTS TRIED IN THE NORTH EAST OF THE OLD TRIPOD WITH THE CHINESE IN GENEVA AND TOKYO WITH THE KOREA AND TIBETAN IN KOREA AND THE TIBETAN IN PURSUED GOD. WHEN SOONG CHING LING WAS SECRETARY OF THE 2 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE MADE UP OF THE MISSIONARY, CHRISTIAN, CONFUCIAN AND TSILIANISTS TRIED IN THE NORTH EAST OF THE OLD TRIPOD WITH THE CHINESE IN GENEVA AND TOKYO WITH THE KOREA AND TIBETAN IN KOREA AND THE TIBETAN IN PURSUED GOD. WHEN SOONG CHING LING WAS SECRETARY OF THE

SUN WITH SILAS AARON HARDOON AND FAMILY HE WAS FROM IRAN BUT LEFT FOR EUROPE.

CHANG AND SOONG WITH CHIANG KAI-SHEK

MANY RICKSHAW DRIVERS IN SHANGHAI WERE FROM JIANGSU

GEORGE SELWYN JOHN WITH A FRIEND OF MICHAEL CHANG OF CHINA IN ENGLAND WHO HAS MET WITH LORD GEORGE AND MANY GENERAL TO SIGN A TREATY AND ALL THESE LOVE LETTERS.

SOONG CHING LING WORKED WITH JOSEPH EDGERTON ON THE MAGAZINE CHINA RECONSTRUCTS. HE HAS BEEN IN WARSAW WHICH HAS PART OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA, WHICH HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREEDOM SOONG HIS MOTHER WAS IN EXILE IN OBOKA HE FAMILY MOVED TO TIENTSIN. HE THEN MOVED TO CHINA RETURNED TO CHINA, WENT TO TIBET AND WAS HEAD OF THE UPI OFFICE, WHERE HE MET JOURNALISTS

SOONG MAY-LING ADDRESSES THE US CONGRESS WHERE MANY SILKS CAN COME

INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE BRITISH ARMY IN SHANGHAI CAN MAKE SILKS

SOONG CHING LING WITH QUEEN MOTHER ELIZABETH

SOONG CHING LING WITH BERTRAM RUSSELL AT CAMBRIDGE

He Xiagning, born in Hong Kong and studied art in Tokyo. She participated in the Revolution of 1911 with Sun, was also a member of the central committee. Traveled to the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Shanghai, Paris, Belgium, Britain, Switzerland, Germany etc.

Liao Zhongkai (to her left) was born in San Francisco, studied in Hong Kong then Japan, then was Governor of here.

Hainan

Ding Hu Mountains where Sun liked to swim and perhaps some seeds caught on his towel.

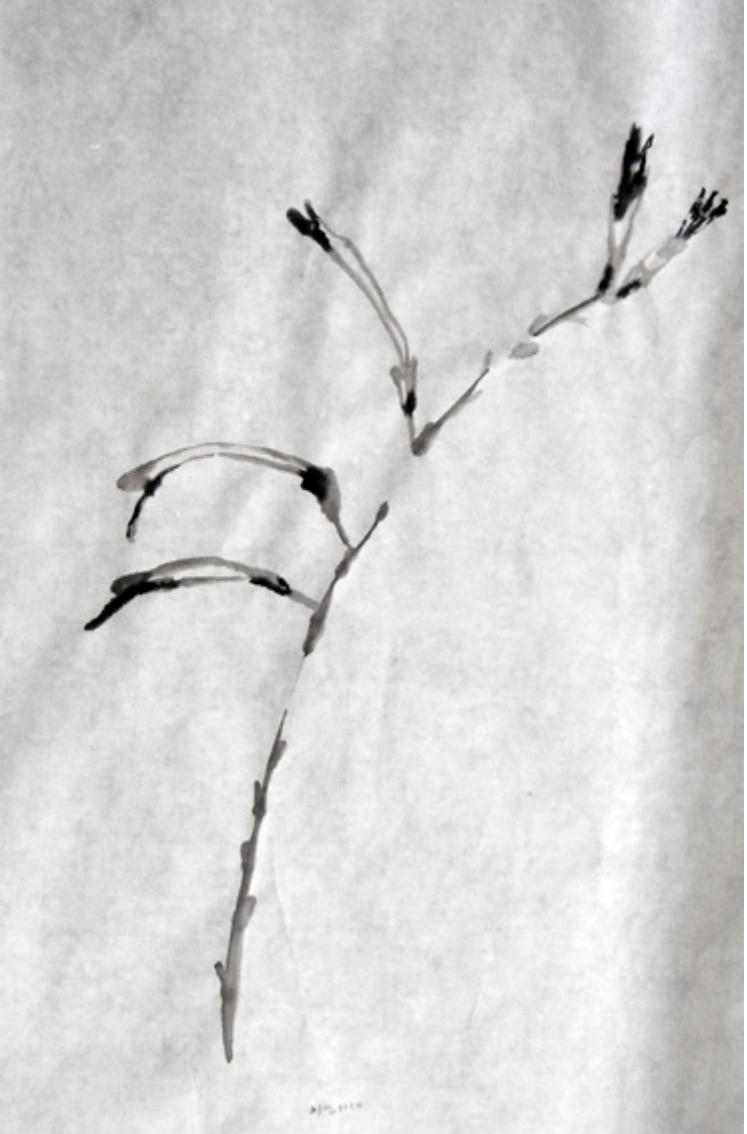
Cui Heng in Xiangshen, Sun's native home with trees.

Sun leaving the railroad station in Paris, where many other travelers arrive.

Yuan Shikai, military leader, who Sun Yat-sen had to make President of China, fishing in Beijing.

His coat is a good seed catcher.

Beijing



Mikhail Markovich Borgdin was a professional revolutionary sent by Comintern to Guangzhou to support Sun. He traveled also to the USA, Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands and Mexico. He also arranged some arms shipments to Sun from Vladivostok.

