

寒窗苦讀終出頭



一八四二年，滿清政府將香港島割讓予英國，九龍及新界其後相繼歸屬英治，一口英文象徵高等華人的優越地位。一九四九年，中華民國落幕，摺紳顯要、百姓黎民紛紛南下；香港中英語言兼備，成為中西往來必經之地，逐步邁向國際都會之列。一九九七年，香港政權移交中華人民共和國，英文依舊是官方語言之一，英文學校依舊炙手可熱。

英文乃至西方文化從來與香港的命運息息相關。香港雖蕞爾之地，但中英語言流通，東西文化交會，在近代中國地位舉足輕重，成就無數中英俱擅的崢嶸人物。說曾鈺成是這則香江傳奇中的一位風雲人物，並不為過。

六十年前的香港沒有遊戲班，沒有遊學團，曾鈺成與其他尋常子弟一樣，在學校上人生的第一堂英文課。六十年前香港百姓的心態卻大概與今日無異：讀好書便要進好學校，好學校即是英文學校。當年就讀中文小學的曾鈺成如何考入英文名校，在小學會考考取英文第一，復以一級榮譽畢業於香港最高學府香港大學？天之驕子為何入左派中文學校當英文教師？且待我們在立法會主席辦公室一同踏上曾鈺成的英語人生路。

板間房內書聲朗朗

一九四七年五月十七日，曾家弄璋，廣州大宅一片熱鬧歡騰，人人忙個不亦樂乎。小兒取名鈺成，「成」是族譜所定，「鈺」則據說是因為算出嬰孩命格欠金。曾鈺成祖輩原居順德，後遷至廣州經營布業。曾氏家族雖非豪門大戶，但當年在省港澳三地均有物業。曾父曾照勤排行第六，共有兄弟姊妹八男六女。曾鈺成有兩位伯父是大學畢業生，外公和兩位舅父皆為牙醫，可見曾家對教育之重視。曾鈺成雙親早年曾在港求學，無奈父親中學尚未畢業，日軍侵華，求學夢戛然而止。

民國卅四年，八年抗戰告終，神州重光，但未幾災劫重臨。卅八年歲末，國共內戰大局已定，國民政府退守臺灣，共產黨在大陸建政，年方兩歲的曾鈺成隨同家人遷居香港。曾家抵港後，生活不復往前。一家子初時住荷里活道的板間房，曾鈺成還記得有次被一個從床上雜物架掉



六十年代的堅尼地城山市街，圖右的建築物為學士臺

下來的噴水壺打中眼角，血流披面。後來曾家九名大人、十一個小孩合租堅尼地城學士臺六號二樓一個一廳三房的套間，廿口人同住一屋直至曾鈺成大學二年級才搬走。曾鈺成是長兄，與父母及一弟一妹同擠一房，薄牆的另一面即是二姑母、四伯父兩家，還有祖母和兩位未成家的伯父。正因生活東搏西節，曾鈺成的父母對子女寄與厚望，相信只要讀好書，將來必有出頭天。

「爸爸媽媽非常着緊我的學業，我們當年的環境不好，有段時間，爸爸日頭在華商總會——即後來的中華總商會——做文員，夜晚還在另一個商會打工，到九點幾才回到家。父母省吃儉用，但我們三兄妹書單上的書年年都一定買齊，我還記得讀聖保羅第一次買齊書花上一百元！還有，你想我們一家的房間不過百多呎，竟有三張書檯，爸爸媽媽是設法使我們三兄妹專心讀書。

「舊時哪有甚麼娛樂？我們沒有電視機，吃完晚飯可以聽一陣子收音機，爸爸得閒時也會跟我們捉象棋、鬥獸棋、波子棋，或者一齊玩報紙上的填字遊戲和智力謎題。當時的生活好簡單，毫無雜念，每日就是做功課、溫書、讀課外書。對我們小孩子來說，書讀得好是理所當然的事，而且我們都這樣想：只要書讀得好，父母就會疼愛。」

童年歲月雖然單調，行將步入從心所欲之年的曾鈺成回憶起來還是一臉陶醉。但當講到小學每晚背書的慘況，他面色即一沉。

「小時候爸爸媽媽好嚴厲，每晚都會對着手冊，檢查功課是不是都做好，而且要在他們面前將當日教過的書統統背出來，背對了才可以去睡。媽媽英文不好，看不明白英文的課本，但仍然會試看着字，看我是不是每字每句都背出來。我每晚每一科都要背，一直背到初中！

「我最怕爸爸和我背書。書總不能每句都背熟吧，媽媽會提示的，但爸爸一聽我背不熟，就整本書颯一下飛過來要我重背！」曾鈺成不期然打了個哆嗦，這個「虎爸」的威儀可想而知。「不過爸爸也有輕鬆的一面，我還記得他每逢聽到一個英文精句，都會興致勃勃同我們談論一番。」

