

MOSAIC

Christmas tree a symbol of love, acceptance across cultures

My old Christmas tree — the very one I bought years ago at a Hangzhou supermarket — was the last thing I expected to find in my in-laws' storage room in their rural Zhejiang home.

My husband Jun and I had just moved back to China after spending years in the United States, my home country. We had decided to stay at the family home during our transition back to life in China,

which just happened to overlap with the start of the Christmas season.

While I recognized we probably couldn't "deck the halls" with the same flair as my family had done in the US, I still longed for that one holiday necessity — a Christmas tree.

The last time we had owned an artificial tree in China, we lived in a small apartment in Shanghai, where it always occupied a place of importance in our living room every Christmas. But before moving to the US, we had left the tree behind with Jun's family, like many other possessions we could never

have packed because of the limited space in our luggage.

I knew his parents, frugal by nature, cherished the many practical household items we had passed on to them. Yet, if there was one thing I felt certain they had already jettisoned from our Shanghai days, it was the old Christmas tree. After all, they hadn't grown up celebrating the holiday, and I had never glimpsed a single Christmas decoration in their rural home.

Why would they hold onto something that ostensibly had no obvious place or purpose in their rural Chinese lives?

So after moving back to China, when I brought up with my husband the idea of having a Christmas tree, I had assumed it would lead to talk of taking the bus to the largest supermarket in the county, sure to have a corner dressed in tinsel, filled with everything from rosy-cheeked plastic Santas to artificial evergreens of all sizes covered in shiny baubles and twinkling lights.

Instead, hours later, my husband poked his head into the bedroom, to bring great news of a package he and his parents had pulled out of one of the storage rooms: my old Christmas tree.

I bolted downstairs with all the excitement of a little girl on the morning of Dec 25, and found my beloved tree wrapped up in crinkled plastic. Opening it delivered even more thrills — nestled inside the faux branches were my old ornaments, including many I thought of as keepsakes, and a string of electric lights that still glowed in a rainbow of colors.

Hours later, after setting up the tree in a corner of the dining room, I still marveled at how my in-laws had stored it all these years. What moved them to hold on to it? Why had they kept it, instead of throwing it away?

Yet I shouldn't have even pondered such a question, as the answer was obvious. They had clearly embraced me as one of their own, which meant making room for me and the holiday celebrations of my country and culture, even in their storage.

I doubt my in-laws will ever approach Christmas with the same enthusiasm and wonder that fills me each December. But that's just fine, because they've given me the best gifts anyone could ever ask for: love and acceptance.

Contact the writer at jocelyn@chinadaily.com.cn

Candid camera: Friends in focus

Photographers snap pictures of foreign photographers who won awards for their Beijing pictures. The ceremony was held on Friday at the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY



Bilingual: Great Wall preservation

现代科技保护长城

中国日报双语新闻

年初，英特尔公司与中国文物保护基金会签约，宣布将运用英特尔人工智能技术和无人机技术实施长城保护项目，以前所未有的方式保护这一世界纪念性建筑遗产。下面，请跟双语君一起来看看科技是如何保护文物的吧！

The Great Wall is symbolic of China. But many parts of the wall, like the Jiankou section, are blighted by erosion and showing the ravages of time.

长城是中国的一个象征。但很多段墙体，如箭扣长城段，随着时间的推移，已经受到了严重的侵蚀。

The Jiankou section spans mountain peaks and treacherous cliffs, making the preservation of this part of the wall no easy task.

箭扣长城跨越了山峰和险峻的悬崖，使得保护工作难度加大。

The Great Wall is not just one wall, but many interconnected walls. Sections of earlier fortifications were joined together to form a united defense system against invasions from the north. It was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987.

长城不是一道单纯孤立的城墙，而是许多互相连接的城墙。这些早期的防御工事连接在一起形成一个统一的防御体系，以防御北方之敌。1987年长城被列入世界文化遗产。

The China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation is partnering with Intel to launch an innovative new approach to its restoration: artificial intelligence and drones.