Mexico

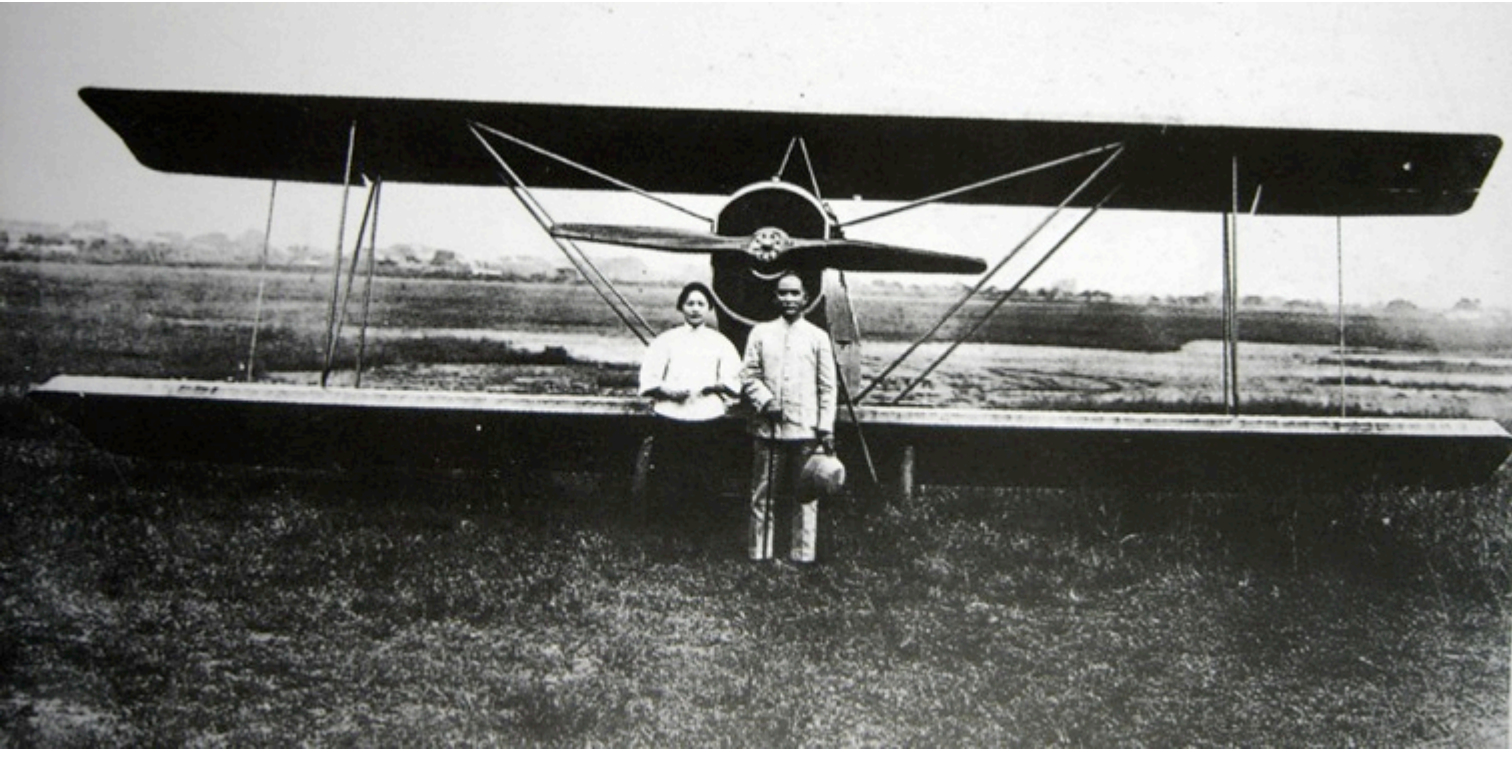
General Huang Xing was from Hubei and Commander-in-Chief of Revolutionary forces who move around and sleep rough on the earth….

"…with robes tucked I pushed my horse,
Tumbling falling sliding back again."

("Southern Mountains" by Han Yü)