曾鈺成於父親逝世十周年時曾撰文回憶這位嚴父的點滴：「大概由於生活和工作的壓力，爸年輕時很暴躁。有時他和媽吵起架來，不但樣子兇、聲音大，而且家裏的玻璃杯、暖水壺、鏡子等，凡是可以打碎的，他都抓起來摔到地上，我和弟妹們都嚇得縮作一團，在牆角啜泣。」

曾父對三名子女嚴厲有加，但內心其實百般疼愛，而子女中最疼曾鈺成，甚至連曾鈺成也承認父親偏心：他三歲已讀幼稚園，弟弟曾德成則五歲才有機會入學；十一、二歲時，麗的呼聲電臺招募兒童播音員，曾鈺成獲取錄，與現為編劇家的杜國威錄廣播劇，曾父用曾鈺成的薪水每日為他買牛奶做早餐，弟妹均無緣享受；曾父參加員工旅行、野餐等活動，亦只攜曾鈺成同行。久而久之，兄弟之間，嫌隙日深。十幾年後的一件政治事件方使兄弟二人冰釋前嫌。

「地獄式」背書

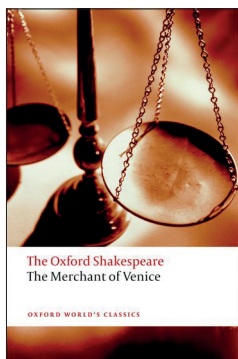
曾鈺成在牛津大學出版社二〇一四年出版的《英語·人生》中回想當年背書境況，說道往往因背不出來而哭鼻子收場，好不淒涼，現在也偶會作夢背不出歷史書的課文而嚇出一身冷汗。一甲子過後，當年的小男孩髮已星星，卻說仍然記得曾經為之潸潸淚下的內容。果然？他搔搔頭，不假思索即字正腔圓唸出十九世紀英國歷史學家、政治家、

詩人 Thomas Babington Macaulay
著名敘事詩篇 *Lays of Ancient Rome*
中的 'Horatius'：

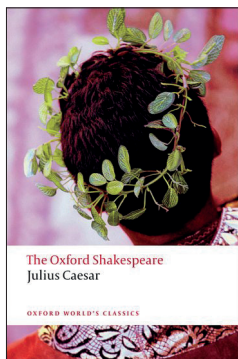
To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his Gods.



Thomas Babington Macaulay
(1800–1859)



《威尼斯商人》



《凱撒大帝》

「這節好精彩，好過癮。Thomas Babington Macaulay 藉此歌頌愛國英雄。」曾鈺成每談到興奮處，總是眉飛色舞，最愛講「過癮！」*Lays of Ancient Rome* 一八四二年出版，廣受英國維多利亞時代讀者青睞。當時社會以朗誦詩章為消遣娛樂，一時家家戶戶琅琅上口。如日方升的大英帝國乘古羅馬帝國勇士的羽翮飛入尋常百姓家，藉此宣揚維繫大英帝國的信條和綱維，一代名相邱吉爾讀哈羅公學時也曾背過這風行一時之作。

曾鈺成說自己也曾背過莎士比亞的名著如《凱撒大帝》和《威尼斯商人》。他一臉得意，還說自己也背過好多中文名篇：〈陋室銘〉、〈愛蓮說〉、〈弔古戰場文〉、〈鄭伯克段於鄆〉……

「小學升中那年暑假，媽媽要我每日背一篇古文，《古文評注》、《文心雕龍》我都背過！」

已故中文大學教授劉殿爵中西學養淹博，早年畢業於香港大學中文學院，後赴蘇格蘭格拉斯哥大學深造，曾翻譯《道德經》、《孟子》、《論語》，乃國際學術界公認的標準英譯本。這位舊時代熏染出來的學問大家，深感背書對學習語言至為重要，皆因背誦能「培養出敏銳的語言感覺」。曾鈺成幼年雖飽受背書之苦，但至今認為背誦有其功用。

「我非常同意劉殿爵教授的看法。學英文最好是在全英文的環境中學習，但英語在香港從來都不是通用的語言。在辦公室或學校或者會用上英文，但日常生活中根本不需要講英文。背誦有助較快地提高英文敏感度，皆因英文句子在你腦海反覆出現，對掌握句法和語文特點好有幫助。而且小孩子的長處就是模仿、記憶。至於內容，目前不明白不緊要，人大了慢慢就會消化、吸收。好多小時候背的古文，我好多年後才有深切的體會。」