中国文化遗产保护基金会与英特尔合作，推出了一种创新方法来保护长城：人工智能加无人机。

The drones are able to capture thousands of detailed and highly accurate images of the wall, which can be stitched together to create a 3D model, delivering the foundation a data-driven plan for the restoration.

无人机能拍摄上千幅清晰准确的长城局部图片。这些图片可以通过合成还原出一个三维模型，以便中国文化遗产保护基金会利用这一数据库制定长城修复计划。

Earlier this month, the Wall Street Journal had a story headlined "China's Great Wall is 'crumbling'. Now architects are using drones to save it."

本月初，《华盛顿邮报》以《长城正在“坍塌”——建筑师们正在用无人机拯救长城》为题发表了一篇文章。

The report said that as much as 30 percent of the wall "lies crumbling into ruins" as it is slowly reclaimed by the natural world.

文章指出，大约30%的长城正在自然风化的缓慢作用下“坍塌成废墟”。

However, it remains too dangerous to reach or traverse some of the most vulnerable sections of the ancient wall. 但是，到达或移动到古城

墙最脆弱的地方仍然是一项非常危险的工作。

The drones have allowed authorities to map and measure sections of the wall, offering precise data to rebuild the structure, according to the Wall Street Journal.

据《华尔街日报》报道，无人机可以帮助中国工作人员测绘长城的每一个部分，为长城的修复工作提供精准的数据。

The BBC also reported that solutions like this can shore up, literally, the entire section of the Great Wall.

英国广播公司也报道称，像这样的解决方案可以使得整座古长城得到更好的保护。

According to Intel, an artificial intelligence algorithm detects structural flaws on the Jiankou section and even calculates the exact number of bricks needed to repair it.

英特尔介绍，将使用一种人工智能算法来监测箭扣长城建筑结构上的损毁情况，甚至可以计算出到底有多少块墙砖需要修复。

The entire workflow is powered by an Intel Xeon processor, from photogrammetry stitching to visualizing the 3D model.

从影像测量合成到最终建立三维模型，整个工作流程都有英特尔至强处理器完成。

Hopefully now more of the great wall will remain for future generations to see, according to the BBC.

报道认为，现在更多的古城墙有望被保留，为后人所见。

The South China Morning Post also had a story headlined "China's crumbling Great Wall is getting some hi-tech conservation help from drones".

《南华早报》也以《中国正在运用高科技无人机技术保护正在坍塌的长城》为题报道了此事。

Intel said the project bridges technology with cultural heritage.

英特尔认为，这项工程将技术和文化遗产保护联结起来。

But some netizens criticized the project. One said, "If they reconstruct it, it is no longer authentic; they might as well let nature claim it. It is part of the natural process."

但也有一些网友表示不赞同。其中一位认为：“如果他们修复了长城，那长城就失去了原貌。应该让它自然重塑它，这是一种自然过程。”

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This Day, That Year

40 years on

Editor's note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy.

China's robotics industry saw steady development in 2017 with about 1,686 sector companies established.

An item from Nov 30, 2000, in China Daily shows that *Xianxingzhe* (the pioneer) was the first bipedal humanoid robot in China. But the nation's first domestically completed

industrial robot, *Yegang No 1*, was unveiled on Dec 18, 1987, paving the way for the booming market.

China remained the largest market for industrial robots in 2016, with sales rising by 26.6 percent year-on-year to 88,992, according to a report released by the China Robot Industry Alliance.

At the same time, China is expanding the use of industrial robots in sectors including car manufacturing, aviation and home appliances.

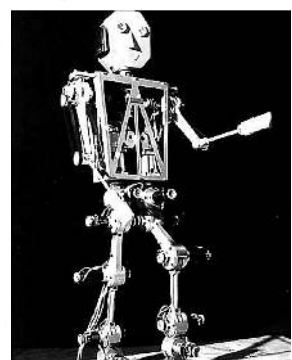
China's industrial robot output increased 8.7 percent year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2018. A total of 118,452 industrial robots were manufactured January-October, according

to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The domestic robotic industry has maintained rapid growth over the past five years. Industrial robot output surged 81 percent to exceed 130,000 last year, achieving the government's target three years ahead of schedule.

The country released a guideline in 2016 with a goal of tripling annual production of industrial robots by 2020.