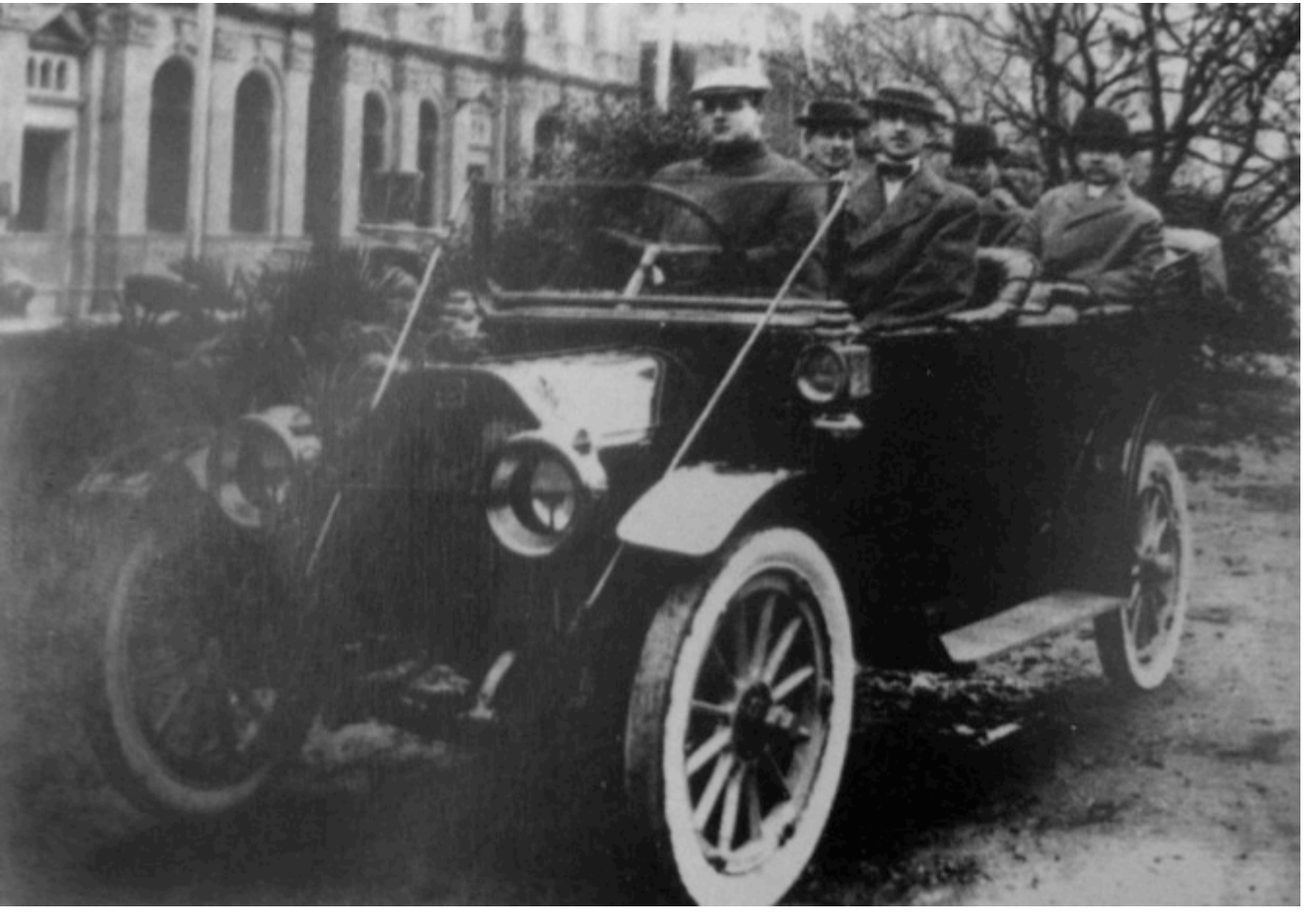
Hubei

Sun hunting with his daughter and others. Animals carry seeds in their fur.



Three Seed Carriers

(Soong Ching-ling, originally from Shanghai, and her husband, Sun Yat-sen. Soong, the first female pilot in China stands in front of the first plane manufactured in China.)



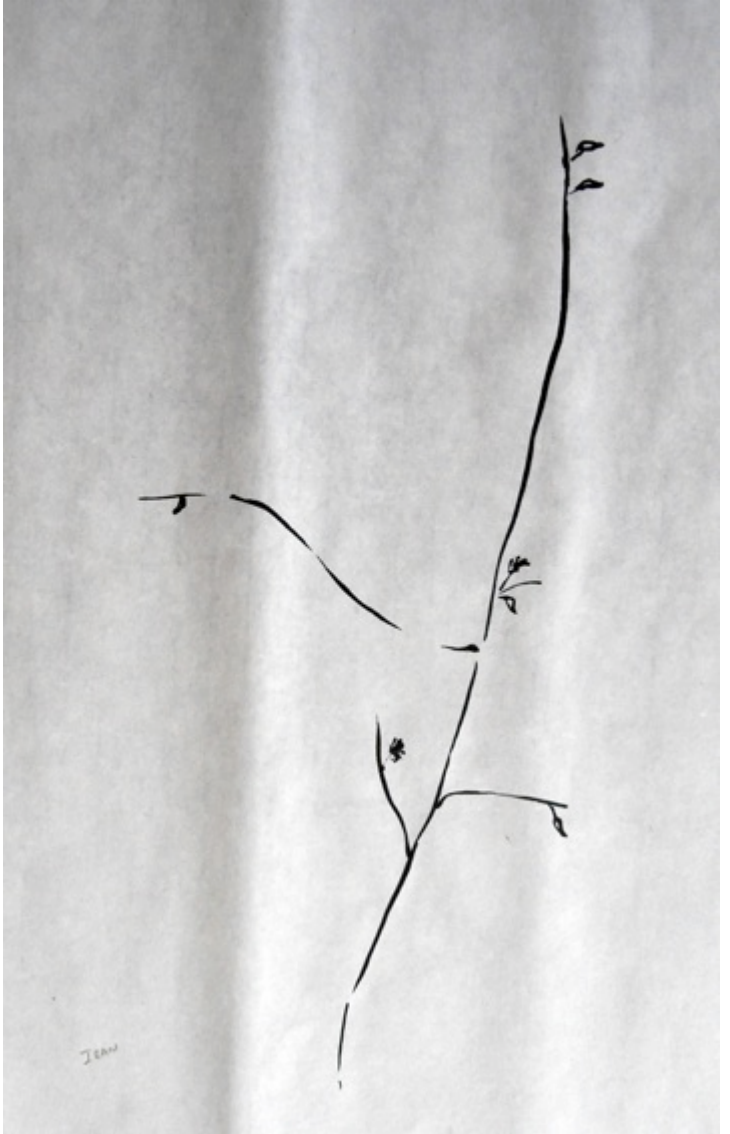
Sun and friends in New York where many immigrants live.

Doctors MM Atal, MM Cholkar, BK Basu, Dwarkanath Kutnis and Debesh Mukherjee from India visiting Guangzhou.
They met with Soong Ching-ling and Epstein.

Soong Ching-ling with Mao at the founding ceremony of the PRC in Beijing.

