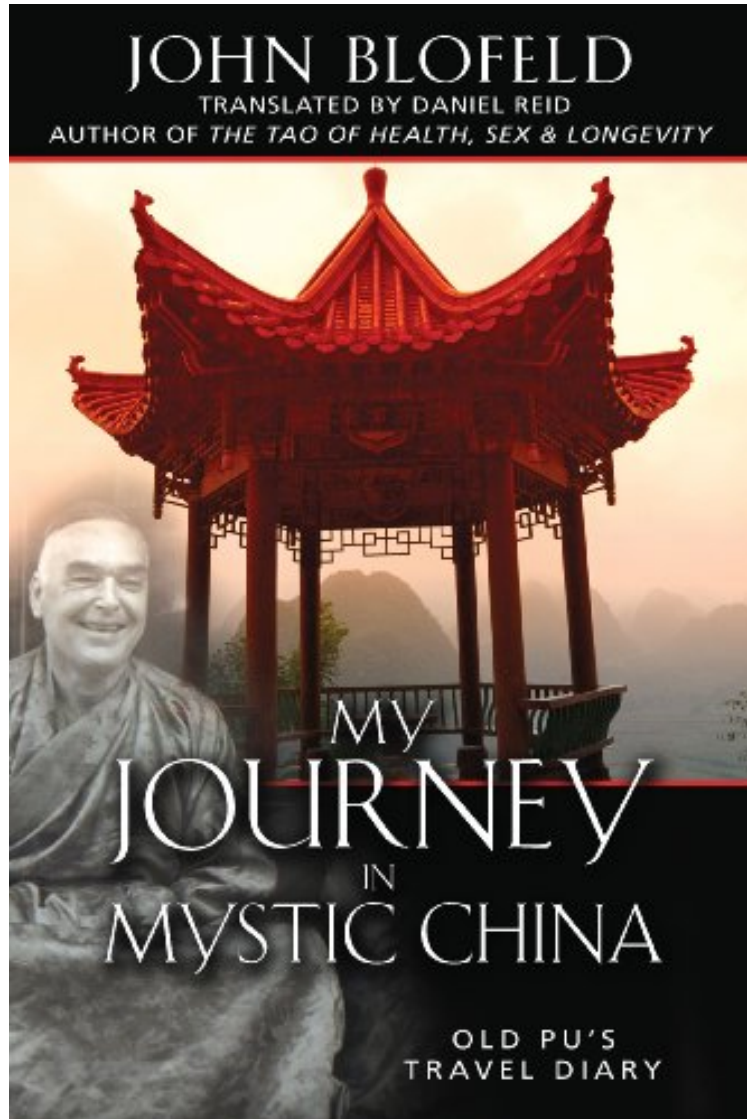


[Read and download] My Journey in Mystic China: Old Pu's Travel Diary

My Journey in Mystic China: Old Pu's Travel Diary

John Blofeld

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#754385 in Books 2008-03-18 2008-03-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.10 x 6.00l, 1.06 #File Name: 159477157X296 pages | File size: 72.Mb

John Blofeld : My Journey in Mystic China: Old Pu's Travel Diary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Journey in Mystic China: Old Pu's Travel Diary:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Old Pu hits the roadBy PierceWow! What a great book. Now, I admit that I am biased toward anything John Blofeld writes. I first used his translation of the Yijing when I began studying baguazhang 25 years ago. I still prefer his translation. Blofeld was determined to write one book in Chinese, and he did...this one. It was his last book. Daniel Reid has produced a very readable English translation. It has the feel of a Blofeld book. Buy this book, sit back, and read about China in the 1930s and 40s from the eyes of an Englishman

gone native. Blofeld's Chinese name was Lao Pu or Old Pu. His adventures are always fascinating, his attempts to understand the tao and Buddhism are often enlightening, and some events are just down-right funny. Highly recommended! I only wish I could read it in the original Chinese. Sigh. 32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. A memorable journey

By Mark Newbold
John Blofeld's account of his travels in China during the 1930's 40's are translated for the first time and it is a cause for celebration for all Sinophiles. His words are a visual canvas of pastels and rich colors, smells, and tastes of a China no longer to be seen. Blofeld comes across as a gentle loving soul that if one were to accept reincarnation as a fact, then this British born man was truly Chinese in his soul. Besides a journal of his travels, he also offers folk stories and accounts of inexplicable sights and people he encountered along the way. Blofeld is a fine writer of great subtlety and nuance. Normally I am a quick reader but like a fine tea I wanted to savor each page and chapter of this book. The translation by Daniel Reid is superlative. Reid's deep friendship and admiration he cultivated in the last years of Blofeld's life imbues this work with a warmth and charm too little seen in memoirs today. For those interested in the history of China, Chinese folk life, Taoism, Confucianism or Buddhism this book is recommended. I know this is a work that I will return to every so often like a visit with a good friend and raconteur. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Blofeld as he was