China is in a critical stage of "Made in China 2025". The development of industrial robots has become a major factor in transforming and upgrading China's manufacturing industry.



A man of metal
China's first humanoid robot, "Xianxingzhe" (the pioneer), makes its debut yesterday in Changsha in Central China's Hunan Province. The robot, 1.4 metres high and weighing 20 kilograms, was developed by Changsha-based University of National Defence Science and Technology. It can imitate basic human gestures.

The newspaper and beyond

On our Sina Weibo

Boeing Zhoushan project delivers first airplane

The Boeing Zhoushan 737 Completion and Delivery Center in Zhejiang province delivered its first plane of the 737 family to Air China on Saturday. The delivery marked a milestone for the joint plant of the aerospace giant and its Chinese partner, the Commercial Aircraft Corp of China, the first such Boeing facility outside the United States. The 737 MAX 8 airplane was largely assembled at Boeing's Renton plant in the US. It flew to China's coastal city of Zhoushan for completion works. "The moment signifies our growing partnership with China that stretches back over nearly half a century," said Kevin McAllister, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

Skier, 87, still relishes the thrill of going downhill

George Raham still feels the special thrill at the top of a ski hill. He has been skiing for 82 years — and collected more than 60 pairs of skis along the way. He's never thrown a pair out, so they're all gathered in what he calls his "ski basement". "I've just never lost my interest in it," Raham said. He lives in the perfect place for his passion. His home, which he shares with his wife, is in Harvie Heights, a hamlet on the outskirts of Canmore in Canada's Alberta's Rocky Mountains. "I'm still strong on my skis. I feel a lot younger. You know, I'm better on my skis than I am on my feet walking around," he said. "It still gives me the thrill I got 80 years ago."

Miss USA apologizes for mocking rivals

The holder of the Miss USA 2018 title has apologized after she was captured on video mocking two of her fellow competitors for their English-speaking skills. In a video posted to Instagram, Sarah Rose Summers made light of Nat Rern, Miss Cambodia, and H'Hen Nie, Miss Vietnam. She said of Nie: "She's so cute and she pretends to know so much English and then you ask her a question after having a whole conversation with her and she goes..." she said before mimicking a confused nod and smile. After an online backlash, Summers offered an apology on Friday.

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Culture: African wood carvings on display

African art inspired many acclaimed modern artists such as Pablo Picasso and Henry Matisse in the early 20th century. But besides art, the continent also has a long and rich legacy of wood carving. *Tree of Life*, an exhibition at the National Art Museum of China which runs through Jan 21, features a selection from the museum's collection of African wood carvings from countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin. Please visit our website to find out more about the exhibition.

Regional: Renewable energy for new airport

Renewable energy will account for more than 10 percent of the Beijing Daxing International Airport's energy consumption when construction is completed next year, municipal authori-

ties said on Wednesday. This will be the highest among all airports in the country, according to the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform. The new airport, which is scheduled to be in operation in 10 months, has placed photovoltaic solar energy panels on the roofs of the car park and business-jet hangar while geothermal energy will be used in service facilities.

Forum: Oversized classes to be trimmed

China can meet its target of trimming the number of "supersized" classes in its compulsory education system before the end of the year, keeping the ratio under two percent, said an official with the Ministry of Education on Thursday. As of October, the number of supersized classes — those accommodating more than 66 students in primary and middle schools — registered a drop of 48.7 percent year-on-year, the biggest in 10 years, said ministry official Lyu Yugang at a press conference. Lyu said educational authorities will coordinate with local governments to channel more resources to poverty-stricken counties, urging them to prioritize land allocation for schools and to improve education quality in rural areas. Visit our website to find out more.



Art: Show to review how ink painting developed

The Beijing Minsheng Art Museum is holding an exhibition to review the evolution of ink painting over the past four decades. The show, *New Ink Art in China: 1979-2018*, examines how artists enriched the landscape of ink art through their experimental approach but still kept to the core spirit of the tradition. The show, which runs through Feb 23, features works from public art museums, artists and collectors. The museum is located in Universal Creative Park, next to the contemporary art center 798 Art District.

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