他選〈鄭伯克段於鄆〉為例，說此名篇講述在春秋時期，鄭武公娶姜氏生兩子，名莊公及共叔段，姜氏偏愛共叔段，多次請鄭武公立共叔段為太子，武公不允。及至莊公即位，姜氏和共叔段幾度請他劃地為己有，莊公都應諾。未幾共叔段謀反，事敗，莊公流放姜氏，誓言「不及黃泉，無相見也。」語出即悔。大臣提議挖地至泉水現，庶幾黃泉矣，母子遂於隧道之中，和好如初。「後生時讀夢夢查查，長大後才知道原來有人認為莊公陰險，故意縱容弟弟，到他作反了，自己就有藉口出兵，不過莊公又似乎好有孝心。到底他是忠是奸？總之我讀得好過癮，哈哈。」

千年來中外啟蒙教育首重背誦：中國稚童入學必先背《三字經》、《千字文》；英國維多利亞時代學生須熟

記乘數表，私校學生更要牢記古希臘文和拉丁文龐雜深奧的文法規則。此風延續至上世紀五十年代依舊不絕。近數十年來香港乃至全球教育政策、觀念幾經變革，現今制度不主張學生背誦，曾鈺成不以為然。

「不錯，我當年的確好『陰公』，每科課本逐字逐句都要背，但不背的話，當時我根本無可能用英文分析問題同表達想法。我記得中三教法國大革命，考試問革命的成因，你說一個初中生怎可能用英文分析？只能一味靠背書。我這種地獄式的背法未必可取，但只要引導得法，在幼稚園和小學階段，令學生背一些書，他們非但不會覺得是苦差，反而以此為樂。我的女兒小時候背英文、背唐詩背得不知幾開心。現在我的兩個孫兒亦愛背誦，一大段 *Les Misérables* 的歌詞都能背出來，他們還覺得好玩呢。大人應該善用小朋友這個學習的特點，一味否定背誦，說背誦即是死記硬背，我認為是錯的。」

A man and a pan

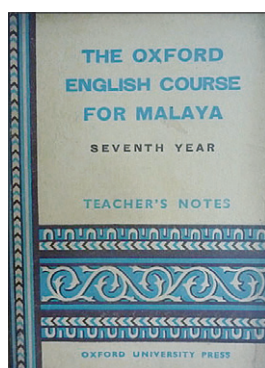
五、六十年代，香港遠不如今日富饒。一九五〇年，香港的本地生產總值只有約三十一億元，人均收入只有一千四百元。當時生活一如黑白粵語片的光景，人人胼手胝足，後生與其讀書不如學門手藝養家。七一年港府方實施免費小學教育。即使當年只有少數兒童有機會學英文，曾鈺成說其實當時懂英文，大有用處。

「舊時西方娛樂領導潮流，我們聽的流行曲、看的電影都是英文的，我還記得那齣音樂劇 *The King and I*，當然那時候看電影是好奢侈的事，只能偶一為之。以前就連電飯煲的說明書亦只有英文和日文。那年代香港的出版事業不發達，很少中文書，我惟有到美國圖書館和英國文化協會

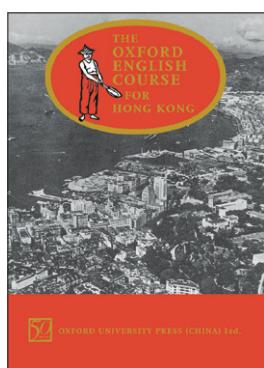
借英文書來讀。所以，可以說是社會要我們學英文、用英文。」

曾鈺成三歲已入學，多年來用過不少英文教科書，論印象最深者，必屬 *The Oxford English Course for Malaya*。幾十個小人兒手捧着書，看着書中那頭戴草帽、身穿白背心紅長褲、手執平底鍋的男人，跟着講臺上的老師讀：‘He is a man and it is a pan. It is a pan and he is a man. It is a hen. Is it a hen? It is a pen. Is it a pen? It is a pen and a man.’ 四周聽不見車聲、冷氣聲、打樁聲，聲聲入耳的是風聲、樹聲、讀書聲。

曾鈺成讀的那部 *The Oxford English Course for Malaya* 共七冊書，一九四六年出版，根據一九三三年由美國人 Lawrence William Faucett 所著、英國第一本為外語學生撰寫的教科書 *The Oxford English Course* 改編而成。當年的英語課本大多改編自外國的教材，再加入本土內容，學生讀到熟悉的內容，自然更容易投入學習。曾鈺成讀小學時用的是馬來亞版，後來推出香港版，封面換裝，用上香港風光照，如虎豹別墅、新界農田；另書名改作 *The Oxford English Course for Hong Kong*，並加入 Man Kit、Mo Lin 等港人名字。



The Oxford English Course for Malaya 教師用書



經典教科書 *The Oxford English Course for Hong Kong* 復刻版

俛仰之間，滄海桑田，物換星移，虎豹別墅蕩然無存，鄉郊圍畦變作高樓大廈。二〇一一年，牛津大學出版社香港分社趁成立五十年之際，限量印製這套滿載着六、七十年代小學生學習英語的集體回憶的經典教科書一千套，與港人一同懷緬那不可復得的香江情懷。