By Eric Mueller
This is vintage Blofeld. Blofeld, an English convert to Buddhism, lived most of his life in East Asia. Specifically, he was in China prior to the founding of New China in 1949, and thereafter he was in Hong Kong (still China, but at the time under British rule) and finally Thailand. Blofeld has a real feel and enthusiasm for traditional Buddhism, Daoism, and other practical-philosophical legacies of the ancient Chinese and Asian cultures. But he always seems to have felt a particular bond to their most conservative manifestations. So during the 1920s and 1930s when the Chinese were fighting to free themselves from the burden of the feudal Qing dynasty, Blofeld went around championing the values and traditions of the emperors and their local officials, bemoaning the 'decline' to the republican era. Not surprisingly, Blofeld had no appreciation for the Communist-led movement to liberate China from the corrupt, foreign dominated warlords and generals of the republican era either, and so for all his love and appreciation for traditional Chinese culture he couldn't grasp the big real-life issues that Chinese were grappling with in the turbulent 20th century. His nostalgia for the 'good old days' of eunuchs and sing-song girls and state endowed temples and Confucian officials - all reflects a lack of awareness of what issues really were affecting the people. Despite this, Blofeld offers a good picture of what life was like for those who didn't have to eek out a bare survival existence in Old China. In many ways he communicates well the spirit of Buddhist and Daoist philosophical approaches - things that are integral parts of the cultural outlook of people in China, regardless of the current political situation. So the book is worth reading if you're interested in Chinese history and culture but it is a good idea to bear in mind the fact that Blofeld's animosity to more modern trends, in particular the political changes, reflects a certain distance from his subject. It is one thing to be a foreigner and chose to live in a feudal context - particularly with an adequate income and as a male - it is quite another to be born into the bonds of old feudal and patriarchal society and in poverty as well and have no means to escape short of mass social revolution - which was actually the case for millions of Chinese during the time Blofeld lived and wrote.

The only English translation of John Blofeld's memoirs as a Westerner living in China prior to the Communist Revolution paints an intimate portrait of the grace and refinement of ancient Chinese civilization. Originally written in Chinese for Chinese readers, revealing a rare glimpse of Blofeld's private Chinese side and uncensored views. The last book by the great English sinologist, translator of the I Ching and author of *Taoist Mystery and Magic*. The reveries and remembrances contained in the travel diaries of John Blofeld cover every aspect of his life in China--from visits to opium dens and sing-song houses to sojourns in the Buddhist monasteries and Taoist hermitages of China's sacred mountains. Here is a vivid glimpse of old China as it existed in elegance and grace for three thousand years before China's Communist Revolution. Originally written in Chinese for a Chinese audience, Blofeld's travel diary reveals a rare, uncensored view of pre-communist China to which few westerners have been exposed.

"This is John Blofeld's intimate and heartfelt personal account of a life spent in the old China we have all heard and dreamt about, but which is gone forever. As such it should be savored as a first-class treasure, for it is like a long-lost gem recovered for the world to appreciate. What makes John Blofeld's memoir so uniquely special is the man himself, who, as international traveler, sinologist, translator, and scholar embodied the perfect balance of Yin and Yang; an ideal synthesis of the meeting of East and West." (Chungliang Al Huang, author of *Embrace Tiger, Return To Mountain* and founder of the Living Tao Found)"The discovery of a missing manuscript of Mozart could not bring greater joy than John Blofeld's memoir of his journey through a China that is barely visible nowadays but brought to life once more in this most welcome translation. To read this book is to travel again with this marvelous man on the path he walked so well: the path of the translator, the path of the pilgrim, the path of a stranger in a strange land. The bodhisattvas must be singing." (Bill Porter (Red Pine), translator and editor of *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*)"When all is said and done, we owe Daniel Reid a great debt for translating this wonderful travel journal. . . although 'mystic' appears in the title, this is not really a magical mystical tour and you won't get any tidbits about finding your bliss, so to speak. You basically find what a well-lived life can be like." (Robert Figler, Ph.D., *Journal of*

