12-3-2009

Reading Round-Up: December 3, 2009

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/chinabeatarchive

Part of the Asian History Commons, Asian Studies Commons, Chinese Studies Commons, and the International Relations Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/chinabeatarchive/386
Reading Round-Up: December 3, 2009

December 3, 2009 in The Five-List Plan by The China Beat | Permalink

1. We’ve discussed Lu Xun quite a lot lately, and more great Lu Xun-related stories keep coming our way. At Inside-Out China, Xujun Eberlein writes about her own memories of reading Lu Xun as a high-school student during the 1970s. Eberlein also comments on Lu Xun’s work as a translator, as well as the fact that “His scathing style was extensively mimicked by the Red Guards for faction fighting during the Cultural Revolution, a consequence he wouldn’t have dreamed of.”

A diary kept by Chinese writer Lin Yutang between 1929 and 1932 has just come to light, and provides insight into the antipathy between Lin and Lu Xun.

Two China Beatniks in dialogue: Rana Mitter interviews Julia Lovell, translator of a new edition of Lu Xun’s fiction. (Their conversation comes at minute 36 in the broadcast, and the link will only be online for another four days.)

2. Shanghaiist directed our attention to this Newsweek story by Duncan Hewitt on the “great leap backward” of China’s women during the past few decades:

While Beijing has officially promoted gender equality ever since Chairman Mao proclaimed that women “hold up half the sky,” implementation of this ideal has proved patchy. In its early decades, the Chinese Communist Party did make significant improvements in women’s lives—granting them the right to divorce and to work on an equal footing with men, and offering greater educational opportunities than those found in most other developing countries.

Since the beginning of China’s great economic opening in the 1980s, however, there’s been some serious backsliding. Many Chinese women—especially the wealthy elites—do live the kinds of lives once unimaginable here, enjoying good education, working for multinationals, and owning their own homes. But millions of their sisters, especially among the poor, have yet to see much change. And there’s been a resurgence of many of the old attitudes and types of exploitation that the Communist Party sought to stamp out.

3. Now that December has arrived, media outlets around the world are coming out with end-of-the-year superlatives for 2009. TALK magazine spotlights those who have exerted the most influence in China this year, covering figures in fields such as sports, art and culture, and business.

4. At the Wall Street Journal China blog, Stanley Lubman writes about how President Obama’s visit to China could promote cooperation between China and the U.S. on legal affairs.

5. Taiwan’s Apple Action News has put together a digital rendering of Tiger Woods’ car accident, based on speculation about what might have happened. Evan Osnos has the video on his New Yorker blog, as well as a translation of the news report that accompanies it.