折桂登科，考入聖保羅

香港英文學校的學位向來難求，皆因人人心中的好學校即是英文學校，曾鈺成的年代如是，今日亦如是，可真是「五十年不變」。曾鈺成當年讀中文小學，小五那年，父母替他報考以英文授課的聖保羅書院，順利考上重讀小五，翌年小學會考，英文考取滿分，成為香港狀元！

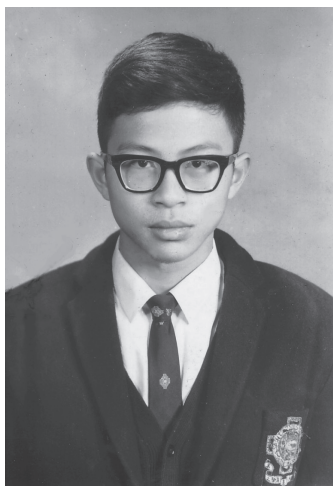
「那年小學會考全港考生八千幾人，我英文科滿分，全港第一！」快六十年前的往事了，曾鈺成回憶起來還忍不住哈哈大笑，笑得兩眼都眯成一線。「我清楚記得我的考生編號是一二三四。老師說：『人叻，號碼都靚啲。』放榜當日爸爸來到學校隔着牆聽宣佈，還四處同人講家裏出了個狀元。當晚他放工回來走入房間，笑口盈盈，說了聲：『Watch!』，就從手上解下一隻全新的手錶。爸爸自己從未戴過手錶。」

雖少小年紀已開始學英語，但初入聖保羅，上課語言驟變，曾鈺成整整有一個星期聽不明白老師講課，只會抄時間表。揭開教科書第一頁便有三十幾個生字，他又查字典，又請教長輩，如此半年左右便適應下來，老師的英文聽明白了，還沉醉於他們高雅的英國腔調。「升上中一後，校長是 G. L. Speak 史壁琦牧師，我最愛上他的聖經堂，他一口字正腔圓的英語聽得我入迷。It's a pleasure listening to him.」

聖保羅書院歷史悠久，一八五一年由英格蘭聖公會創立，培育無數對香港乃至中國影響深遠的風雲人物，如革命家楊衢雲、中華民國首任司法院院長王寵惠、粵劇名伶薛覺先、建築師貝聿銘、政治家鍾士元。聖保羅是傳統名校，學生的英文向為人稱善。曾鈺成在聖保羅讀畢中學，至今猶記得當年的英文老師和課程。



六十年代的聖保羅書院正門



在聖保羅書院讀中五時的學生照



與中學同學攝於學校花園



聖保羅書院六一至六二年度中五畢業生



攝於謝師宴（左一：Mr Eynon）

「讀中學時有位叫 John Eynon 的英文老師，他是半個愛爾蘭人，自稱 mongrel。我們不叫他 Mr Eynon，都叫他 Eynon 佬。他的愛爾蘭口音重得不得了，不過上課好好玩，非常生動風趣，經常引得我們哄堂大笑。

「Eynon 佬會用別開生面的例句教我們生字，令我們容易記住。他有時一堂教廿個字，亦有教 phrasal verbs，比如 come around、come on、come off。我們回家便要造句，我會絞盡腦汁想些有趣的句子。記得有次我的句子全部以 'Mr E' 開頭，他寫了一句評語，幽我一默：'You seem to be suffering from E-mania.' 我從中學會了 mania 的用法。」

「Eynon 佬」是曾鈺成學英文發音的啟蒙老師，教會了曾鈺成 seat 和 sit 的元音不在長短之別，而是發音時舌頭位置不同；lose 的結尾輔音是 z，而 loose 則是 s；Sunday 不是讀 sun-day，而是 sun-di；down 的準確讀法是先讀 down，然後將後面的音節 wen 縮短、放輕。

「一日 Eynon 佬忽然問我：『你的英文為甚麼講得這麼好？』我答：『不就是你教我的。』他不信：『不可能，你一定在外面補習！』別人的讚美真是一世都記得，哈哈。」曾鈺成笑得有點靦腆，雖然他說自己絕不謙虛。他續說道：「我想我天生對英文發音頗敏感，發音標準的英文我好喜歡聽，發音不標準的我一聽就皺眉頭。我學過國際音標，後來我教書也教學生國際音標，就算遇上未學過的生字，他們也可先掌握讀法。」

