Stone ties whole famil together

Lin Hengyun, his four children, devote their liveo Shoushan carving

By YU NAN
China Daily staff

Lin is a distinguished family name in the field of Shoushan stone carving in China.

Lin Hengyun, 71, the head of this well-known sculpting family, is one of only a handful of masters of this art and craft still alive in China.

Lin's three sons and one daughter are devotees as well.

A co-operative work in Shoushan stone, "Spring in Sights," by sons Lin Dong and Lin Fei, was chosen as the Fujian provincial government's gift to Macao when Macao was handed over to the motherland in 1999.

Shoushan stone is commonly used for carving or collecting in China. It is named after the richest resource area of agalmatolite in China — Shoushan Village, about 40 kilometres north of Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province. Lin Hengyun was born there in 1930.

Lin Hengyun began sculpting when he dropped out of a private school because his family could not afford to send him.

He was only 13. His uncle, Chen Tanfa, a well-known sculptor in wood carving, became his new teacher.

After 12 years of hard work, Lin became a famous young carver himself.

He got his chance to go back to school for a year in 1958 to further study art and carving techniques. He then went to work for an industrial arts factory in his home province.

From wood to stone

The year 1970 was a turning point in Lin's life.

The factory he worked for was closed down; wood carving works were no longer popular.

Lin decided to change his carving material from wood to stone. And he chose the precious stone of his hometown: Shoushan.

It has been more than 1,500 years since Shoushan stone was exploited as a precious stone for its gorgeous colours, smooth and moist character and changeable veins.

There are about 180 sorts of Shoushan stone.

"Tianhuang stone," the most precious kind, enjoys a reputation as "the king of stones." It is more valuable than gold.

Although Shoushan stone is softer than most stones, it is still harder than wood.

Some techniques in wood carving are not suitable for stone. It is very easy to break the stone if the vein is too thin.

But Lin didn't give up.

He succeeded at last, combining the traditional style of Shoushan stone carving with the style of wood carving. The blend made his work fresh and outstanding and finally won him the recognition he deserved.

His delicate stone works were sent to Hawaii for exhibition in 1981. None of them were taken back to China — they were all bought by visitors there.

Animal lover

Lin has a special passion for bears. He has studied their behaviour and moves at length at zoos and in bookstores in Beijing and abroad. If a book had even just one or two pictures of a bear, he would buy it without hesitation.

The fur, the muscle, each move, each expression — all are in Lin's mind and, in the end, demonstrated by Lin's hand.

To accurately represent the bears' flocky fur, Lin had to invent a special kind of knife.

His stone bear is one of the most popular works among art collectors at home and abroad.

Bear carving is not his only specialty. He is also good at carving fish and other animals.

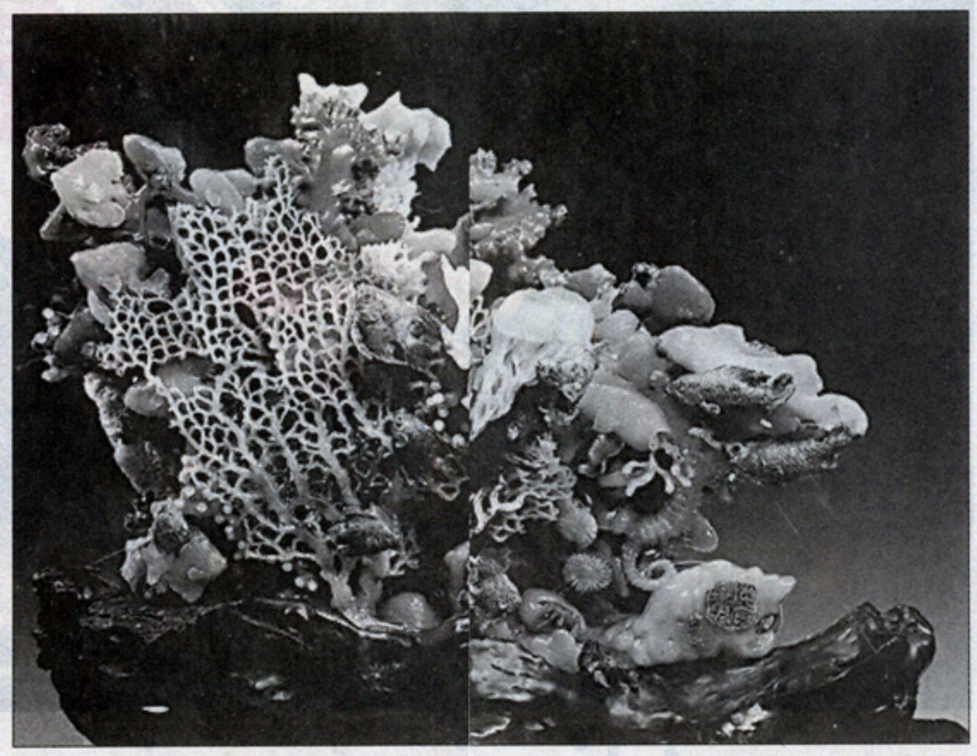
One of his best works is "Water World," completed in 1989. The stone for this work weighs 70 kilograms and has five different colours: white and black to carve fish, acalephes or other animals in water; and yellow, orange and red to carve corals and reefs.