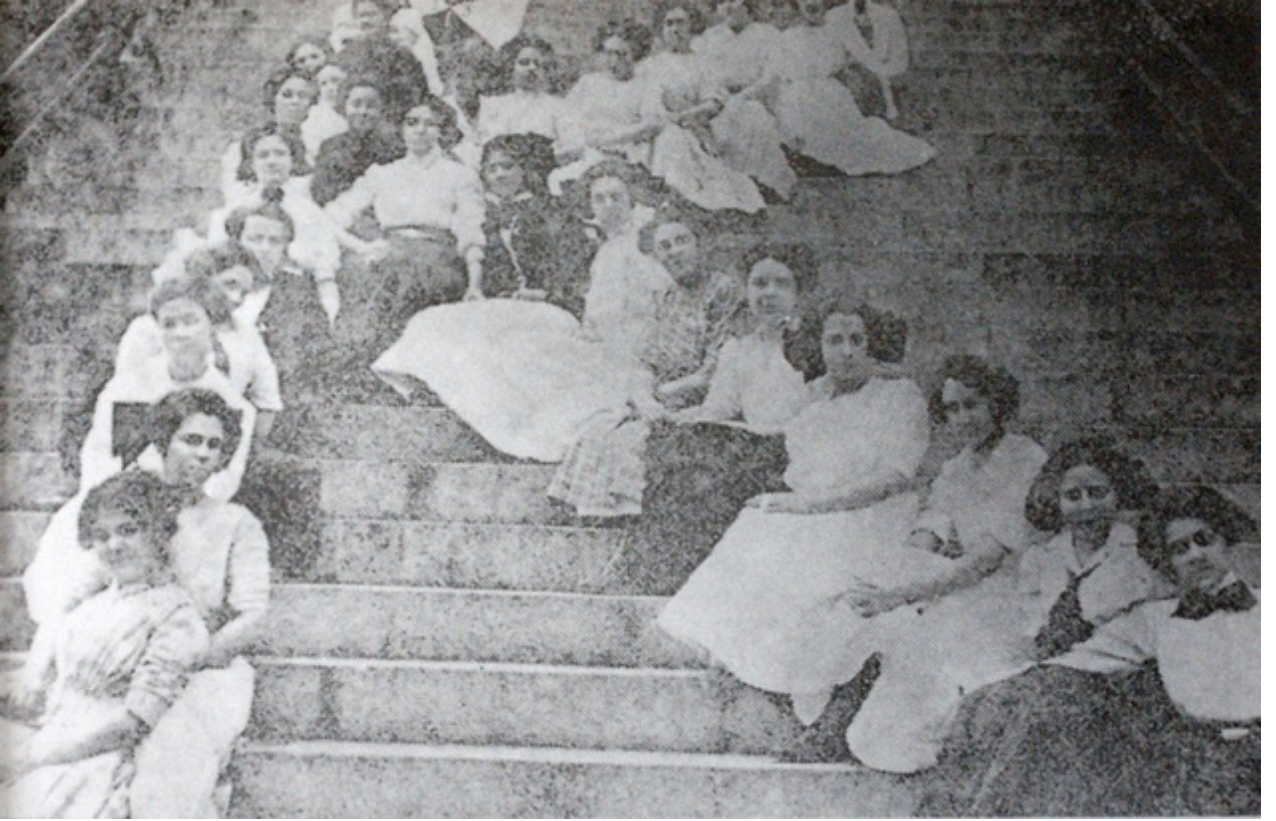
Soong Ching-ling with Russian advisor.

Sun with Silas Aaron Hardcon and family.
He was from Iran but left for Bombay.

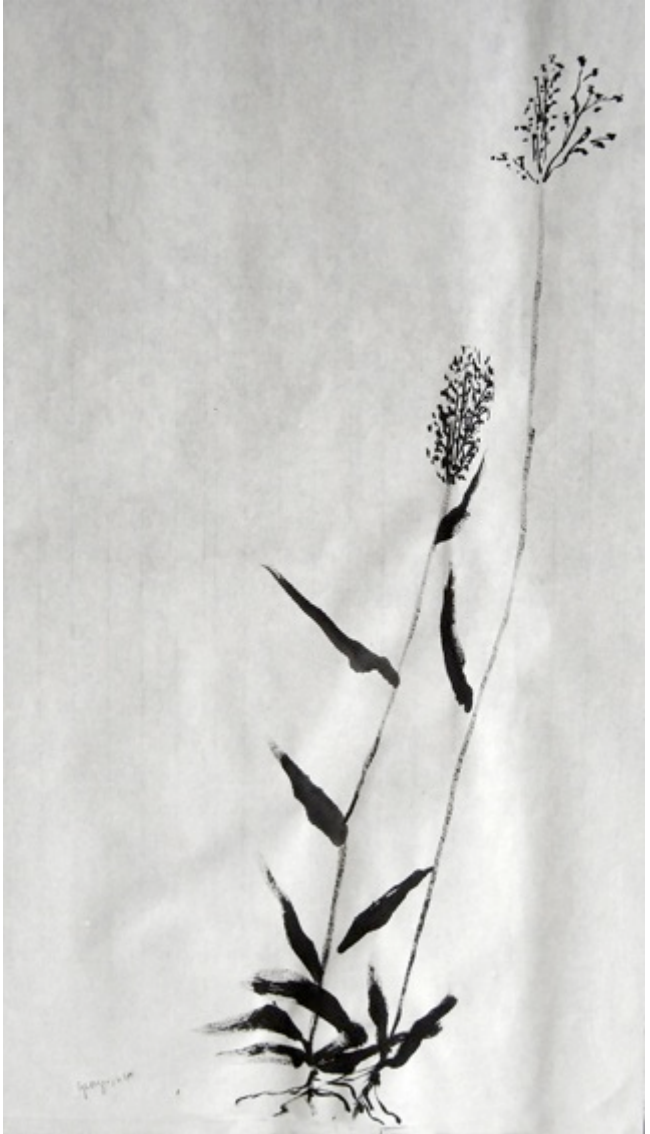


Iran

Soong Ching-ling and Sun at Die Cai Mountains in Guilin…seeds can have become attached to her skirt.