聖保羅書院當年一半老師是外國人，學科除中文外全以英語授課，但英文始終不是學生的母語，他們難免混淆中文和英文的某些分別，以致出錯。「當時有一本教科書我覺得對中國學生學英文特別有幫助，書名是 *English for Chinese Students*，有兩位作者，其中一位好似姓 Monks，是男拔萃的教師。他們針對中國學生學英文的困難、難明的文法，特別編寫這本書。書非常有用，可惜絕版了。」



且聽鈺成說

除了文法，聖保羅的學生亦須讀英文經典著作，以壯筆下文字。「聖保羅會用小說作範文來教，低年班讀 simplified versions，中三開始就要讀原著了。我記得讀過狄更斯的 *Great Expectations*，又讀過莎士比亞，考試就故事內容。這種教法現在不合時宜了，不過我覺得學到英文。」

曾鈺成在聖保羅的英文成績向來彪炳，英文作文滿分是二十分，有次老師竟然給他四十七分！那篇雲錦之作可

惜在曾鈺成搬家時被弟弟丟棄了，讀者無緣欣賞，幸好尚餘一篇遺珍。「那篇文章應該是中三或中四時候為投稿去校刊所寫的，寫一個自命不凡、愛讀哲學書的學生。學校運動會當日，他發覺人人讚賞的都是體力的表現，智力原來無人看重。嗯，其實寫這篇文可說是自嘲，哈哈！」欲知「為賦新詞強說愁」的曾鈺成如何借文章抒發其鬱鬱不得志的悵憤，不妨翻至本章末細讀原文。

咽衣事呢些沙厘吐事粗地乞

教科書可謂記載了英語教學法及英語用法的轉變。清朝、民國時期粵人如何學英文？《英語指南》初版於光緒廿五年（1899年），民國期間多次再版，供與外國經商的人使用；名詞術語、簡單語句、信函格式，一應俱全，中英雙語並列對照，並以粵音標示發音。今日讀之，其方法可付之一



哂，內容間或有錯，但先輩學英文之決心，頗足堪敬：

I don't like it
埃東地殢其咽

我唔中意

Wake me up
域尾鴨

叫醒我

Bring me some water
庇寧尾心和打

拈的水來

Go and help him
高晏希路菩謙

去幫佢做

It is necessary to study hard
咽衣事呢些沙厘吐事粗地乞

必要苦學

中學時期，曾鈺成同樣醉心數學，課餘常借數學參考書自修，但原來課堂上他卻非正經兮兮的模範學生。諳熟香港掌故的文人許禮平曾撰文說曾鈺成讀書時最愛托着頭歪着腦看數學老師演算問題，更能未卜先知，當眾說老師之後甚麼地方定會出錯。老師好氣又好笑，說學生中最服曾鈺成，服得五體投地，然後真的趴在地上！我們求證當事人，他呵呵笑說不記得這件「豐功偉績」，只記得有次當眾糾正法國老師‘immiscible’一字的讀音。寧馨兒本性難移矣！

數學和英文是曾鈺成在聖保羅最喜愛的科目，不過他並未因此疏懶中文。他猶記得當年的國文老師寫得一手好字，他每每看得入神，下了課仍不捨得擦去黑板上遒秀的粉筆字。中三那年，曾鈺成更與同窗組織文社，取名為「木鐸」。「木鐸」源出《論語·八佾》：「天下之無道也久矣，天將以夫子為木鐸」。幾個初生之犢當起編輯來，奮筆疾書，針砭時弊。

天子驕子，親弟入獄

曾鈺成童年時家住西環，媽媽每日揹着書包，帶曾鈺成和曾德成兩兄弟上學，沿途首先經過香港大學的利瑪竇宿舍，隨後便是何東夫人紀念堂。「每朝經過何東夫人紀念堂，就會聞到宿舍煮早餐的味道，媽媽同我們講：『你們好好讀書，他日考上大學，就可以住在這裏了。』媽媽一定不知道何東夫人堂原來是女生宿舍。」六十年前母親牽着兄弟二人的手上學的情景憬然赴目，曾鈺成淡然一笑，眼角泛起幾道皺紋，臉上隱約掠過一絲感傷。

曾鈺成沒有令父母失望，一九六五年考入香港大學，並獲頒獎學金。當時香港只有兩所大學，香港大學一九一一年創立，以英語授課，全港不多於百分之五的中



一九六六年與家人攝於香港大學宿舍開放日



曾鈺成與同學攝於香港大學

學畢業生能考上港大；香港中文大學則於六三年由三所書院合併而成，中英並用。當年港大以醫學、工程、建築三個學系的入學競爭最為劇烈，人人冀望畢業後躍身成為專業人士，但曾鈺成卻心儀數學系和生物系，一心想閉門窮究學問。英文對他來說是工具，沒想過要專攻。他最終決定修讀數學。

