新加坡十九世纪

人数育的改革

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By Wee Tong Bao, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library

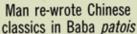


A classroom scene of a Chinese school in the late-19th century Source: 叶钟铃,黄佟葆合编《新马印华校教科书发展回顾》. **(2005)**. 新加坡: 华裔馆. Call no.: RSING Chinese 495.107 HIS

新加坡十九世纪初的教育改革往往都与中国当时的政治变化挂钩。 然而,当时在新加坡的一些人士的活动,对教育改革、以及整个社会的 改革起着一股推动力。这些人士不仅受过教育,有些还游刃于中西文 化。他们的多重文化背景使他们成为领导旧式教育改革的最佳人选。

在这群人当中,两位值得我们注意的人士包括了曾锦文(1851-1920)和邱菽园(1874-1941)。他们两位在海峡殖民地受过教育和工作,是当时文化界的活跃分子。

曾锦文出生于槟城,在槟城大英义学(Penang Free School)接受英文教育。1他不仅懂得英文和华文,也通晓马来文。1866年,其父亲送他回中国福州马尾水师学堂就读。毕业后,曾锦文续任该校的数学教师,一直到1872年。他首先回到槟城。两个月后,他到新加坡的某间律师楼任书记一职。曾锦文在业余的时候从事中国章回小说的峇峇马来文翻译工作(图一)。十二、三年内,他完成十八部作品。其中包括:《凤娇与李丹》、《五美人》、《三国》、《今古奇观》、《聊斋》、《包公案》、《施公案》等。当中,Chrita dahulu-Kala di triak Song kang 108 P'rompak



IT STATED with 10 hocks, yellowing with age, with were discovered in an add ballah book size in Penage 10. It was enough to spark Mel Jing's study of a Siratis-horn literary figure. Chan Kim Boon, who loved 100 years ago, were Charles and the second of t

anguage. Salasan Metayrionghon, or Chiese-style falsy language, used by trasis-born Chieses.

"Trassitations became the main form of Bahasan Metaye-Tionghon literature." and Metaye-Tionghon literature." and Metaye-Tionghon literature." and Metaye-Tionghon literature. In the October 1950 lases of the Administration of the Metay Journal in Singa-ton.

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Two of Chan Kim Boon's works, bearing his pen-name, Batu Gant

mora casen, Leve Chai (on occorrors and goblina), and the remasor of chivalrous retroftenes such as Hose Chong Lao and Chit Ha. "These novels were translated and abstilged," said Mer Jing in Ma analysis. "However, Chin Kim Mer Jing in the nature and horse did not make the civicial points in the stories and his Fate for the language.

and interpretation of the mony in the introduction of each chapter, which believed the readers to grasp a background set in China which they might not turne been familiar with. Moreover, be also attached a Mality Chinese gissaary to clarify the appetial owns the user. After the wore of flam (chin. Chan Elim Item (other Canting) reveived a fond in the mail written in English. Eathe-Makley and occasionality in Chinese.

Met Jing concluded their Chan Elin Boon should be a model for the near of letters today. Can clied at the age of the second o

图一: 1985年5月16日,《海峡时报副刊》一篇有关 曾锦文的报道 Man re-wrote Chinese classics in Baba patois

atau Swui Hnoh di zaman "Song Teow" 《宋江》(图二、三、四、五)、Chrita da-hulu-kala pasal Kou Chey Thian man-gawal-kan Tong Thye Chu pergi di negri Seh Thian C'hu Keng 等书目仍有存本保留在李光前参考馆。