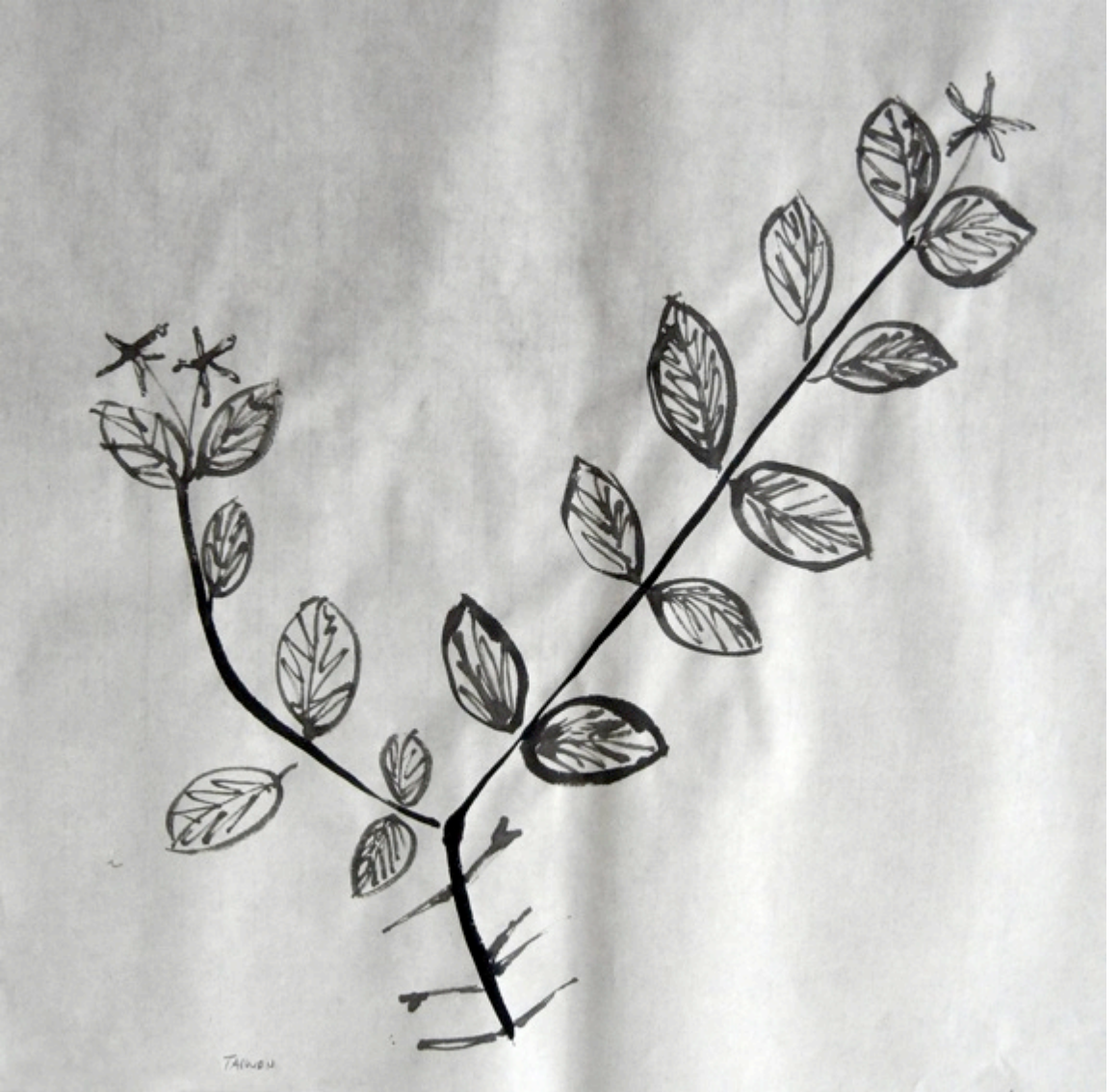
Soong Ching-ling who was from Shanghai, studied at Wesleyan in Georgia, USA. The Iroquois Confederation made up of the Mohawks, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora Tribes in the Northeast of the USA traded with the Cherokees in Georgia who traded with the Olmecs and Toltecs in Mexico and the Tainos in Puerto Rico…maybe seeds came…



Georgia

White Russians coming from Siberia, Manchuria and Vladivostok at a party in Shanghai.

Chiang Kai-shek and Soong with Gandhi and Nehru.
Chiang had earlier helped Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching-ling
flee from Guangzhou.

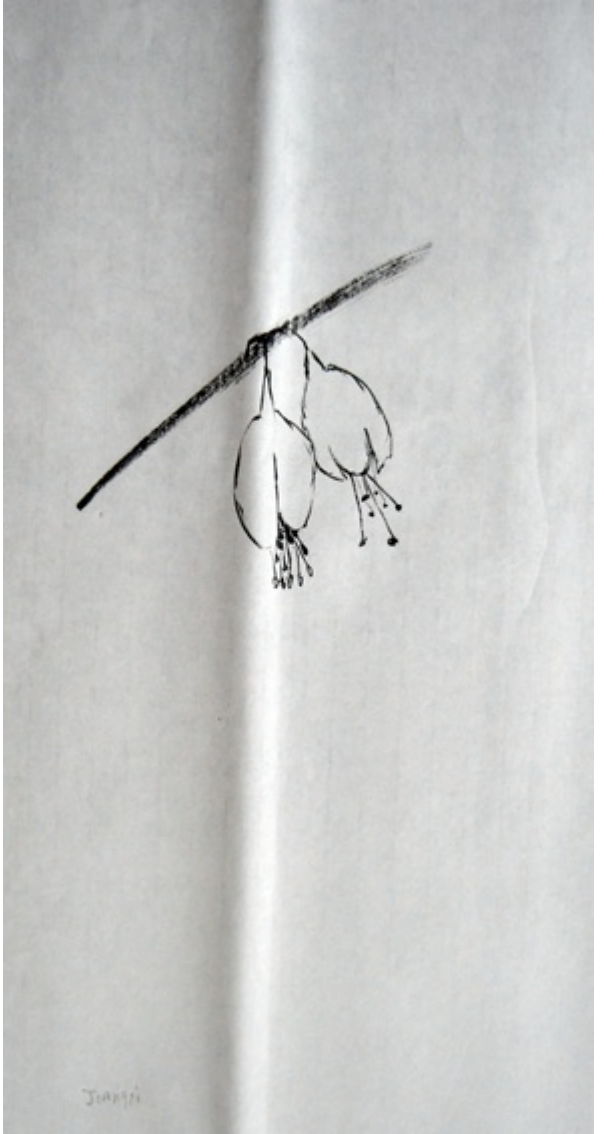


Taiwan

Zhejiang

India

Many rickshaw drivers in Shanghai were from Jiangsu.