This work was awarded the Baihua Prize, the highest award for China's industrial arts.

"Water World" is said to be worth at least 2 million yuan (US$240,000).

Most of Lin's works were bought by collectors for top dollar. But Lin treasures his artwork more than the money it reaps.

"My dad only works three hours a day now and rejects most orders," said Lin Dong, the third son. "He carves what he likes and never does it for money."



File photo

More than splendid: "Water World," complete 989, is one of the best works of Lin Hengyun.

Influenced by their father, the four children began to show an interest in carving in early childhood.

"Every day after school we sat beside our father and watched him carve people and all kinds of animals," said Lin Fei, the second son. "Little by little, we began to love it and tried to do some simple works by ourselves."

Lin Fei and Lin Dong have both become successful sculptors in Shoushan stone carving already. They have won medals and gone abroad for exhibitions, just like their father. But they have done so in their own niches.

"Our father is our model, but if we just imitate his work, we will fail," Lin Fei said. "We tried to find our own way all along."

To carve the Macao gift "Spring In Sights," the two brothers went to Wuyi Mountains — one of the most beautiful places in Fujian — three times.

They worked together for seven months, carving its beautiful trees, mountains and waterfall he piece was ranked firs ong all the candidates.

"This belongs to the whole far n Dong said.

The f contributions are recc l in a finely-bound bo e Omniscience of Chine oushan Stone Culture,' was published by Peopl lishing House late in t. It contains about pictures of Shoushan stone works and profiles of 64 outstanding Shoushan stone sculptors in all.

Courtesy of Lin Hengyun

Father and Lin Hengyun and his son, Lin Dong, watch a Shoushan bear they completed together.

Lin's four children are all living separately now, but they go to their father's workshop when they want to carve something.

"It is Shoushan stone that ties the whole family together and brings us success and happiness," Lin Fei said.

BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

The Saitek Pro Bridge 310 has some good features. It is easy to use in a confined space, being a hand-held device that is 8" x 4.5" x1.5". To pass time on buses, trains and planes, it is ideal.

Yet its Introduction to Bridge is poorly written; the suit symbols are small; you must remember the auction as it progresses, seeing only four calls at a time; the machine's bidding and play are bad; and when you discard, say, a six, even if it's the only one in your hand, you must still press the appropriate suit button (but not when following suit). Also, the Saitek assertion that bridge is "played and enjoyed by some 50 million people" is a major overbid.

However, you can claim to quicken play; see all four hands afterwards (though only two at a time); and practice your counting and card-play techniques.

Here is deal number 864,468 of the 10 billion preprogrammed into the machine. South did well not to try for a penalty in one spade doubled, because that contract is makable. Yet where did North find two no-trump? That is absurd. North should settle for two hearts, a contract in which declarer will lose one heart, one or two diamonds, and two clubs.

Three no-trump died quickly. West led its spade. And when in with the heart ace, West shifted to the club jack. So the defenders took one spade, one heart and four clubs for two down.