Asian Martial Arts, Vol. 17 No. 3)"It is fitting that Daniel Reid, whose writings have done so much to bring profound dimensions of Chinese medical, scientific, spiritual, and meditative wisdom to English language readers, has translated this book." (Reg Little, New Dawn, No. 110, Sep/Oct 2008)" The book is not, strictly speaking, a history of the 1930s and 1940s in China, but for readers looking to gain a deeper understanding of that period, the book will prove quite valuable. It will also be useful to those wishing a deeper understanding of pre-communist Chinese religion and culture, as well as to casual readers who are simply seeking an engaging informative book about China during its early republican period." (Elizabeth Redkey, MultiCultural , Vol. 17, No. 4, Winter 2008)"A vivid portrait of this lost land . . . of interest to any Chinese history enthusiast." (The Midwest Book , Aug 2008)"The book reads like a charming account from a long-forgotten era, and that is precisely what it is. Blofeld gives a detailed and scintillating portrait of ancient China, still extant when he lived there--a culture that was highly stratified and regimented, and included the virtues of always welcoming 'guests from afar' such as Blofeld himself, who made a comfortable niche for himself by being the perfect visitor." (Curled Up with a Good Book, June 2008)From the Back CoverMEMOIR / CHINA" This is John Blofeld's intimate and heartfelt personal account of a life spent in the old China we have all heard and dreamt about, but which is gone forever. As such it should be savored as a first-class treasure, for it is like a long-lost gem recovered for the world to appreciate. What makes John Blofeld's memoir so uniquely special is the man himself, who, as international traveler, sinologist, translator, and scholar embodied the perfect balance of Yin and Yang; an ideal synthesis of the meeting of East and West."--Chungliang Al Huang, author of Embrace Tiger, Return To Mountain and founder of the Living Tao Foundation"The discovery of a missing manuscript of Mozart could not bring greater joy than John Blofeld's memoir of his journey through a China that is barely visible nowadays but brought to life once more in this most welcome translation. To read this book is to travel again with this marvelous man on the path he walked so well: the path of the translator, the path of the pilgrim, the path of a stranger in a strange land. The bodhisattvas must be singing."--Bill Porter (Red Pine), translator and editor of The Collected Songs of Cold MountainThe reveries and remembrances contained in the travel diaries of English-born John Blofeld cover every aspect of his life in China. Perhaps best known for his translation of the I Ching, the Book of Change, this renowned scholar and prolific author spent over fifteen years of his adult life during the 1930s and 40s traveling the country and immersing himself in its incredibly rich culture. His favorite city was Peking, and his eloquent discourses on the wonders of this ancient city include riveting experiences of its opium dens and sing-song houses. Believing from an early age that he had a preordained link with China, John Blofeld was fascinated with its cultural past and developed a deep understanding of its three great philosophies--Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. He became a devout Buddhist whose journeys throughout the country included sojourns in the Buddhist monasteries and Taoist hermitages of the country's sacred mountains, where he often studied with spiritual masters and received their sacred teachings. He also visited Guilin, Yulin, Chufu, and Chusien as well as many remote villages where no foreigner had ever traveled before. Here is a vivid glimpse of old China as it existed in elegance and grace for three thousand years before the Communist Revolution. Originally written in Chinese for a Chinese audience, Blofeld's travel diary reveals a beautiful, rare, and uncensored view of pre-communist China to which few Westerners have been exposed.

JOHN BLOFELD (1913-1987) was an eminent sinologist and humanist who authored numerous books on Buddhism and Taoism, including *The Zen Teachings of Huang Po* and *Taoist Mystery and Magic*. As a speaker of Chinese and master of that language, he brought a unique interpretation to his translation of the I Ching, the Book of Change, one of the seminal translations of this work in the twentieth century. He lived in China from 1932 until 1949, when the Communist Revolution forced him to relocate to Thailand, where he remained for the rest of his life.

DANIEL REID, translator, met and became close friends with Blofeld at his home in Bangkok during the last year of his life. After his death, Reid lived and worked in Blofeld's own study translating this, Blofeld's last work, into English.

About the Author: **John Blofeld** (1913-1987) was an eminent sinologist and humanist who authored numerous books on Buddhism and Taoism, including *The Zen Teachings of Huang Po*, *Taoist Mystery and Magic*, and a translation of the I Ching, the Book of Changes. He lived in China from 1932 until 1949 when the Communist Revolution forced him to relocate to Thailand, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Daniel Reid, translator, met and became close friends with Blofeld at his home in Bang-kok during the last year of his life. After Blofeld's death, Reid lived and worked in Blofeld's own study translating this, his last work, into English.