

# Black and White Ambassadors of the Sino-France Friendship

## 中法友谊的黑白使者

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1964年1月27日，中、法两国政府发表联合公报决定建立外交关系。1月28日，中国《人民日报》和法国《世界报》同时在头版刊登中法两国建交消息。法国时任总统是戴高乐将军。法国是第一个同中国建立大使级外交关系的西方大国，承认中华人民共和国政府是中国唯一合法政府。

今年是中法建交50周年，中法双方将举行一系列庆典、展览、会议以及双边交流以此强调两国友谊，展示两国伙伴关系。

大熊猫多次担当中国人民友谊使者的重任，为国家和地区和平友好立下功劳。1973年9月，中法发表联合公报建立外交关系9年之后，法国总统蓬皮杜首次访华，他是第一位访问中国的法国国家元首。周恩来总理代表中国政府赠送法国一对友谊的使者——大熊猫。

法国获赠的两只大熊猫“黎黎”和“燕燕”均为雄性。“燕燕”到达法国后才发现性别被搞错了。“黎黎”和“燕燕”均是被运送到巴黎前不久被捕获的。

大熊猫“黎黎”于1973年3月1日在四川省宝兴县捕获，估计年龄在半岁左右。1973年10月19日转移至北京动物园，后赠送给法国。“燕燕”于1973年4月1日在四川省平武县捕获，估计年龄在7个月左右。同“黎黎”一样，“燕燕”被送到巴黎之前，也转移到了北京动物园。

“黎黎”和“燕燕”被安放于满载乘客的头等舱中，于1973年12月8日晚上10点从上海启程飞往巴黎，抵达万塞讷动物园。12月12日召开了新闻发布会，12月21日

后供游客参观。不幸的是，“黎黎”到达巴黎后，其健康状态迅速恶化，于1974年4月20日死于胰腺癌。胰腺肿瘤造成其体重大幅减轻，“黎黎”去世时的体重仅为28公斤，相当于它刚刚到法国时的体重。

“燕燕”居住在万塞讷动物园直到2000年1月20日去世，寿命为27岁。1999年12月，动物园的兽医就注意到它的体重下降，因此对其实施了麻醉进行健康检查，发现它的胰腺功能存在严重障碍。尽管安排了治疗，来改善它的健康状态，但在治疗中“燕燕”突然不能进食并陷入了昏迷。随后的尸检发现了胰腺肿瘤。

第一对大熊猫到达法国38年之后，中国国家主席胡锦涛同法国国家总统尼古拉斯·萨科齐商定租借两只大熊猫给法国，以此加强双方关系。2012年1月15日，雄性大熊猫“圆仔”和雌性大熊猫“欢欢”抵达法国。大批记者，中国驻法国大使孔泉以及法国国会议员帕特里斯·马丁·拉朗德等侯在机场迎接。

孔泉表示：“1973年法国总统蓬皮杜首次访华，周恩来总理代表中国政府赠送法国一对大熊猫，近四十年后，我们再次迎来一对中法友好的使者，并正式启动中法大熊猫繁育合作计划。我欢迎中法两国之间各种领域的交流合作。四年前，法国已迅速组建了一只熊猫专业医疗队。”

“燕燕”、“黎黎”、“欢欢”和“圆仔”是中法友谊的使者。中国的国宝大熊猫又是和平的象征。通过大熊猫，法国人民就会更多地去了解中国文化，丰富



24岁的“燕燕”在万塞讷动物园  
Yan Yan at the Vincennes zoological park, at the age of 24 years old.