曾鈺成在這所香港最高學府度過悠悠三載春秋，想英文定必更上一層樓？「我大學讀數學，不需要經常寫論文，甚至有人說數學系大概是中文系以外用最多中文授課的學系，因為老師都是從內地或者臺灣來的。所以我讀大學以後，反而少了機會用英文。不過學生課餘的社交活動都是講英文的，我是舍堂的秘書，負責做會議記錄，寫的全是英文。

「當時港大有不少南洋學生，他們在老家已習慣講英文，香港學生當中也有許多英文極好的，詹德隆是我中六同中七的同學，後來在港大讀英文系，英文好流利、好得體，在社交場合講英文講得同英國人一樣。我的英文全在學校學回來，考試考得好好，但課堂外無機會用，社交英文好差。」

曾鈺成兩歲離開廣州，直至大學二年級那年，才首次與母親重返大陸。留穗探親期間，曾鈺成的舅父談了不少中國航天之父錢學森的事蹟，令曾鈺成矢志從理，打算先赴美留學，回歸報効祖國，時維一九六六，也就是文化大革命肇始之年。翌年初夏，文化大革命的火舌蔓延至香港，初則罷工、示威，繼而放火、放炸彈。年終偃旗息鼓，共有五十一人喪生。後人名之為「六七暴動」。



曾鈺成與母親於廣州越秀公園留影

曾鈺成弟弟曾德成六七暴動時尚在聖保羅讀書，在校內派發反對殖民地教育的傳單（‘condemning the education



六七暴動期間的情況

aiming at enslavement', 'colonial education was unreasonable')，代校長韋爾思 (R. G. Wells) 報警，曾德成煽動罪成被判監兩年。親弟銀鐺入獄，曾鈺成到赤柱監獄探望，兄弟二人對坐閒聊，纏繞十多年的心結逐漸消解。曾德成出獄後任職《大公報》，二〇〇七年出任民政事務局局长，一五年提早退休。

留學夢碎，加入培僑

一九六八年，曾鈺成以一級榮譽的佳績從香港大學畢業，獲美國四所大學取錄讀研究院，但當時學生運動席捲全球，曾鈺成聽在美升學的朋友說學校經常停課，他感到時局動盪，一動不如一靜。當時文化大革命在大陸正鬧得天翻地覆，北上貢獻的抱負又未得實踐，曾鈺成最終決定留在香港，經同學介紹，入「左派學校」培僑中學任教，起初因學校不缺數學老師，便執教英文，幾年後轉教數學。他最初打算只在培僑教兩年，待時局稍定便往美國留學，但一盤桓竟是二十載。

曾鈺成自問稟賦優秀，後天亦刻苦力學，大學數學成績名列前茅，若當日繼續深造，大有可能在學術界有一番成就。人生際遇始終各有不同，曾鈺成眼見同學、師弟，甚至學生在學術上紛紛有所作為，而自己已錯過做學問的寶貴時間，對此曾久久不能釋懷，他笑着搖搖頭說：「很不舒服」。「而今我欣賞莊子超然物外的思想，我又有些阿Q精神，到死還可以安慰自己說當日如果讀下去，說不定我會成為大數學家……」

曾鈺成畢業當年，香港只有兩所大學，大學生可謂天之驕子。因通曉英語，許多畢業生投身政府，眾多職位中，以政務官最難獲取錄。早年政府高級職位皆由英國人擔任，一九五〇年，四十七名政務官中只有一名華人；六六年，一百四十六個政府高級職位中，亦只有廿四個由華人擔任。曾鈺成成績優異，可有想過「打政府工」？「弟妹都『俾人拉過』，我知道一定考不上。」說得十分淡然。

曾鈺成讀書時曾在港大數學系任助教，薪津每月一千四百元，而當年教師的月薪約一千五百元。曾鈺成加入培僑後頭一次領薪水才知道只有六百元，但原來校長吳康民更只有四百多元，「那時候講的是理想」。當然那年頭物價亦遠比今日低，曾鈺成一日三餐兩元已能解決，培僑教師更可享免費住宿。曾鈺成出身清貧，素來儉樸，無奢侈嗜好，因此生活尚算愜意，每月還有餘錢捐給勞工子弟學校。

他還記得初訪培僑，見師生席地圍坐談天，氣氛之融洽令他深受感動。不過到底曾鈺成讀的都是洋派學校，初到培僑，難免不習慣。文革期間，中資機構紛紛送子女入讀培僑，學校上下奉《毛主席語錄》為圭臬，日日頌讀。曾鈺成看不過眼，公然批評「天天讀」的效果，其他教師說

他是小資產階級，還未改造好，更惹來校長吳康民嚴厲批評，但吳康民並未為此懲戒他，反而處處提攜、重用，其胸襟量度教曾鈺成拜服。



培僑中學舊貌



與培僑中學教師合照

一九七六年，十年浩劫結束，培僑卻頓陷困境：培僑是私立中文學校，中文學校本已不吃香，學生又須繳學費，家長寧取津貼學校；文革過後，其左派立場更使人卻步。曾鈺成不忍於此艱難時刻離開，決定留校共同進退。他八二年晉升為校長，九二年組織政黨仍未卸任，至九七年為參選立法會才辭職。