North
♠ 9
♥ K 10 8 7 6 5
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ K 6

West
♠ 5
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ J 10 7 2

East
♠ K Q 8 7 6 3
♥ 9
♦ K 4
♣ A Q 9 4

South
♠ A J 10 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ Q 9 3
♣ 8 5 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

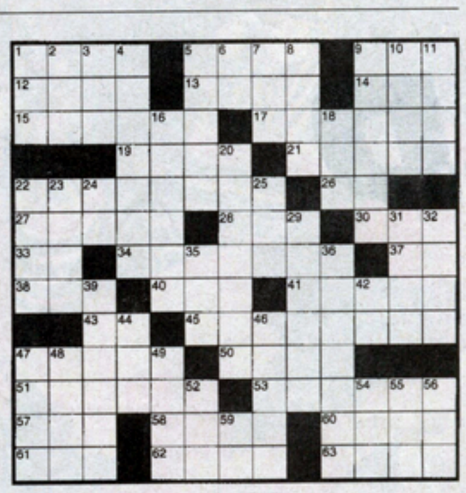
South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 5

CROSSWORD (No 6393)

ACROSS
1 Talon
5 "I'm the — of the world"
9 — Thumb
12 Flight prefix
13 Scope
14 GI's address
15 Daily product
17 Piquant element
19 Bete —
21 Youngsters
22 Bill and Ed
26 Engineer's deg.
27 WB series
28 Insect
30 Caviar
33 Hahnium symbol
34 The Lord (Latin)
37 "Bus Stop" star (inits.)
38 Yang- — River
40 — sequitur
41 Muslim pilgrim garb
43 Kravitz ID
45 Equality of measure
47 Bundles
50 Type of tree
51 Behind the —
53 Man's name
57 Sun. talk
58 Lacking firmness
60 Breezy
61 Attempt
62 Curved structure
63 Large dagger

DOWN
1 Low island
2 August birthday celebrant
3 S.A. country
4 Injured
5 Couric of "Today"
6 Negative prefix
7 Ship clock
8 Way of running
9 Speaker
10 Mayberry youngster
11 — up (brings to an end)
16 Deodorant variety
18 Caustic substance
20 — Reservoir (Russia)
22 Thailand currency
23 Genetic materials
24 Silver symbol
25 Place in the — (favourable position)
29 Blouse
31 Filmodom's Sharif
32 TV award
35 Miss Piggy word
36 MacRae, et al.
39 — Queen
42 Football pos.
44 Barbie's pal
46 Vigour (slang)
47 Sound to get someone's attention
48 Freezer
49 Ward of "Once and Agan"
52 Title of respect
54 Mr. Scully
55 Anger
56 Louis or Carrie
59 Show host, for one



Solution to No 6392

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A	I	R		L	U	I	S		N	Y	E	T
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E	M	I	R		E	T	O	N		C	I	A
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		T	E	N	O	R		V	I	E		
V	E	R	S	E	D		P	I	G	E	O	N
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T	L	C		K	R	A	A	L		S	E	X

TOI'S RADIO

FM 90.0
15:00 Pe
16:00 Lit
16:30 Pc
18:00 Ch
20:00 Int

FM 87.6
08:30 Ha
09:30 Fa
11:00 Ch
13:30 Ch
16:30 Fc
21:00 Pe
23:30 Ch
00:30 Fa

FM 97.4
08:30 Mu
09:00 He

CCTV-1
17:00 Int
19:00 Ne
21:25 W

CCTV-2
14:30 Ne
17:10 Cl
20:35 Sp Ec

CCTV-3
18:30 El
19:30 Sy
21:35 Ar
22:40 La

CCTV-4
11:20 Tr
12:30 Cl
18:30 Fc
19:30 Cl

CCTV-6
08:55 Cl
12:48 Do M
14:52 Yo
19:40 Cl
21:19 Pl

CCTV-8
12:00 Ar
19:30 Ji (6
20:25 Pl
23:53 M

TOI'S TELEVISION

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a movie: Sunflower
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Theatre

BTV-1 Channel 6
18:30 News; Weather
21:45 Focus Today
22:36 Hello the World

BTV-2 Channel 21
13:45 Concert Hall
18:00 Screen Archives
21:55 Shopping
23:00 Gourmets Across the Country
23:55 Weekend movie

BTV-3 Channel 27
15:50 Clinic
21:00 News
21:25 Science Education Express
23:50 Impression

BTV-4 Channel 17
13:05 Movie Saloon
18:03 630 Theatre
19:03 World Archives
19:32 365-part series: The History of the Communist Party of China

