

## Journal - Around the World in 79 days - Spring 2013

### Part 3: A second weekend in Shanghai - March 15-18 with Brigid and Daniel

**15 March, Friday:** Brigid flew in from Newark in the afternoon for her long weekend in Shanghai - so I took the metro to her hotel to say hello - it is about a 55 minute trip with one change (lines 10 and 4) and 7 minute walks at each end. Her hotel is on the east side, just behind the skyscrapers of the business city. Getting there about 6 pm, I found Brigid wide awake in her beautiful suite - Daniel and Anita get another one nearby when they come in about midnight. We went down for the “manager’s evening buffet” which turned out to be a really nice selection of food and drinks - plenty for supper - and started making some plans for the weekend; unfortunately rain is predicted for Sunday - hence, we should do our outside walking on Saturday. I then returned back to my Fudan hotel, quite an ordinary place compared with Brigid’s sumptuous Double-Tree Hilton. Agreeing to get back about 9 am the following morning.

**16 March, Saturday:** After an early breakfast, I metroed back to the Doubletree to find Brigid and Daniel having breakfast - no Anita! Unfortunately, she missed the plane - so it will be just the three of us for the weekend...after a second breakfast (for me) in Brigid’s luxury palace, we took the metro back to the east-



*Daniel at breakfast*

side skyscrapers, aiming first for the famous “Pearl Tower” - we decided this was the one to go to, since although one does not go quite as high, just to the second “Pearl”, it has a museum to visit. As you can see, sunny, but cool, and quite a lot of industrial haze. A great place for pics - which is why you see so many here (by the way, I am just a piker for picture-taking compared with the other two - basically a 1to10 ratio). We could not see Chengdu behind Daniel’s



*In front of the Pearl*

head in the picture at the left! He is on the upper floor, but the floor below is glass - a little scary to walk on at first, but little kids had no problem running around on it looking down to the river below.



*Looking west toward Chengdu (1630km)*



*“Pearls dropping...”*

We continued on down to the ground floor museum - which covers the history of Shanghai - a wonderful museum full of realistic dioramas in old cobbled streets - just the museum alone was worth the entry fee: historical in

approach showing how Shanghai developed into a modern city.



*Brigid and Daniel walking on glass at the Pearl*



*Chair seat weaver*



*The missionaries*



*The cloth shop*

*In "mixed" court - Victorian times...*

We took the metro under the river to the shopping district on the west bank (East Nanjing road) -all hungry for lunch, we hurried into the nearest mall building in search of a restaurant - lots of choices, and found one on the top floor - good food and service, and not too expensive. The chinese seem to have



*Brigid and lunch at the top*



*Shopping Center center*



*Bund flowers*

restaurants everywhere- clearly an important part of their life, and sprinkled in between the regular american fast-food chains, frequented mostly by the young (they know no better!).

We walked down to "the Bund", the riverbank,



*Daniel cameraman*

which was the busy commerce port of Shanghai in the 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20th century. Now a broad pedestrian boardwalk has replaced the quays, with beautiful views across the Huangpu river to the skyscrapers we had just visited. The wall of the Bund (away from the river) is filled with flowerpots making beautiful floral designs, apparently quite a common feature in China.



*Part of a Bund Bank's architecture*

Unfortunately the rain, that had been threatening for a while, began and we walked hurriedly back past the row of imposing bank buildings, and into town - a series of pedestrian streets with lots of shops/department buildings, reminding me mostly of Singapore on a similar scale: there are more elsewhere all across town, even a "Raffles". It is frightening how

americanized these all seem - it makes one wonder whether the evils of capitalism, the over-consumption, the corporate greed, and the re-enslaving/re-production of the 99% that come with it are going to spread across the whole world. [Just to finish off a train of thought: the major corporations are now international and their control and drive for profit seems likely to overwhelm the mostly-newly-reached democratic freedom for most people across the world - even for women; on the other hand, "progress" in science has also made the lives of ordinary people more livable in many ways; and it is our individual responsibility to work to make sure that the progress benefits all of us - then it is "progress"]. We headed into one of these symbols of "wealth" - one with the "Apple store" - for shelter. While Daniel went hunting for plastic raincoats, which he found, Brigid and I relaxed - we would have had a *goutet* at a nearby cake/ice cream cafe, but the tables (8 very little ones) were all taken, so we decided it was time to head back to Brigid's palace and enjoy the manager's evening "cocktail hour": a buffet with everything you need from horsdoerves - to entrees and desserts, and wine, beer and coke for our three varied tastes.

