我一九五五年至一九六三年在九龍華仁書院求學時期,比湯維強兄早四屆,在校時並不認識,畢業後沒有來往,直至二〇〇九年三月,我投稿安省九華舊生會網站後,(WYKAAO,以下引文和提到的文章,大多刊登在這網站)看到他和他同學的文章才知有此人。二〇一三年,我編紀念吳茂生博士的哀思錄時,經何鎮源老師聯絡上他,他應約寫了懷念茂生的短文,然後互通電郵,直至今年三、四月為止。

我跟他私人交誼甚少,認識他時,已從大學崗位退下,移民加國。他擔任比較政治學教授及研究所所長:教書、研究、行政、參加學術會議,忙碌得緊。所隸屬的加州洛杉璣大學是美西著名學府。我們有事才通訊,第一次有關吳茂生,發覺彼此都是茂生好友。湯兄與茂生是同學、教徒、輔祭、曾有志進入神職、唸了神學、後轉變而成為學者、都在美西。我不是教徒,但因神父的寬容和專誠而對天主教帶有好感,也關注教會和神職人員。我們嗟歎好友英才早逝,互通消息,變得不陌生了。

維強兄在一九七二至七三年在香港華仁教書。他對耶穌會和學校的教育及宗教事務知之甚詳,有時也談一些學校教會舊事,例如他與陳綸緒神父怎樣變得熟落。長洲的天主教思維靜院依納爵靈修中心 (Xavier House Ignatian Spirituality Centre),中文命名就是他中譯而成。在學和任教時的輔祭,他都認識。Fr. Tom O'Neill 二〇〇九年七月在新加坡辭世,我倆分別記下些回憶悼念他。後來通訊,他重提到怎樣駕車在洛城接到訪的神父,在車上唱聖詩。又寫道: That seems to be the way with some of the Jesuit fathers. They do not realize the full impact of their influence on us。(1) 我受過七、八位神父的教導,也有同感。

"吳茂生博士哀思錄" (2) 在二〇一四年上載網站。二〇一五年是陳綸緒神父逝世十週年。湯兄除了親往拜祭, 還將他十年前在陳神父喪禮時所作的贊詞、訃文、文章在網站重刊, (3) 那都是情文並茂知人善道的言詞。我在九華升中六時陳神父教中七, 以後專注研究, 錯過親炙的機會, 讀了才知神父學問淵博和窮究梵中交往歷史的用心。向湯兄探詢, 他將神父和學生詩詞唱酬的一些手稿資料影印給我, 我抄寫整理, 寫了"In Remembrance of Fr. Albert Chan, S.J. (1915-2005)"和"陳綸緒神父與朋友、學生的文字情誼"兩篇文字。他手頭還有神父的詩詞, 我建議他寫一本陳綸緒神父傳記, 表彰他學術的成就和意義, 他倆亦師亦友, 三十多年交往。誰料他提反建議, 說我已整理了簡約年譜, 可以擴充而成一本小書, 我知道自己不是這料子, 此事就不了了之。他向我介紹三藩市大學利馬竇中西文化歷史研究所 (University of San Francisco Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History)。這研究所可說是建立在陳神父在九十年代中移民三藩市時所帶的數萬本書籍和在歐洲苦研的成果之上。(4) 我也覺得利馬竇和陳神父溝通中西文化的功績, 很值得延續, 響應他的號召, 出一分綿力, 至今還常常收到大學及研究所的消息。

湯兄受陳神父的影響可見於多方面。其一是嚴謹的學風。在由學生評老師的網站中,學生多說他樂於助人,打分嚴,但覺得學有所得。他介紹自己開的課程時,還叫學生先看這些評語呢。(5)還有是中文詩詞造詣。湯兄為美西一位老詩人的詩集作序,盡顯他對近體詩格律技巧深知其理,又談到迴文詩與藏頭詩等個中奧妙。我看後深為佩服,可惜沒有留下稿子。此外,他懂美食,看他二〇一二年寫的"豪門夜宴私房菜"便知,這也是陳神父的奇技。

何鎮源師與湯兄熟悉,和陳神父是同事,他將神父做學生時的詩詞發掘出來上載。(6)何師病逝,我把我追思的文字轉發湯兄看,彼此噓唏不已。今年年初,他在一封電郵建議為何師籌募一個紀念獎金,說遲些兒思念則會趨淡。討論到釆取什麼形式時,沒有結論,建議就暫且放下。三、四月間,他向我索取家中電話號碼,說有一個計劃要與我商量。那時我手頭有兩份校對工作,便請他遲點再聯絡我,那是我們最後一次通電郵。我猜想計劃與陳神父或何師有關,又或者關乎九華和港華建校九十五週年及一百週年,但是否如此,永遠不可知了。

能與一位素未謀面的卓越校友有多年的文字情誼,我會珍惜。母校的校友、老師、神父、記憶串牽 起我們,如今線斷了,我真正的是惘然若失。

二〇二〇年九月初稿,十月三日定稿,溫哥華

引文:

- (1) 見"Remembering Father Thomas O'Neill, S.J."
- (2) "In Memoriam: Dr Mau-sang Ng"
- (3) 見"In Remembrance of Fr. Albert Chan, S.J. (1915-2005)" 文內 'Eulogy by James Tong', 'Obituary by James Tong'
- (4) 見"Fr. Albert Chan, S.J. Scholarship Fund"
- (5) 見谷歌 連結 James Tong Bruinwalk
- (6) 見"陳綸緒神父中學時的作品"

附錄:

Nov 7, 2015

Fong Ying, thanks for doing this. Now that John Lam and Lee Kwok Biu are no longer with us, you are the best person to 立傳 for Fr. Chan. And it looks like you have done a better job than I to 安碑 for him.

I found 4 ci's by John Lam in Fr. Chan's personal correspondence, but these appear to be reprints of John's published work, Wuhuiji.

More precious are 9 ci's and 5 seven-character poems by Lee Kwok Biu, in his own handwriting, Fr. Chan even kept the envelope. I will send these to you tomorrow.

I also found a ci by Fr. Maurice Wong, S.J., who had a PhD in Physics and had been teaching in a Jesuit college in the U.S. (Fairfield). (see below) It is also well written. Fr. Chan also sent me a letter after we spent a day together at U. of San Francisco. I will also send these two you.

I have met Dr. Lee's younger brother, Lee Kwok Hei, who might have more. Kwok Hei spends six months in England (or Canada) and the other six months in Hong Kong. I need to track him down first.

Kwok Biu was five to six years ahead of John Lam. According to John, Kwok Biu and John were two students closest to Fr. Chan. Kwok Biu named his son Albert, after Fr. Chan. You can see how affectionate they were in their poems.

After I wrote the eulogy of Fr. Chan, the daughter of Kwok Hei wrote to me the following day. She found it in the internet.

James

New York Times

Paid Notice: Deaths WONG, REVEREND MAURICE KING (1932-1998)

Published: June 5, 1998

WONG-Reverend Maurice King Fan, S.J. Aged 66, professor of Mathematics at Fairfield University, Fairfield CT, died June 3, 1998. Friends may call at the Chapel of St. Ignatius Hall, 86 Barlow Rd., Fairfield CT, Saturday 7-9 p.m., Sunday 2-4, 7-9 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection 11 a.m. on Monday, at the Eagan Chapel, of St. Ignatius, Fairfield University. In lieu of flowers, donations in Father Wong's memory may be made to the Jesuit Scholarship Fund, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT.06430.