## In Search of China's Minorities

By Zhang Weiwen and Zeng Qingnan

First Edition 1993

Copyright by New World Press, Beijing, China All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the publisher.

## ISBN 7-80005-176-5

Published by
NEW WORLD PRESS
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Distributed by
CHINA INTERNATIONAL BOOK TRADING CORPORATION
35 Chengongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

## CONTENTS

PREFACE	1
NORTHEASTERN REGION	
MANCHU NATIONALITY	5
Three Room House and Earthen Kang	6
Qipao and Kanjian	6
Hairstyle and Headgear	8
Bobo, Sour Soup and Saqima	8
Etiquette and Marriage Customs	10
Sacrifice to Suolun Pole	12
KOREAN NATIONALITY	14
Housing and Clothing	14
Cold Noodles and Dagao Cake	15
Festival of the Old and Anniversary of Infancy	17
Singing and Dancing; Swinging and Wrestling	18
HEZHEN NATIONALITY	20
Fish for Food and Clothes	21
Marriage and Funeral Customs	23
MONGOLIAN NATIONALITY	24
Mongolian Robes, Yurts, Knives and Boots	25
White Food, Red Food and Mongolian Hot Pot	26
Erduz Traditional Wedding Ceremony	28
Greater Year and Minor Year	30
Nadam	31
Camel Racing	33
Playing Bulu	33
Legend of the Horsehead Zither	35
Mongolian Medicine	.35
DAUR NATIONALITY	37
Marriage and Divorce Ceremonies	37
Funeral and Burial Customs	39

Heilui Day	40
Traditional Poyikuo	41
EWENKI NATIONALITY	42
Cuohuozi, Suspended Warehouses and Customs	43
Wedding Ceremony and Elopement	45
David's Deer — The Ship Traversing Forests	46
OROQEN NATIONALITY	48
Wulileng	48
Deer-Hunting, and Horses That Can Alert Hunters	49
Birch-Bark Handicrafts and Roe-Skin Garments	50
Wedding and Funeral Customs	52
Altruistic Virtues	54
Audide viitus	
NORTHWESTERN REGION	
HUI NATIONALITY	55
Costume, Wedding and Funeral Customs	56
Taboo Against Eating Pork and Showering Customs	57
Festivals	57
The Hua'er Folk Song	59
Wooden-Ball Game	59
Bullfighting .	60
DONGXIANG NATIONALITY	60
Folded Hat, Turban and Skullcup	61
Wedding Customs	61
TU NATIONALITY	62
	63
Costume and Embroidery	63
Antiphonal Singing at Weddings	65
Hua'er and Hua'er Gathering	.03
SALAR NATIONALITY	65
Citadel-Style Residence	66
No Smoking or Drinking of Alcohol	66
Customs and Weddings	67
Unique Ways to Cross the Yellow River	69
Camel Crag and Camel Fountain	70

+

BONAN NATIONALITY	71
Dresses and Weddings	72
Bonan Sword	73
The state of the same and the same and the same and	
YUGUR NATIONALITY	- 73
Eating and Drinking Customs; Yurts and Courtesies	74
Groom Shoots Arrows at the Bride	75
Funeral Customs .	77
UYGUR NATIONALITY	77
Skullcap and Dresses	78
Nang, Pulao Rice, and Mutton Kebabs	79
Grapes and Hami Melon	80
Music and Dance	82
Bazaars	83
Davaz and Shahard	84
Kashi, a Border City	86
KAZAK NATIONALITY	87
Ways of Dressing	87
Home Decoration	88
Mother in Law Fetches the Bride	89
Presenting Someone with a Sheep's Head	90
Girl Chase	91
Goat Grabbing	93
Aken and Dongbula	93
Number Forty	95
KIRGIZ NATIONALITY	96
Beautiful and Comfortable Yurts	96
Sheep's tail, Kashanjiagan and Mare's Milk	97
Wedding Ceremony at the Bride's Home	98
Chasing Girl and Girl's Horse Race	99
Tug-of-War, Swing and Other Sports	100
Kirgiz Calendar and Nuolaozi Festival	101
Epic Manasi	102
Chio man	
XIBE NATIONALITY	103
Housing and Customs	104
Circle Hunting and Fishing	104
Archery Village	105
Xiqian (Western Migration) Festival	107