BTV-6 Channel 19
12:05 Honour and Dream
17:00 Bodybuilding Everyday
21:30 Soccer report

BTV-7 Channel 24
20:00 Health & Life
21:20 Today's Life
21:30 Estate in the 21st Century
23:35 Sunshine Culture

FM 92.7 MHz (all stereo)
11:00 Pop 2001
13:00 Pop Concert
16:30 Classic Albums
22:30 New Century Music

FM 92.7 MHz (all stereo)
15:30 Hello, the Earth
16:00 Health programmes
18:00 Daily Express
18:30 Delicacy & House
21:00 New Life Saloon

AM 603 kHz
06:57 Weather report
07:00 News
08:30 Reading Time
10:00 Community & Life
12:00 Legal Times
18:00 Travelling Guide
20:10 English pop songs

WHAT'S ON

STAGE

Keeping it in the air: The Chaoyang Theatre is one of the Beijing theatres to present acrobatics all year round.

Top acrobatic artists from the Sichuan Deyang Acrobatic Troupe perform for Chinese and foreign tourists. The programme features trick cycling, leaping through hoops and Chinese magic tricks. Some of the artists have won prizes in international competitions.
Time: 7:15 pm daily
Place: 36, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6507-2421, 6507-1818

English-dubbed show: The Beijing Onetone Cultural Exchange Co Ltd launched and English-dubbed Peking Opera show at the theatre of the Beijing Traditional Opera School. The company has invited experts to translate the play "Legend of White Snake" and dub the lines. Using earphones, audiences will be able to hear every line in English simultaneously with the action on stage.
Time: 7:15 pm, September 22
Place: 8 Majiapu, Yangqiao, Fengtai District
Tel: 6726-7809, 6756-2287

Joint performances: A number of shows are being staged at different theatres by art troupes from across China to let people know more about ethnic groups.

Grand Theatre of the Cultural Palace of Nationalities:
"Da Da Se," a show of songs and dances of the Li ethnic group, given by Hainan Province.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 19, 20
Place: Xidan, Xichang'an Jie
Tel: 6602-2530, 6602-2770

Capital Theatre:
"High Sky, Rich Soil," a dance show given by Qinghai Province.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 19, 20
Place: 22, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6524-9847 or 6525-0996

China Theatre:
A show given by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps will bring the folk flavour of the Tianshan Mountain area.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 19, 20
Place: A27, Wanshousi
Tel: 6841-9381

China Pingju Theatre:
A show of folk dances of the She people given by artists from Zhejiang Province.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 19, 20
Place: 19, Zone 4, Xiluoyuan, Fengtai District
Tel: 8720-8367

Local operas: Beijing is staging a Tibetan opera play about Princess Wencheng in the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) who married Songtsam Gambo, King of the Tubo Kingdom in [illegible] century.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 19, 20
Place: Chang'an Grand Theatre, 7, Jian'guomennei Dajie
Tel: 6510-1309

French ballet: The new adaptation of "Giselle," the timeless romantic ballet, will be brought to Beijing by one of Europe's top dance companies, the Ballet National de Marseilles.

The group was established in 1972 by Roland Petit. It took a new direction in 1998 to do both classical ballets and contemporary dance, with the appointment of Marie-Claude Pietragalla as chairman, and has made a name for itself throughout Europe for its fresh and inspirational approach to dance.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 29-October 2
Place: Beizhan Theatre, 135, Xiwai Dajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6835-1383

CONCERTS

Vienna orchestra: To mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Austria and China, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michael Stern, will perform at the Beijing Concert Hall.

The orchestra will bring inspiring programmes to Beijing audiences, including Symphony D-major, Kv385 by Mozart, Haydn Variations by Brahms and Symphony No 7 by Beethoven.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 28
Place: 1 Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6463-6572, 6463-6628

Cello recital: Russian cellist Nina Kotova will give a recital in Beijing next week.

Hailed as a major Russian prodigy, Nina Kotova, herself the daughter of two musicians, gave her first public performance and started composing at the age of seven. Her career since has taken her across the globe performing as a soloist, chamber musician and composer.