「學問之道，勞而不獲者有之，未有不勞而獲者也」

曾家上世紀中葉隨同數以十萬計的家庭從大陸遷居香港，在此開枝散葉。曾鈺成父母對子女的期望和中國人的傳統觀念無異：萬般皆下品，惟有讀書高。曾鈺成少小年紀，便矢志向學，冀他日成材，改善生活。

如此成長經歷造就曾鈺成刻苦、堅毅的性格。他畢業後初任教師，後晉升為校長、校監，對教育別有體會，認為古今中外，學問之道，從來辛酸：「老師當然想令學生『愉快學習』，但世間一切成就都是刻苦而成的。我在培僑當班主任時，不時有些學生來投訴老師上課悶，我說：『同學，你覺得電視節目悶可以轉臺，但上課不是看電視。老師上課生動固然是好事，但即使是悶，你也不能不學習。』No pain, no gain.」

「當年培僑的圖書館掛有一幅書法：『學問之道，勞而不獲者有之，未有不勞而獲者也』。我小時候晚晚都要背書，藤條就在旁邊，流過好多眼淚。但辛苦日子捱過了，發覺原來正是那段艱辛的經歷，幫我奠定基礎。

「我這樣說可能又會被人批評，現在大家都反對 TSA，有個學生來立法會教育事務委員會表達意見，說：『我要玩，我沒時間玩！』大家聽到都拍手叫好。我卻擔心大眾認為『玩』、『輕鬆』最重要。理論上，我們當然希望學生視讀

書、做功課為遊戲，但事實上，世界不是兒童樂園，將來畢業出來工作了，怎能怕辛苦？」

世間成就確如曾鈺成所言，皆刻苦所至，鮮有不勞而獲者，一如《聖經·創世紀》所言：‘In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.’。書畫名家溥心畬六歲入學，「始讀《論語》、《孟子》，共六萬餘字，初讀兩三行，後加至十餘行，必得背誦默寫……因家塾讀書，放學假期極少，惟有年節放學、父母壽辰、本人生日外，皆每日入學」；現代代數幾何先驅，法國數學家 Alexander Grothendieck ‘was working on the foundations of algebraic geometry seven days a week, twelve hours a day, for ten years’。

在接近三小時的訪問中，曾鈺成完全不必休息。沉緬於回憶中的他，每講到艱苦力學的往事，便一臉正色；談起讀書時的輝煌戰績，又難掩得意之情。五、六十年代的香港學生，物質匱乏但信念簡單，「惟有讀書高」的思想也許與古人並無兩樣，在籐條的脅迫下苦讀，淚水是苦亦甜。今日發憤力學的青年不比從前少，然而向上流的階梯已愈來愈窄，讀書出頭的故事不再如此單純，他年這些青年，訴說的又會是怎樣的香江傳奇？訪問期間不時傳來龐集立法會門外的示威聲，示威者當中不乏在學青年，課堂的讀書聲已滲進社會的風聲、雨聲。

sea. No wonder a fort was built there.

After visiting the fort, we picked our way out of the village and made our way uphill. The pathway was cement paved recently and it was easier to climb than it used to be. On the right hand side of the path, when you are climbing up, is a steep-sided V-shaped valley with a clear stream running at the bottom. Although this is not a good example of a river valley, we were able to distinguish the features in the different stages in the "aging" of a river.

The higher we climbed, the hotter we were. Those who had worn much clothing had to take off their blazer, woollie, etc., one by one. Some who had worn little were then having a comfortable time. Rounding spurs and crossing valleys, we came up to the way-side pavilion which was built a few years ago and rested before we continued on our journey.

After the uneventful journey uphill, we finally arrived at Ngong Ping, staying for the while at the University hostel where we ate our lunch. According to our teacher, Ngong Ping is the best example of a plateau in Hong Kong—the reason why the place is named Ngong Ping. The Lantau peak is right opposite the University hostel and several members of our class went on to climb to the very peak while others went around the place or rested at the hostel. Soon after the return of the braves, we began our descent to Shek Pik where the largest and recently opened Shek Pik Reservoir is situated.

A motor road is being built from Ngong Ping to Shek Pik, joining to the existing stretch of motor road

that leads to Silver Mine Bay. On our way down this road, we saw examples of residual rocks that were left by erosion and weathering. An example of interlocking spurs (which is not very typical) was also pointed out to us. After many windings of the road, we came to the section of the road which was still in the construction stage. We were forced off the road and had to climb up one end of the dam of the reservoir in order to get back onto the motor road which runs along top of the dam.