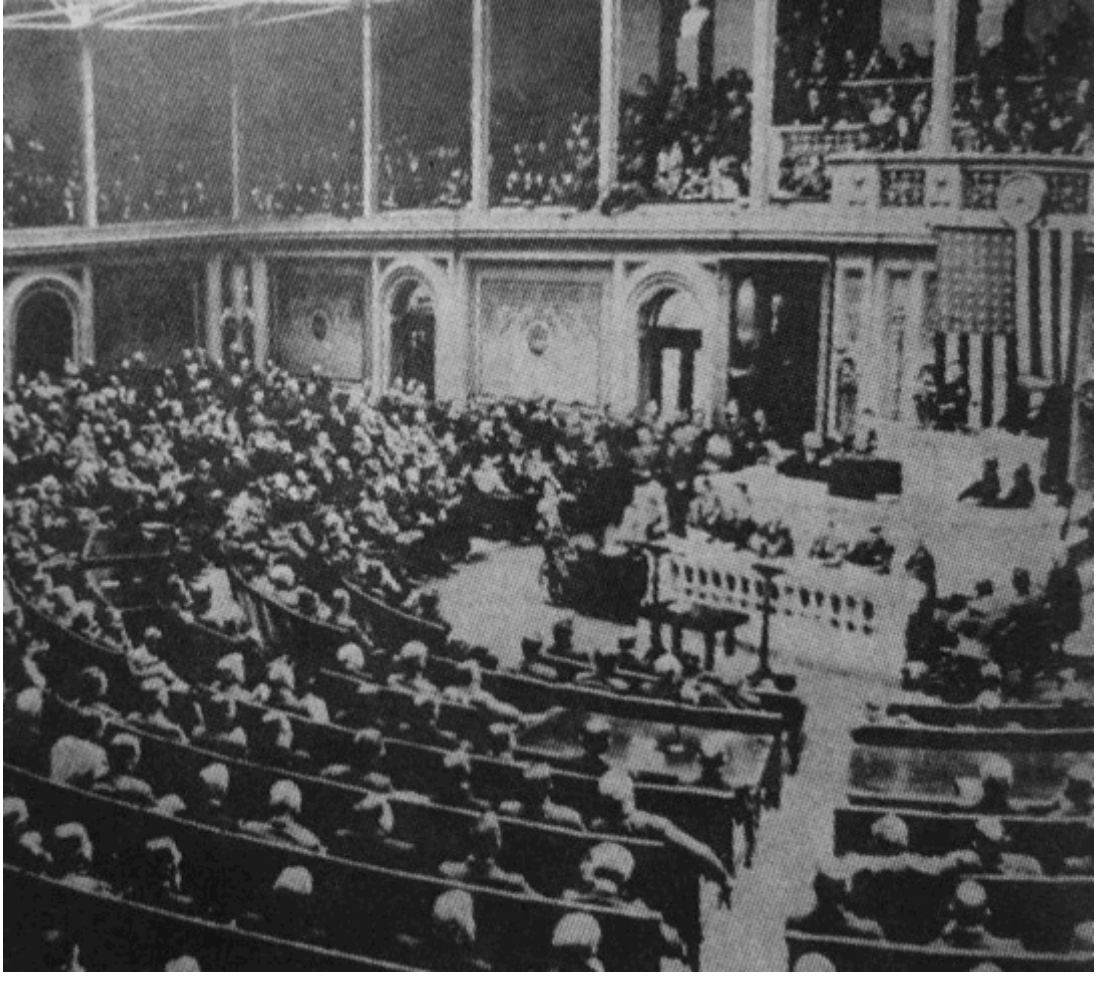


Jiangsu

Indian soldiers in the British Army in Shanghai can bring seeds.

Soong Ching-ling with George Bernard Shaw, who was a friend of Michael Collins of Cork in Ireland, who had met with Lloyd George and many others to sign a treaty and all these seeds could have come.

Zafeng, a Manchurian prince, leading a mission to Germany passing through Shanghai.

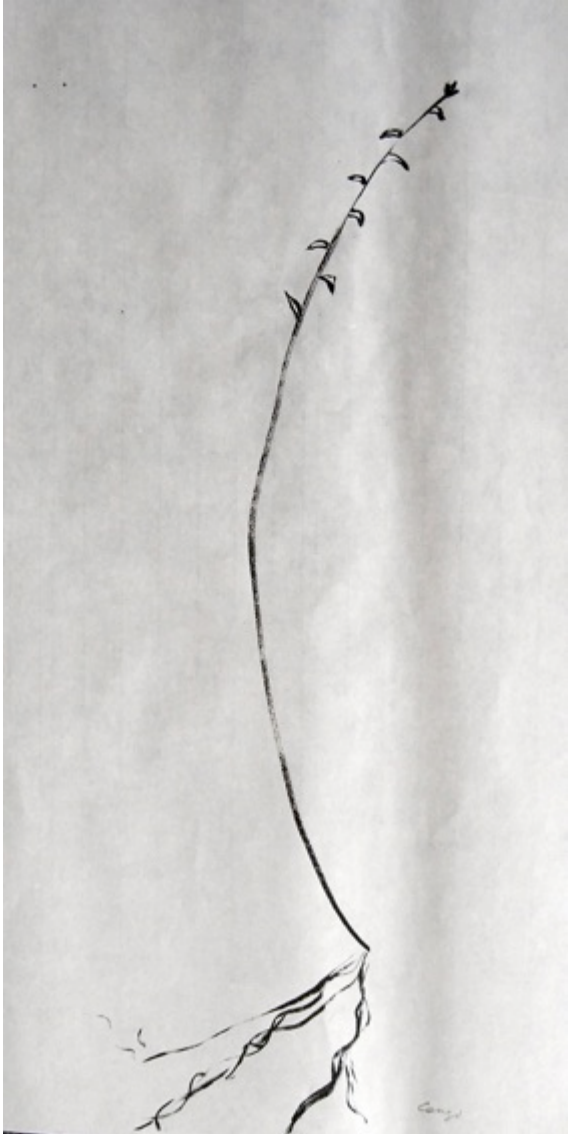


Soong Mey-ling (Ching-ling's sister and married to Chiang Kai-shek) addresses the US Congress where many seeds can come.