During the feast, we made preliminary plans for Sunday: it was supposed to rain (unlike the Saturday forecast) - hence, museums were the order for the day. I left for the metro ride home about 55 minutes, to my 2-star abode at at Fudan University.

**17 March, Sunday:** Not raining when I left Fudan as I headed for People's Park where we all met, and walked through the park, past the photogenic Shanghai Opera building (see Brigid's pics) to the art museum (still not raining) -



*Cleaning lady putting flowers on her handlebars*



*Meat cleaver-1*



*Meat cleaver-2*

Unfortunately the art museum is closed for extended repairs (to the

building, not the art); however, the modern art museum was nearby it turned out to be fascinating-- some reminded us of Christopher's boxes. Some of them are illustrated here:



*Ghouls-1*



*Ghoul-2, St. Pat's day-1*



*Ship and bucket*

halfway there, we descended into an underground shopping area (mostly little shops, no chainstores) that extends underneath much of the park...

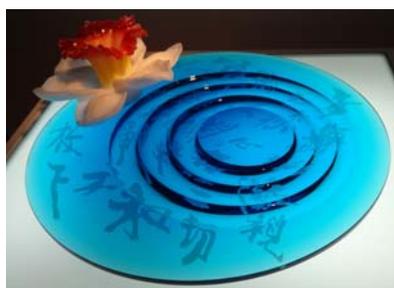
The museum is a marvelous round 4 story building devoted to old china, calligraphy, coins, painting, sculptures, archeology in general. etc., but most important for our immediate needs, a restaurant to sustain us for the task ahead.



*Three in a mirror-stabbed in eye by mirror bolt*

Sustained, we zipped up to the top floor, and started heading down floor by floor; we got almost halfway, when some of us needed rest, a gift shop, and/or a change..

- our goal was a taxi to the art district - the first driver knew no English, and could not read a map - so we gave up the communication challenge, and jumped into the cab behind -- here, no problem, and the cabbie delivered us quickly, accurately and cheaply. First, a really top



*It's all glass!*

A half-hour or so later, these immediate needs again satisfied, we ventured outside - the rain had arrived class art glass shop: while Brigid was buying I explored a great little gallery upstairs, mostly glass, and all local artists, easily the quality of what Mary and I found at the Corning Glass museum last summer. I found out later that i

should have paid a 50Rmb entrance fee - I did not feel guilty enough to go back and pay to help the perhaps starving artists... Downstairs was a little cafe (*goutet* time) tea and cake as we waited for the rain to abate. It did abate finally, and we got to the district - tiny little alleys criss-crossing a whole

block - easy to lose track of each other which we did a few times: numerous little knick knack shops, bars, restaurants... - i think we all bought a few things then hunger crept up and we



*Tibetan mask*



*A nice cup of tea*



*A nose for it...*

searched for supper: 2 choices: Bali-Bali or Indian - we started with BB, but after climbing the narrow stairs and sitting down, the prices seemed much too high. Amidst grumbling (with smiles) on all sides (staff and us), we went indian (up more narrow stairs)



*On the ceiling*

but the prices were about 1/3 of BB: the food was a little spicy with mostly friendly service. Time to go to our respective homes - we still had Monday morning for exploring.

**18 March, Monday:**



*View from Daniel's Doubletree room*

*PLAN A:* D and G go swimming at 8 am, we all have a sumptuous hotel breakfast at 9 am; we set off for a river ferry at 10 am; we return to the hotel at 12:30 pm; then prepare to fly away in the early afternoon (and I go to do a little



*Seagulls on the mud at the tidal edge*

physics). We stuck pretty closely to plan A, except that there was no ferry! Just walking along the riverfront - most amazing was that it was low tide and the mudflats were all visible on our side of the river, but not in the deep water next to the Bund on the opposite side...Brigid bought us consolation ice-creams to make up for all the walking, and back to the hotel we went - final actions: Brigid into a taxi to Pudong airport (the main Shanghai airport on the East China Sea coast); Daniel and I walked to the metro line #4 (Lancun road), where he went one way to the Hongqiao airport (in the middle of the city, like Chicago's Midway airport) and I headed back to the Fudan lab.



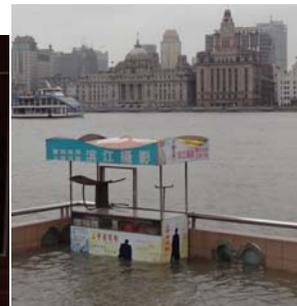
*Tide out - selling*



*Daniel just finished his icecream*



*Time to check out.....*



*Tide in - drowning*