The reservoir was a magnificent sight. The dam, thousands of feet in length and very wide at the base, was surfaced with rocks on the inner side and turfed on the other side. Looking down from the dam, down the turfed side, we could see the small "town" where the workers live not far from the foot of the dam. At the foot of the dam was the parking space for lorries and the workshops for the machinery.

Going down the other end of the dam on the other side had us at the Shek Pik bus terminus where we took a bus to Silver Mine Bay. All along the bus journey, a beach coast could be seen except when the bus turned inland or something obstructs our view. The waves and surfs were especially beautiful.

Arriving at Silver Mine Bay at about five in the afternoon when the sun went behind the hills, we were again directed to look at the sand banks there. As twilight was drawing near, we took our group photographs and boarded the five-thirty boat back to Hong Kong finishing a wonderful day on an excursion.

ON THE SPORTS DAY

An impudent gust turned the pages of the Philo-rhica violently, and deposited a hurtful amount of dust and cinders into the eyes that had been perusing it. With an imprecation, Albert Lee closed both his book and his eyes. In his momentary convalescence, he was aware that his cheeks and forehead were being scorched, thereby discovering that, owing to the manoeuvre of the aggressive sun, the shade in which he had safely established himself earlier in the morning, had now deserted him. Groping with one hand, he shifted himself gingerly sideways until the burning effect was felt no longer.

Sun, wind dust—what else? The hideous, incessant voice from the megaphone, and turpentine! The whole atmosphere was permeated with that nauseous smell. And the rest of the Sports Day, as they called it, was apparently made up of blatant cheers and disastrous accidents—swoons, fractures, and probably—most probably, thought Albert—deaths. What were they doing?

No, decidedly, he never did care for sports. To allow even the smallest possibility of having harm done to his body, to the body of Albert Lee, the divine, unique, unsurpassable gifted genius, would be indeed an unpardonable sin. "And sports are dangerous," he told himself; "How I wish that I, Albert Lee, were not

Albert Lee, but only one of the barbarous multitude."

A succession of thuds on the cinder-path in front of him made him look up. "Lunacy!" He murmured pitifully, as he gazed at the lurid figures among the stirring clouds of dust. They were panting and puffing, sweating and cramping, sticking their tongues out like dogs, and running themselves out of their lives. Now and then one of them, most probably the last one, showed his despair by throwing himself on the ground and covering himself with dust and ashes. Yet even then he could see, standing around the winning post, several of his fellow-students, neatly dressed, with opened arms, ready to embrace and heave and hug these bulks of sweat and cramps and puffs! He asked again, "What are they doing?"

A reverse peristalsis stirred up in him. Gathering up his courage, he decided to take a walk around the stadium, and investigate more deeply into this business of self-torture and self-destruction.

What he supposed to be high-jump, consisted mainly in alternate knocking-down and picking-up. Sometimes the bar, in revenge for a kick on its side, did not merely leap into the sand-pit, but commenced a simply harmonic motion, and carried it on tantalizingly for half a minute before gratifying the other

ON THE SPORTS DAY

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What he supposed to be high-jump, consisted mainly in alternate knocking-down and picking-up. Sometimes the bar, in revenge for a kick on its side, did not merely leap into the sand-pit, but commenced a simple harmonic motion, and carried it on tantalizingly for half a minute before gratifying the other competitors by falling down. The event on the other side was, however, of a more energetic nature. Each competitor, after careering down a path of some thirty yards like a charging beast, showed his enthusiastic desire for wallowing by plunging frantically into the sand-pit. Albert tried to estimate, with a lightning computation, the time it would take for the pit to run out of sand, as each of these leaping monsters invariably carried away a considerable amount of the substance in capacious parts of his body when he walked away.

On the farther side, a crowded spot denoted the place where they were 'shooting the pot', or was it 'putting the shot'? As the Gargantua was in the act of projecting his murderous shot, Albert had the illusion that his threatening look was directed at him. Quickly estimating the range of that weapon, Albert took a few steps backwards to clear himself of the danger zone. He covered his eyes as the infernal ball was hurled into the air: he decided that it would certainly hit the crown of one of the lookers-on. However, he was disappointed. The ball landed on the ground peacefully without making any fatal attacks.

On the cider-path another racing event was going on.

Everywhere there were storms of applause, cheers for the winners and other signs of admiration. Muscular strength, thought Albert, was what the common multitude admired. He sighed and shook his head. Muscular strength could be found in any of the lower animals. Man had conquered not with his muscles, but with his mind. Intelligence, that was what should be his forte. And he, Albert Lee, was the acme of intelligence. Yet nobody noticed him.

He sighed and shook his head again.

Someone behind wanted to take a photograph of the champion. Albert Lee was pushed aside.

Tsang Yok Sing