Alaska

THREE SEED CARRIERS
BELGIANS HAD RUBBER PLANTATION IN THE CONGO

Soong Ching-ling with Queen Mother Elizabeth of Belgium.

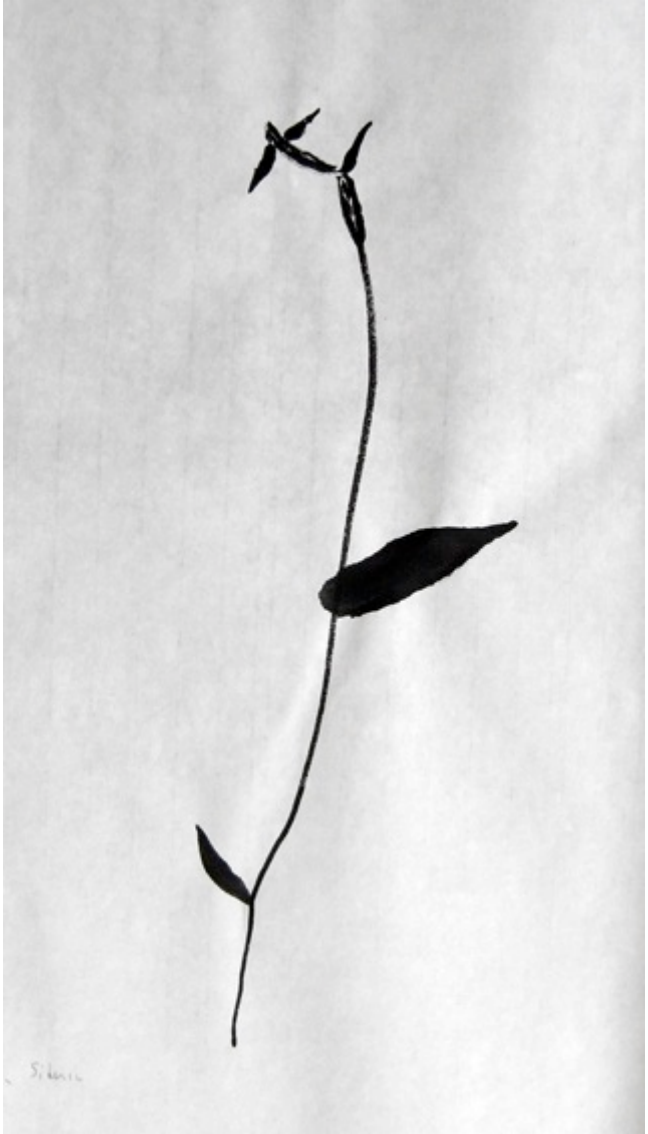


Belgians had rubber plantations in the Congo.

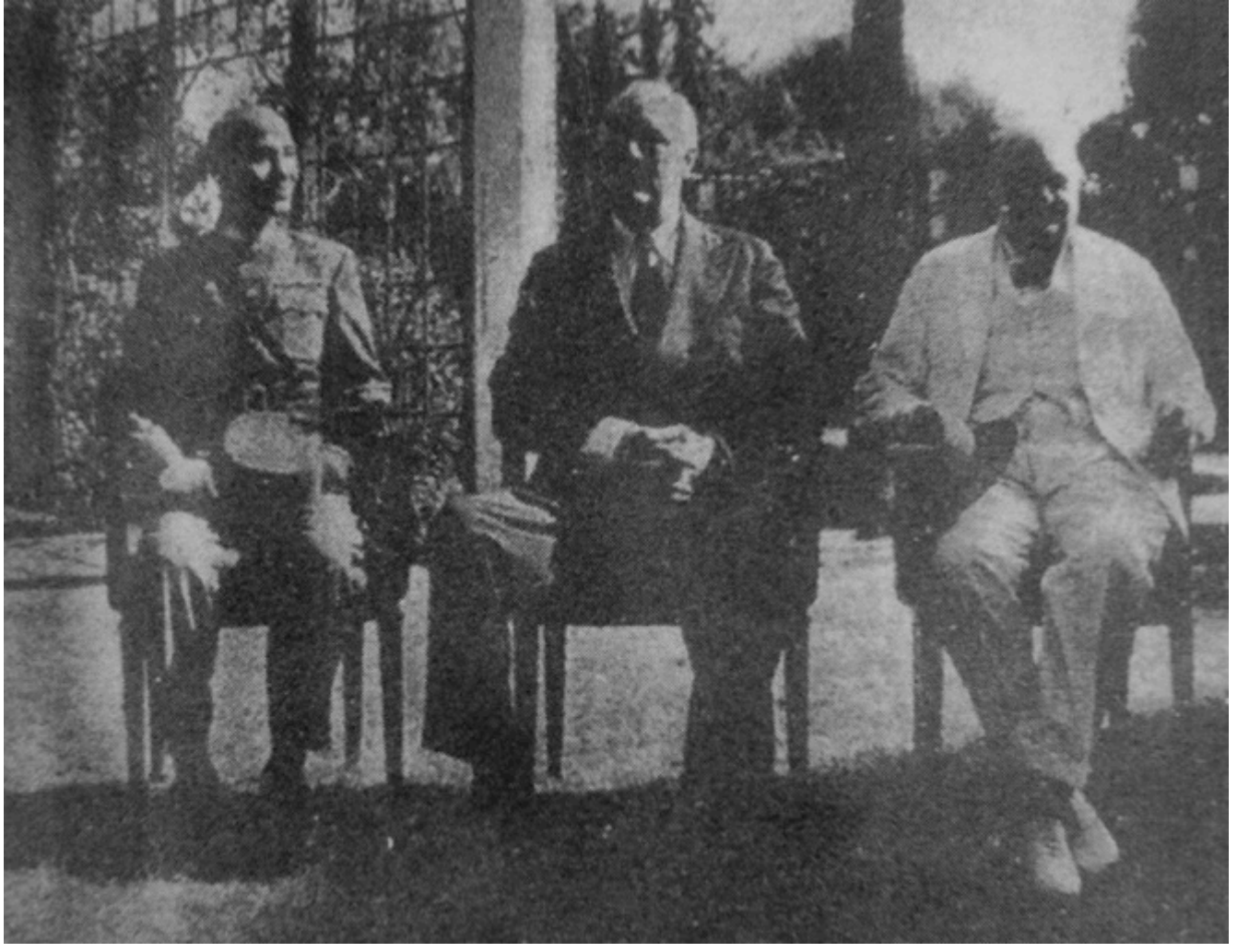
Soong Ching-ling worked with Israel Epstein, on the magazine “China Reconstructs”. He was born in Warsaw which was part of Imperial Russia which had many opportunities for frontier seeds. His mother was in exile in Siberia. His family moved to Tientsin. He then moved to England. Returned to China, went to Tibet and was head of the UPI office, where he met journalists who travel a lot.

