

老昆明的卖水人

lao3 kun1ming2 de mai4 shui3 ren2

Early Kunming Water Sellers

云南师范大学国际语言文化学院

Yunnan Normal University International Language Institute

课程：口语一对一 2006年，下学期

Course: Private Speaking Instruction Fall Semester, 2006

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英文翻译：马克

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pian1 wen2zhang1 yuan2zi4 lao3 kun1ming2 bian1zhu4 lin2quan2 xiao4bu3 ding1 xue2 ren4 yun2nan2 mei3shu4 chu1ban3she4 chu1ban3

This article originates from the book titled “Old Kunming”, compiled and edited by Lin Quan, proofing and revisions by Ding Xue Ren. Published by Yunnan Fine Arts Publishing,

2002年12月第1版。如果您想听王娟老师关于这篇文章的朗读录音请点击

nian2 yue4 di4 ban3 wang2juan1 guan1yu2 lang3du2 lu4yin1 dian3ji1

first edition published December 2002. If you want to listen to a recording of Teacher Wang Juan reading this article, please click on

此链接：

ci3 lian4jie1

this link: http://www.marchollingsworth.net/Folders/SoundFiles/CDMP3/LaoKunMingDeMaiShuiRenEarlyKunmingWaterSellersWangJuan.mp3#_blank

原文：

yuan2wen2

Original Article:

从前，昆明的自来水不够用，居民们绝大部分的吃水和用水，不是河水，就

cong2qian2 kun1ming2 zi4lai2shui3 bu2gou4 yong4 ju1min2men jue2 da4bu4fen chi1shui3 yong4shui3 he2shui3

In former times, there was insufficient tap water in Kunming. For a large majority of the residents, when there was no river water, drinking and general-use water would come from wells and vice versa.

是井水。昆明地下水位高，掘地数尺便有清泉涌出，所以一般的官宦公馆和平民院

jing3shui3 di4xia4 shui3wei4 gao1 jue2di4 shu4 chi3 bian4 qing1quan2 yong3chu1 yi4ban1 guan1huan4 gong1guan3 ping2min2

yuan4ba4

Kunming's water table level is very high and by digging in the ground a few meters, clear springs of water will rise up. Generally speaking, both government officials' residences and civilians' courtyards

坝里都有水井。不过，由于各个地段的土质不同，土壤内的酸碱含量也有差异，有

shui3jing3 bu2guo4 you2yu2 ge4ge4 di4duan4 tu3zhi4 bu4tong2 tu3rang3 nei4 suan1jian3 han2liang4 cha1yi4

had wells. However, as a result of dissimilar soil quality across various areas, there was a diversity of soil acid and alkali content.

的井水含硝碱过多，这就只能做浆洗用水，而不能饮用了，有的人家附近没有水

han2 xiao1jian3 guo4duo1 jiang1xi3 yin3 fu4jin4

Some well water contained an overabundance of nitrate-alkali. This water was not drinkable and could only be used for general-use washing and starching. In addition, there were some homes that did not have a well nearby,

井，用水也扎实的困难。如此情形，就只好用卖水人挑着来的河水或井水了，前者

zha1shi2 kun4nan ru2ci3 qing2xing2 zhi3hao3 tiao1zhe huo4 qian2zhe3

so the dispensing of water was a real difficulty. Herein this problem, there was no choice but to utilize the river and well water that was pole carried by the water sellers; the former used for washing and rinsing clothes

洗衣洗漱，后者煮饭泡茶。

xi3 yi1 shu4 huo4zhe3 zhu3fan4 pao4cha2

and the latter used for cooking food and steeping tea.

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那时家家都有一口大水缸，卖水人每天都挑着水来，把买水人家的水缸给倒

jia1jia1 shui3gang1 mei3tian1 tiao1zhe ren2jia1 dao4man3

At that time, every family had a large water vat. Everyday, the water sellers would bring water to the families who wanted to buy it. The water sellers would pour the water into the household's water vat completely filling it.

满。离河流或水井近的人家付给卖水人的工钱很便宜，距离远的就稍贵一点了，但

li2 he2liu2 jin4 fu4 gei3 gong1qian2 pian2yi ju4li2 yuan3 jiu4 shao1gui4 yi4dian3

Households that were close to the river or a well paid the water sellers a cheap price for their service, while those a further distance away paid slightly more.

每月所花费用都不算多。一般说来，一挑水收

hua1fei4 suan4 yi4ban1 lai2shuo1 shou1

Still, monthly use expenditures did not figure out to be much. Generally speaking, two buckets of water would draw



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三分，其中两分交水费，剩下的一分算作

fen1 qi2zhong1 jiao1 fei4 sheng4xia4

three cents (Chinese currency), of which two cents was given for the water charge and 1 remaining cent was calculated

劳务收入。既可以零星付给挑水钱，也可

lao2wu4 shou1ru4 ji4 ke3yi3 ling2xing1 fu4 gei3 tiao1 qian2

for labor services to be received by the water seller.

As well as making piecemeal monetary payments for the carrying of the water, you could also

以攒齐了一月半月地付上一次。

zan3qi2 yi2yue4 ban4yue4 de fu4 shang4 yi2ci4

accumulate and make one month or half-month one-time payments.