Nina will play some classical pieces like Prokofiev's "Sonata No 7," Tchaikovsky's "Romance," "Meditation," and Rachmaninoff's "Sonata."
Time: 7:30 pm, September 21
Place: Forbidden City Concert Hall, inside the Zhongshan Park on west side of the Tian'anmen Rostrum
Tel: 6559-8315

Italian orchestra: The Italy International Orchestra will visit Beijing to give a concert of Italian opera music.

The orchestra will play a number of popular compositions from some classical Italian operatic works, such as Verdi's "Nabucco," "The Force of Destiny," Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" and Bizet's "Carmen."
Time: 7:30 pm, September 21
Place: Beijing Concert Hall, 1, Beixinhuajie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6559-8285

Teens culture: The crazy fans of Korean teens bands will soon be able to meet their idols in Beijing.

FIN K L, a girls' band from the Republic of Korea, will perform here next weekend.

The concert will invite a guest singer — CLICK-B, a seven-member Korean boys' band, which has the similar music style as FIN K L.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 21
Place: The Workers' Gym
Tel: 6603-7255

Galaxy of musicals: "Cats," "Evita," "The Phantom of the Opera" — each one a famous musical. Beijing audiences will be able to hear some of the most popular pieces from these popular musicals.

The composer of those musicals, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, and his Really Useful Group, has spent US$600,000 dollars producing a performance to be staged in Beijing by "First Lady of British Musicals" Elaine Paige, Chinese singer Kris Phillips and a number of British vocalists.
Time: 7:30 pm, September 27, 28
Place: Great Hall of the People, on west side of the Tian'anmen Square
Tel: 6407-3532, 6405-5512

EXHIBITIONS

Oil and prints: Promising young artists including Xiao Se, Han Xuejun, Xie Feng and Wei Jia are to present their oil paintings and prints at the Wanfung Art Gallery until September 20. The work defines society, life and culture from various and unique angles.
Time: 9 am-5 pm until September 20
Place: 136, Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6523-3320

One-man show: Kong Weike, a veteran artist from Shandong Province, will stage his solo art exhibition of Chinese ink figure paintings from September 14-19 at the China National Art Museum in Beijing.

On display are more than 60 selected works Kong has created over the past two decades, such as "Portrait of Kang Youwei, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) Reformer" and "Portrait of Confucius."
Time: 9 am-5 pm, September 19
Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing
Tel: 6401-2252

Japanese ink and wash: Japanese artist, Unemura Sekido, holds a solo ink and wash painting exhibition at China National Art Museum.

Unemura Sekido shows a great interest in traditional Chinese painting. He has been practising ink and wash painting for many years. He develops his own style by combining the Japanese and Chinese cultures. This has distinguished him as a progressive ink and wash painter. The exhibition will showcase several scores of his works from past years.
Time: 9 am-5 pm until September 20
Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401-6234

Graduates' oils: The graduates from the 11th advanced training course at the Central Academy of Fine Arts are presenting their achievements in oil painting at a celebratory exhibition at China National Art Museum.

The graduates are art-lovers from across the country. They took part in the advanced training course to improve their oil painting skills as well as develop their artistic tastes. The exhibition displays several scores of oil paintings that mark their progress during the course.
Time: 9 am-5 pm, September 19
Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401-6234

From desert to canyon: Yan Jiakuan's personal experiences of natural exploration is revived in his paintings at an exhibition being held at China National Art Museum.

Entitled "From Australian Desert to China's West Canyon," the exhibition is a retrospective of what Yan has experienced during his travels in his vacation as a college teacher. The paintings are mostly portraits of natural scenes and people he met along the way.
Time: 9 am-5 pm, September 19
Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401-6234

Teachers' works: An exhibition featuring art works by teachers in Beijing Normal University is on at China National Art Museum.

Participants are not merely art teachers in the university — many other teachers who love art have also contributed works. There are about 100 art works including paintings, prints and sculptures .
Time: 9 am-5 pm until September 20
Place: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6401-6234

Song of life: A photographic exhibition displaying pictures of wild life is on at Beijing Natural Museum.

The photos were taken by zoologist Li Xiangtao during his field observation in the wilderness over the past 10 years. All the photos are striking close-up shots. It is sometimes risky for Li to take the photos in remote mountains and virgin forests. There are precious recordings of over 100 animals that exist exclusively in China.
Time: 9 am-5 pm until September 20
Place: 126 Tianqiao Nandajie
Tel: 6702-4431