Xisang

New South Wales contingent in Tientsin.



Siberia

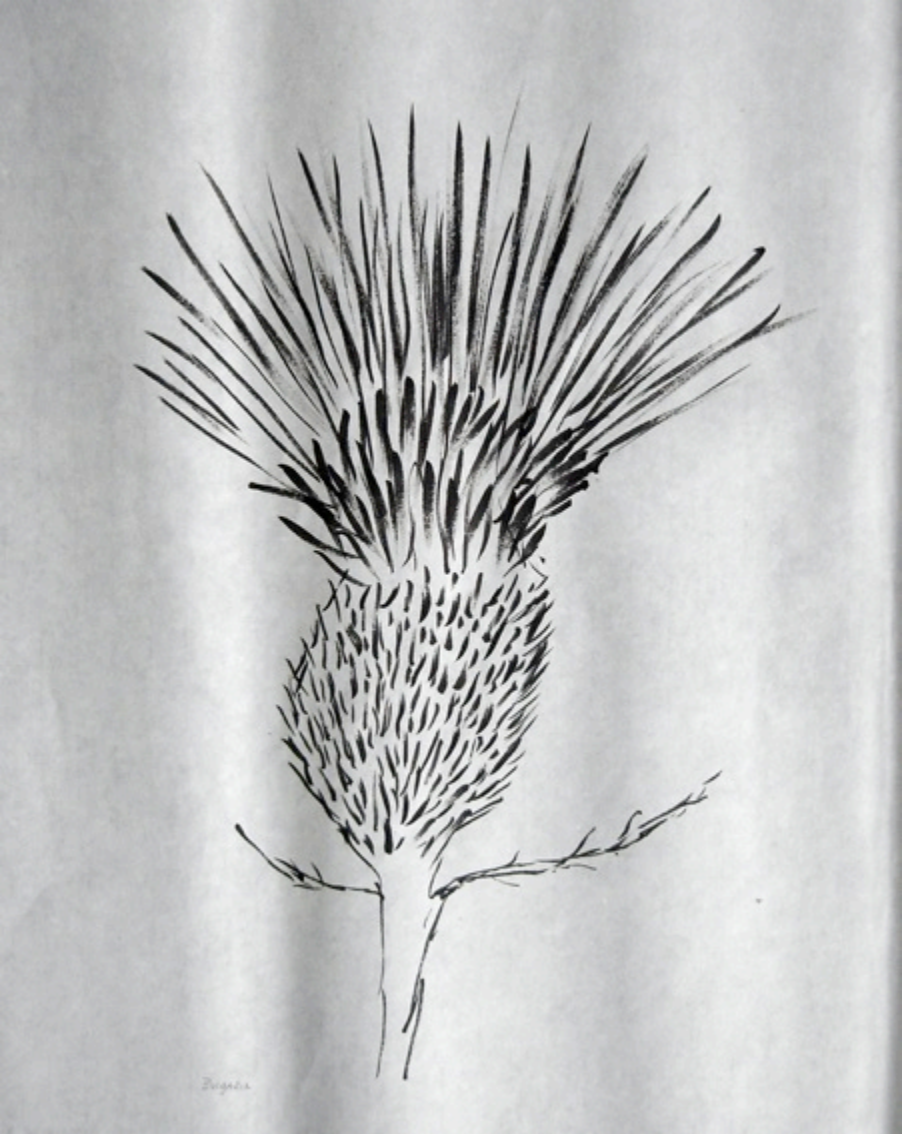


Chiang with Roosevelt and Churchill at Cairo Conference.

Alliance Française in Shanghai maybe seeds from Algeria came.

Algeria

Soong Ching-ling in Russia with friends.



Russia

Soong Mey-ling (Ching-ling's sister) with members of the Women's movement in Shanghai.

Soong sisters in Chongqing after it was bombed by Japan.

Chongqing

Lecture at SH Contemporary Art Fair in Shanghai.

Soong Ching-ling feeding seed flyers

THE TADORNA
FERRUGINEA,
A DUCK OF SUBARTIC
EUROPE WINTERS IN AFRICA
AND HERE. SOMETIMES THEY
HANG OUT WITH PIDGEONS
TO GET SOME BREAD.

WAKE IN GUANGZHOU: The History of the Earth
SEEDS FROM
HUAGUI LU ARE
GROWING IN THE
MUSEUM'S SCULPTURE
GARDEN (INNER COURTYARD)
我们把华贵路上
的种子种在美术
馆的花园里了。
(在馆内的小花园)

CONTEMPORARY SEED CARRIERS

订做家私
量尺设计

缔造行业神
广州歌妞贸易有限公司
广州市红遍
红遍天欢迎您
仓库300元/月出租

荔源社区服务部

现场即充羽绒被
90% 羽绒 每500g 330元
全棉防绒套价目
150×215 绒套 160元1个
180×215 绒套 180元1个
200×230 绒套 200元1个
康德华床上用品公司

Weeks later, seeds germinated from the sample removed from Huagui Lu.