天蒙蒙亮，卖水人就开始穿街过

tian1 meng1meng1liang4

chuan2 jie1 guo4

At daybreak, the water sellers would begin to cross the streets and go into the

巷，给人送水了。在挑水行进时，他们会

xiang4 song4

xing2jing4

alleys delivering water to people. While carrying the water on the pole, they were likely

在木桶内的水面上放一块方形的松木板，

mu4tong3 nei4 shui3mian4 fang4 yi2kuai4 fang1xing2 song1mu4ban3

to put a square piece of pine board on the surface of the water in the wood bucket.

这样，即使健步如飞，水也不会因颠簸而

zhe4 yang4 ji4 shi3 jian4bu4 ru2 fei1

bu2hui4 yin1 dian1bo3 er2

In this way, not only could they walk vigorously and swiftly, but the water was also not likely to splash or spill due to thrashing and jolting.

泼洒出来。除了吃饭时小作休息，卖水人

po1sa3 chu1lai2 chu2le chi1fan4 xiao3zuo4 xiu1xi

Except for meal-time, the water sellers seldom took breaks. They

要奔波到黄昏时才收工。用户多是熟人，

ben1bo1 huang2hun1 cai2 shou1gong1 yong4hu4 shu2ren2

rushed about working till dusk at which time they finally would stop for the day. The water seller was acquainted with all of the water consumers.

要是家里无人时，只要没上销，卖水人都

yao4shi4 jia1 li3 wu2ren2 zhi3yao4 mei3 shang4 xiao1

During times when there was no one at home and provided the door was not cotter pin locked, the water sellers were



从河里汲水的卖水人

*翻译注明事项附后

See end attachment for notes about translation

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会给你直接挑进去，把清水倒进缸里，然后盖好，绝对不会泼洒在地上。

zhi2jie1 jin4qu4 qing1shui3 dao4 jin4 gang1 ran2hou4 gai4 hao3 jue2dui4 po1sa3 di4 shang4

able to directly enter the buyer's home, take the water and pour it into the vat, and properly cover it without ever spilling it on the floor.

昆明人很讲情义，乐于助人，这种情义可不是时下所说的哥们义气，而是一

jiang3 qing2yi4 le4yu2 zhu4ren2 qing2yi4 ke3 bu2shi4 shi2xia4 ge1men yi4qi4 er2shi4

The people of Kunming emphasize the ties of friendship and take pleasure in helping others.

This kind of friendship was not the casual "brother" loyalty of today, but rather

种厚道善良的人情味。卖水人和主人家混熟以后，主人家会请他做点力气活，他也

hou4dao shan4liang2 ren2qing2wei4 zhu3ren2 hun4shu2 yi3hou4 qing3 li4qi4 huo2

was a type of genuine human interest, a kind and honest way of getting along with people. After the water seller and the homeowner became friends, the homeowner would be likely to ask him to do a little physical work and he

肯帮忙。比如：哪家是孤儿寡母，送水的汉子往往会主动效力，帮着劈点柴，拾点

ken3 bang1mang2 gu1er2 gua3mu3 song4 han4zi3 wang3wang3 zhu3dong4 xiao4li4 pi1 chai2 tai2

would be willing to help. For example homes where there was a fatherless child and widowed mother, the male water seller would often take the initiative to render service, help chop some firewood, lift something

什么重的东西。主人家自然也是要给酬谢的，但只是一点很少的代价：把他留下来

zhong4 dong1xi zhu3ren2 zi4ran2 chou2xie4 dai4jia4 liu2 xia4lai2

that was heavy. The homeowner would naturally want to express their thanks with a gift, but it would only be a small monetary object: have him stay and

请他喝杯茶、吃顿饭，或让他带点腌菜、水果之类的回去。在相互交往之时，

he1 bei1 cha2 dun4 dai4 yan1cai4 shui3guo3 zhi1 lei4 hui2qu4 xiang1hu4 jiao1wang3

invite him to drink a cup of tea, eat a meal, or let him take back some pickled vegetables or a small amount of fruit. During this time of mutual association,

他们的身上透出了昆明人特有的淳朴和忠厚。

shen1shang4 tou1 kun1ming2 te4you3 chun2pu3 zhong1hou4

penetrating through them was the people of Kunming's distinctive simplicity and sincere kindness.

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《老昆明》封面：

lao3 kun1ming2 feng1mian4

“Old Kunming” book cover:



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fan1yi4 zhu4ming2 shi4xiang4

Translation Notes:

此翻译的目的是想让读者更加深刻地了解说话人或作者怎样去表达自己的想法和情感，并且同时保持了原文的意思。这篇文章从中文被译为英文，较好地保持了原文的意思，同时被译为标准英文。

如果您还想学习汉语或者英语，请上此网站：www.marchollingsworth.net

马克

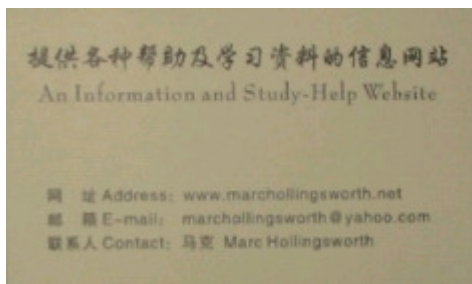
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The intention of this translation is to give the reader a close as possible accurate feeling for how the speaker(s) express their ideas and feelings. The text has been translated from Chinese into English with the direct intention of retaining the original text's meaning, while at the same time translated into standard English.

If you would like to further study Chinese or English, please visit this website: www.marchollingsworth.net

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