TAJIK NATIONALITY	108
Plateau-Style Costumes	108
Courtesy of Kissing	109
Blessing Bridal Couple with Wheat Flour	111
Eagle-Bone Flute, Hand-Drum and Eagle Dance	112
Goat Grabbing	113
Offspring of the Sun and the Han Maid	. 114
OZBEK NATIONALITY	116
Houses with Cotton Print Door Curtains	116
Dressing, Weddings and Funerals	116
RUSSIAN NATIONALITY	110
Customs	118 118
TATAR NATIONALITY	120
European Life Style	120
Excellent Singers and Dancers	121
Wedding and Funeral Ceremonies	122
AND DESCRIPTION OF	
SOUTHWESTERN REGION	
TIBETAN NATIONALITY	124
Tibetan Robes and Food	125
Etiquette	126
Dating and Weddings	127
Funeral Ceremonies	128
Festivals	129
Bathing Festival	130
Ancient Cultural Heritage Tibetan Calendar	131
Tibetan Medicine	132
Bixiu Archery Contest	133
Princess Wencheng Manie :	134
Princess Wencheng Marries into Tibet	135
MOINBA NATIONALITY	137
Food, Clothing, Shelter and Transportation	137
The blide's Uncle Makes Trouble at the Walt	138
Stilling Solly and Timere	139
The Wooden Bowl and Its Legend	140

LUOBA NATIONALITY	141
Simple Dress and Ornaments	141
Hunting	141
Calendar and 'Festivals	142
QIANG NATIONALITY	143
Flat-Roofed Houses and Bamboo Rope Bridges	144
Qiang Flute and Dancing	145
Pushing Pole — a Favorite of Qiang Youth	145
YI NATIONALITY	146
Varied Costumes and Hairstyle	147
Weddings and Merry-Wedding	148
Axi Moonlight Dance	150
Torch Festival	151
BAI NATIONALITY	153
Pickled Cabbage and Raw Meat	153
Houses and Gateway Arches	154
Burial and Wedding Customs	155
Third Month Fair	157
Butterfly Fair at Butterfly Spring	159
Tradition of the Number "Six"	161
Conqueror's Whip	161
Public Conference	162
HANI NATIONALITY	163
Matrimonial Customs	163
Misezha Festival	166
Legendary Hospitality and Civility	168
Ceremony of Naming a Male Baby	168
DAI NATIONALITY	169
Stilted Bamboo, House, Wraparound Skirt, and Rice	
Cooked in Bamboo Tubes	170
Courting and Marriage	173
· Water-Sprinkling Festival	175
Ganbai	178
Festivals of Door-Shutting and Door-Opening	179
Naming Men and Women in Different Ways	180
LISU NATIONALITY	181
Drinking Chewing Tobacco and Roasting Meat	181

Dating Secrets	183
Traditional Virtues	184
Crossbowmanship, Catapultmanship, and Swing	185
VA NATIONALITY	186
No Civility Without Drinking	187
Chuan Gu Niang	188
Tong pa	190
Wood Drum, Bull-Butchering, and Other Customs	190
LAHU NATIONALITY	193
A Brave Tiger-Hunting People	193
Everyone Smokes	195
Preference for Daughters	196
Lusheng and Sanxian	198
NAXI NATIONALITY	198
Seven-Star Shawl	199
Three-Bedroom House with a Screen Wall in Front of the Door	201
Azhu Marriage	201
Dongba Dance	202
JINGPO NATIONALITY	203
Thatched Bamboo Houses, Construction and House Moving	204
Free Dating and Matrimonial Customs	205
Etiquette	206
Munao Festival	207
Jingpo Sword	208
BLANG NATIONALITY	209
Processing Methods of Pu'er Tea and Tea Leaf Chewing	210
Other Customs	210
Funeral Customs and Ceremonies	212
ACHANG NATIONALITY	213
Clothing, Courtyards and Rice-Flour Noodles	213
Lasa	214
Dating Custom, All-Chicken Dinner and Funeral Customs	215
PUMI NATIONALITY	217
Turban, Pipa Meat and House of Wooden Boards	× 218
Wedding and Funeral Customs	219
Grand New Year's Day and Attending Mountain Festivities	221