天挥麈》。柯木林在书中称他为:"新华社会乃至东南亚华人社会之闻人"。³

当邱菽园在1897年再度回到新加坡时,他对当时的侨教做了一些具体的贡献。首先,他有感到受过教育的女子在抚育下一代时,起着关键的作用。于是,在1899年,他与林文庆等人创办新加坡华人女校(Singapore Chinese Girls'School)。是年,他还出版《浅字文》一书,以供该校的教学需要。此书从出版到1902年间,一共再版三次。邱菽园也觉察到旧式私塾所使用的《千字文》对当时的幼童来说,深奥难懂。《千字文》中的词汇,晦涩难解。学童即使念了几年,未能掌握此书,有些甚至还不懂得写自己的名字。邱菽园于是重编《千字文》,使该书成为适用的教材。41902年,他利用了原书中的479字,另加上521新字,编写了《新出千字文》。身为一个科举举人,再加上他对诗文创作的造诣,相信《新出千字文》一书在当时也甚受欢迎。

从这两位文人的文教活动来看,在编著实际和适宜当时环境的 教材和文艺书籍来说,他们俩可说是开了先河。他们的举动也拉近了当时新加坡中、西文化界彼此的距离。同时,为新式教育和社会对教育的要求,奠下基础。

以邱菽园来说,普及教育,积极参与学校的创办和改编生硬难懂的四书五经,出版适合幼童学习的《浅字文》、《新出千字文》,是对当时侨教的实际贡献。学校有适宜使用的教材才能够持续。他与其他海峡殖民地华人创办的学校在当时相信也自然的成为其他华人社群建立新式教育学校的借鉴。





图三、四:《水浒传 — 宋江》书中一瞥。右页段末日期为: 1899年11月10日

另一方面, 以曾锦文来说, 他所翻译的中国章回小说或许对当时的教育事业并未 有直接的贡献。但是,对整体的社会改革,提倡各文化的交流,有着一定的作用。 列如在大约一个世纪后, 1960年代, 新马政治上"马来亚化"的阶段, 马来文被誉 为新马人民的"国语"时。曾锦文早在19世纪所翻译的中国章回小说,正符合了 1960年代的政治、社会局面。

从曾锦文和邱菽园的文教活动过程中,我们可以看到新加坡在19世纪初,在教育 以及社会改革方面,有着本土的领导先驱。

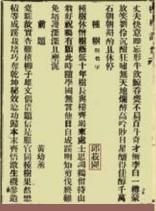


图五: 书中林冲肖像图。









图八: 邱菽园诗作 —"种树"。

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- 1. 柯木林Kua Bak Lim《新华历史人物列传》Who's who in the Chinese Community of Singapore (新加坡:新加坡宗乡会馆联合总会, 1995), 页
- 同上,页102-103
- 3. 同上,页102。
- 4. 姚梦桐,"邱菽园和《千字文》",见《亚洲文化》(1986)页57。

STRAITS CHINESE PIONEERING EDUCATION REFORMS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Education reforms and the modernisation of education in Singapore and Malaya have always been identified as influenced by the political changes in China during the early 20th century. Few remember the contributions of the local intellectuals in as far as leading educational reforms before the 1900s is concerned. These reformers were multicultural both in their background and outlook, and were perhaps pioneers in setting the foundation for modernising and indigenising the old curricula before the winds of change in the 20th century brought about revolutionary transformations.

Two notable pioneers in this field are Chan Kim Boon (1851-1920) and Khoo Seok Wan (1874-1941). Chan Kim Boon had a command of English, Chinese and the Malay language. In his spare time, he translated 18 Chinese

vernacular novels into Bahasa Melayu-Tionghoa, a Chinesestyle Malay language used by the Straits-born Chinese. Khoo Seok Wan was a scholar trained in the Chinese classics and who had sat for the Imperial Civil Service Examination in China. He wrote and revised two Chinese classics so that students at the primary schools here in Singapore could have some texts that they could really learn from instead of the difficult to understand classics in their original forms.

These pioneers were way ahead of their time in the creation of practical materials for education for local use. However, more pertinently, we can see that the path towards modernity, localisation and pragmatism with regards to Chinese educational matters was not entirely externally motivated. We had our pioneers.