THE CHINA CRITIC

Vol. VI Shanghai, Thursday, Oct. 5, 1933 No. 40

中國評論週報

The China Critic

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

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The China Critic, published at 156 Peking Road, by The China Critic Publishing Co., Shanghai. Cable Address: "SINOCRITIC," Shanghai, Telephone No. 10976.

European Office: 69 Ridge Hill, N. W. 11, London. Orders for Advertisements and Subscriptions from Europe may be placed through this office.

American Office: WORLD WIDE NEWS ASSOCIATION, 11 West 42 St., New York City. Orders for Advertisements and Subscriptions from U.S.A. may be placed through this office.

Subscription rates including postage as follows:

Country	3 months	6 months	12 months
China	$2.00	$4.00	$7.00
Foreign	G.$1.50	G.$3.00	G.$5.00

The Golden Casket

RECENTLY foreign lotteries have discovered China as a fertile field, and the latest arrival is "Queenland's Golden Casket." It is a chance of £1 for £25,000. The price can be paid and the prize collected by post. The proposition sounds so perfect that its name quite naturally reminds us of Edgar Wallace, the great creator of astounding fiction at which it is "impossible not to be thrilled."

Welcome Home, Mrs. Buck!

BY the time this issue of *The Critic* reaches our readers, we shall have welcomed back to our fold a distinguished writer, Mrs. Pearl S. Buck. If Mrs. Buck sailed away as a novelist, she now returns both a novelist and a champion of all that is honest, sincere, and truthful. To the people of the country where she chooses to reside, the author of *The Good Earth* recedes in size and importance before the lecturer to the New York audiences. While we find in the former a writer of sympathetic, vivid stories representing one phase of the Chinese life, we find in the latter a critic of that foreign enterprise in China which, due to changing conditions, is finding it more and more difficult to carry on its work. Through the former medium, Mrs. Buck portrays China to the western nations just as many other foreigners do, except that her work as a piece of literary art is far more valuable than that of the "traveller-writers." Through the latter medium, Mrs. Buck informs an ignorant public of the real existing conditions with regard to the missionaries in the Far East. Because of this, Mrs. Buck has provoked action against herself, and has even been accused of seeking publicity. But we must be convinced that Mrs. Buck has been a constructive critic; and as to seeking publicity, why, Mrs. Buck has plenty as a novelist without further working for it! The questioning attitude of the critic is akin to the meditative, soul-searching, self-scrutinizing teachings of the ancient Chinese culture, namely Toaism. It is in this that Mrs. Buck comes nearest to the Chinese heart. So we welcome Mrs. Buck back to China, the land of the farmers whom she loves!