

An Interesting Letter

Some years ago, when I was a comparatively new teacher in Anglo-Chinese College in Fuzhou, I was interviewed by a reporter of the local newspaper "Fuzhou Wan Bao". One reader decided to write to me (in Chinese). One of my students translated the letter, portion of which I now reproduce exactly as she wrote it-

When you receive this letter, you should feel so strange. I respect you very much after I read the story about you in the computer that you go to Fuzhou alone from Australia to develop education career. I understand the life you live alone in Fuzhou. You must miss your family numbers very much. I hope that I can share your joys and sorrows of life in Fuzhou. But I just a common citizen in Fuzhou. I still interested in your free life style, so I would like to understand your way of life. I hope that I can live with your life manner after we contact. Maybe I'll live much comfortably. But I don't know how to contact with you.

Sorry, I forget to introduce myself. My name is Wu Ke Wei. I'm a optimist. I hope that I can make friends with you, that difference in age is not an obstacle in our communication, and that you will consider me as your lively student.

Please write back to me if you have spare time, or tell me your E-mail address. Thank you very much.

E-mail: withheld for privacy; My dormitory numbers: withheld for privacy; 2003/9/17.

Brian Jeffers