

Red China's Mao Is a Best-Selling Writer at Home

Tokyo—When it comes to writing, Communist Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung is no slouch. Even objective western sinologists testify to the literary excellence of the balding Mao's poems. As a chronicler of the Communist revolution in China, Mao has evolved the theories that rank him as a theorist on a par with Lenin and Marx.

And if what the Chinese claim is true, Mao ranks right along with English writers like Shakespeare, Dickens, and D. H. Lawrence as a purveyor of popular pulp for the public.

Hiroshi Yagi, a Japanese resident in Peking, reports that Chinese laborers, farmers and housewives are standing up all night in front of Peking bookstores to buy Mao's latest endeavors.

Published on Oct. 1, the fourth volume of Mao Tse-tung's selected works has been a publisher's dream. Yagi reports, Mao's views from inside the Bamboo Curtain were published recently in the Japanese magazine Shoho.

Popular Response

In England, it took the publication of an unexpurgated version of "Lucky Chatterbox" to evoke this popular response. Mao's latest tome is a lengthy collection of 70 essays and selected chronicles of the Chinese Civil War from 1946 to 1949. More than 3 million copies of this volume have rolled off Red China's presses.

The question remained: "Were any of the bindings being created by readers? It has been hinted that the public in Red China had discovered that a copy of Mao's latest volume could open doors previously closed to non-Communists. Mao's writings likely grace the parlors of Red China's homes much as the Bible is found in many Christian living rooms.

In addition, a passing acquaintance with the contents of Mao's writings might convince an otherwise suspicious Communist party cadre of the owner's sincerity. Indications tended to show that many persons have been hitting the books for a little Socialist knowledge.

This is just what the Communists want.

Another factor would tend to motivate readers.

Illustrations

"Most of these people were illiterate and showed no interest in reading in pre-Communist days," Yagi said. Now that they have learned grammar, the masses are starved for reading. With only those books and magazines approved by the Communist regime available, this too could account for Mao's popularity.

The cost of books is cheap in state-subsidized bookstores. "I bought 10 books, including a novel, a memoir and a children's book," Yagi said. "Some were mere pamphlets, others were complete volumes. But I paid only 3.50 yuan for them (about \$1.52)."

Spaniards Reappraise Ancient Siesta Custom

Madrid—Unrest is brewing in Spain.

One reason is because of that national tradition, the siesta.

In a move aimed at bringing this old-world custom into step with modern times, the government is studying plans to change the hours of work and play.

No definite action has yet been taken. But the battle plans of the government are leaking out.

In return, Spaniards are banding together to keep their traditional hours. The whole thing is shaping up into what could be known for generations as the "great battle of the siesta."

Actually, cutting the siesta

Accidents Took 93,000 Lives in Nation in 1960

Chicago—93,000 accidents killed 93,000 persons in the nation in 1960, the National Safety Council said today.

They injured 3,400,000 others. One out of every 19 persons in the nation suffered a disabling injury during the year, the Council said.

Accidents cost the United States \$12.4 billion, the safety organization estimated.

It placed the time loss alone at 280 million man-days, enough to man factories with more than a million workers for an entire year.

In a comprehensive annual report, the safety council said climbed 1 per cent last year, from the 1959 toll of 92,000.

Death Rate Drops

But the population death rate from accidents dropped to an all-time low of 51.7 per 100,000 persons. The previous low was 52.2 per 100,000 in 1959. The decline was due to a 2 per cent increase in the population.

Motor vehicle accidents were the No. 1 killer. They claimed 38,200 lives, the council reported, compared with 37,910 in 1959.

Home accidents caused 27,500 deaths, 500 more than in the previous year.

Work accidents claimed 13,800 lives and public mishaps other than motor vehicle accidents took 16,500 lives. The tolls in these two categories were the same as in the previous year.

Official Figures

The Council noting that the all-accidents figure was less than the toll of the motor vehicle, home, work and public tolls explained that the motor vehicle toll included some also shown as work or home deaths. It said the all-accident and motor vehicle totals were official figures of the office of vital statistics, and the others were NSC estimates.

The council said falls-always a major killer—killed 18,700 persons in 1960, about the same as in 1959. Fire and burns caused 7,300 deaths, 6 per cent more than in the previous year.

Drowning totaled 6,500, up 1 per cent. Firearms killed 2,300, about 2 per cent more than in 1959.

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10-Year-Old Blind Boy Inspires Preparation Of Braille Encyclopedia

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Three Injured in Highway 99 Crash

Central Point—Three youths were injured in a car-truck collision here about 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, Central Point Chief of Police Walter Bowen reported.

He said that an auto operated by Alex Clinton Kendall, 16, Kirtland Farms, Central Point, and a truck driven by Marion Clutus Shaw, 31, Woodburn, were involved in the accident at Highway 99 and Pine sts.

Harold F. Allen, 16, of 212 South Any St., Central Point, was listed as most seriously injured. He received facial lacerations, Alex Kendall said. His brother, Roger, sustained minor injuries about the legs. Chief Bowen stated that all three were taken to Rogue Valley hospital by Medford ambulance.

Bowen said the collision occurred when Kendall attempted to make a left turn at the intersection. The youth will be cited for failure to yield the right-of-way. The chief reported, The Kendall car was north bound on the highway and the truck, belonging to Valley Truck Service, Woodburn, was headed south.

The truck pushed the other vehicle 87 feet after the impact.

Editing the encyclopedia for transcription of the Braille turned into a 15-month job. The Braille publication contains some hand-drawn diagrams and line drawings. But all illustrations had to be rewritten.

Marjorie S. Hooper, chief editor of the printing house, took charge of rewriting and such baffling problems as a Braille article on color.

"That was a corker," said Nault, who passed on the final result.

Rewriting also became a chore in dealing with such topics as geography, without maps; bird watching, without pictures; and crystallization, without complex diagrams.

Storage space also was a problem. But that was solved by shipping out each volume as it was completed.

The regular edition of the encyclopedia, 20 volumes, is taken about 20 inches of shelf space, Nault said. The Braille edition fills 43 feet and weighs about 700 pounds.

Nault said distribution of the Braille volumes by the Louisville printing house was expected to cover much of the English-speaking world.

He said all blind institutions in the United States and Canada were told of the project, as well as others in the Commonwealth nations.

Cost of creating the Braille edition was \$75,000, Nault said. In addition, production costs amounted to \$618.25 for each set.

Nault said 200 sets would be offered to selected institutions for the blind at a below cost and the other sets would be sold for cost.

He said that through the Braille edition, the work of another man, a lecturer who is both deaf and blind, valued the work another way.

"It will truly be a precious instrument of education for the blind," he said.

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