NU NATIONALITY	223
Hemp Clothes and Precious Adornments	223
Treading Bamboo Tubes at a Wedding and Blowing a	223
Bamboo Trumpet After a Death	224
Naming a Man Three Times in His Lifetime	226
Single-Cable Bridge and Pig-Trough Boat	226
DE'ANG NATIONALITY	228
Daily Customs	228
Courting and Matrimonial Customs	230
Water-Sprinkling Festival	231
Water Drum	232
DRUNG NATIONALITY	233
Society, Family, and Matrimonial Customs	233
Naming a Person	234
Laughing Courtesy	234
JINO NATIONALITY	235
Multi-Purpose Bamboo	236
Pierced Ears, Tattoos, Dress Styles and Funeral Rites	237
Abandoned by Zhuge Liang	240
MIAO NATIONALITY	241
Everyone Wears Flowers	242
Pickled Fish, Pork and Soup	243
Bridge Festival and Lusheng Dance	244
Bullfight	247
Youfang	248
Dragon-Boat Race	249
Pole Climbing, Drum Dance and Rolling Contest	251
BOUYEI NATIONALITY	253
Pillow Cakes and Head and Feet of a Duck for Guests	253
Flowered Bag Toss	255
Wedding Revelry — Singing for the Lotus Bag	256
Putting on a False Shell	256
Batik	259
DONG NATIONALITY	260
Wooden Houses Projecting over Water	260
Glutinous Rice and Pickled Fish and Meat	261
Oil Tea	262

Drum Tower	264
Wind and Rain Bridge	26
Wedding Customs and Seizing the Bride	267
Firecracker Ring Grab	269
Game of Duojian	270
CLIT II NIATIONIAL PTRA	
SHUI NATIONALITY	271
Clothing Embroidered with a Decorative Border	272
The Bride Walks to the Wedding	273
Jieduan Societies File & Grand Land	274
Sacrificing a Fish for Guests and Singing and Drinking Round	276
GELO NATIONALITY	277
Plain and Simple Marriage Customs	277
Suspended Coffin Burial and Funeral Dance	278
Primal Ox Festival	278
Playing Miejidan, Hualong and Moqiu	279
CENTRAL SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST REGIONS	
ZHUANG NATIONALITY	282
Decorative Rice, Multicolored Eggs and Egg-Smashing	282
Two Traditional Customs about Marriage	284
Singing Festival	285
Birthday of King of Ox	287
Elegant Zhuang Brocade	288
Playing the Carrying Pole	289
YAO NATIONALITY	290
A Local Delicacy — Bottled Bird	291
Tolerance Test, Changing Headgear and Night	
Wedding Ceremony	292
Bath Barrels	293
Danu Festival	294
Bogong Dance	295
Respect for Other's Property	295
MULAM NATIONALITY	296
Antiphonal Singing Contests	296
A Bizarre Insect-Eating Festival	297
Yifan Festival	298
Floor Stoves	200

.

MAONAN NATIONALITY	
Three Treasures of Maonans	300
Temple Testival	300
rempie resuvai	301
JING NATIONALITY	200
Marriage Customs of Kicking Sand, Picking Tree Leaves,	302
and Sending Wooden Shoes	200
Singing Festival	302
Jing Myths	304
Ving Wydd	304
TUJIA NATIONALITY	306
Chunky Meat and Flowers for the Rooster	307
Tearful Bride at Wedding	308
Xilankapu	309
Hand-Waving Dance	310
Hitting the Flying Bat	311
LI NATIONALITY	313
Boat-Shaped Huts and Message in Tree Leaves	313
Chewing Betel Palm Leaves and Nansha	314
Coming of Age for Girls and Marriage and Funeral Customs	315
Tattooing Young Girls	317
Bamboo Pole Dance	318
Huang Daopo and Li Weaving	318
SHE NATIONALITY	220
Hairstyles and Costumes	320
Playing "Cousin" and "Groom's Uncle"	320
Tips on She Manners	321
Origin of She Family Names	324 325
ongil of Silo Yuling Hulles	323
GAOSHAN NATIONALITY	326
Canoe and Dress of Beads	327
Practicing House Keeping Prior to Marriage	327
Throwing Betel Nuts into Baskets and Catching a Ball on	
the Tip of a Pole	328
INDEX	221

This book tells the stories of the ways of life, culture, wedding and funeral customs, entertainment, and festivals of China's minority nationalities unknown to the outside world— mysterious hanging coffins, blackened teeth as a sign of beauty, the legend of a wooden bowl, blessing a bridal couple with wheat flour, a single-cable bridge and pigtrough boat, and a bizarre insect-eating festival. It will take you on an armchair tour deep into the areas inhabited by China's fifty-five minority nationalities and teach you about lives very different from your own.