的生物多样性以及大熊猫的栖息地。大熊猫就像一封邀请函，邀请法国人民去中国访问，去大熊猫的故乡成都访问。

去年我到成都参加了“全球招募熊猫守护使”活动。在成都的三个月时间里，我遇到许多善良的中国人，还有许多热爱法国并希望有朝一日到法国学习或旅行的中国人，让我籍此了解真正的中国。两国人民之间的交流具有重要的意义，应该鼓励和继续深化。这也是“熊猫外交”的含义：了解和“浸入”式体验是学习和接受不同文化的第一步，继而为促进文化交流做贡献。

On January 27, 1964, there was a joint brief press announcement in both Paris and Beijing that stated the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. General De Gaulle, President of France at that time, recognized the People's Republic of China and was the first major Western country to appoint an ambassador in Beijing.

This year marks the 50-year anniversary of Sino-France diplomatic relations. Numerous events, exhibitions, meetings and exchanges have punctuated

the anniversary celebrations, and are a testimony of the friendship between the two countries.

Pandas are often quoted as diplomatic animals, or a symbol of peace between two countries. Nine years after the groundbreaking press announcement, in September 1973, French President Georges Pompidou became the first French President to officially visit China. During this visit China's Premier Zhou Enlai offered two pandas to France as a symbol of friendship.

The two pandas selected were two males, Yan Yan and Li Li. A mistake was made as Yan Yan was thought to be a female prior to his arrival in France, but he was in fact a male. Yan Yan and Li Li were both captured shortly before being sent to Paris.

Li Li was captured in Baoxing county, Sichuan province on March 1, 1973 and was estimated to be 6 months old. He was transferred to a Beijing Zoo on October 19, 1973 before being sent to Paris. Yan Yan was captured in Pingwu county, Sichuan province on April 1, 1973 and was an estimated age of 7 months old. Similar to Li Li he was sent to the Beijing Zoo before being transferred to Paris.

Yan Yan and Li Li flew from Shanghai to Paris and arrived at Vincennes Zoo on December 8, 1973 at 10:00pm. The pandas traveled in style, as they

were placed in first class on a plane full of passengers. The two pandas were presented to the press on December 12 and were visible to the public from December 21 onwards. Unfortunately Li Li's health quickly deteriorated and he developed a tumor in his pancreas and died on April 20, 1974. The pancreatic tumor caused him to suffer significant weight loss and at time of death his weight was 28kg, equal to that of his arrival to France.

Yan Yan lived in Vincennes Zoo until January 20, 2000 at the age of 27. In December 1999, Vincennes Zoo veterinarians concerned about his weight loss anesthetized him for a health check and discovered that he had a serious malfunction of the pancreas. Although they arranged for treatment to improve his physical condition he abruptly stopped eating and fell into a coma. The postmortem examination revealed a pancreatic tumor.

38 years after the arrival of the first pandas in France, the Chinese President Hu Jintao confirmed to his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy to loan two pandas to France to strengthen the ties between the two nations. On January 15, 2012 the female Huan Huan and male Yuan Zi arrived in France. The pandas were welcomed by journalists, the Chinese ambassador in France, Kong Quan, and a French

Member of Parliament, Patrice Martin-Lalande.

Kong Quan said the day of their arrival. "There are forty years, almost to the day, China had offered a first pair of pandas to France, under the presidency of George Pompidou. I welcome the progress of exchanges in all fields between France and China. Four years ago and France quickly deployed a medical team."

Yan Yan, Li Li, Huan Huan and Yuan Zi are ambassadors of the Sino-France friendship, long-term cooperation and diplomacy. China's national treasure and symbol of peace is a way for French people to discover more about China's culture, rich biodiversity and habitats. It is similar to an invitation to visit China and Chengdu, the hometown of the giant panda.

Last year I spent three months in China for the Pambassador project. My stay helped me learn the real China. I met very kind people, and Chinese who loved France and were eager to study or visit France one day. Exchanges between people is invaluable and must be preserved and constantly developed. This is also what panda diplomacy means. Learning about and immersing in other countries are the first step to learn and accept different cultures and contribute to cultural exchanges. □

Cycling Tour  
**Honors**  
Father Armand David  
万里走单骑 戴维故乡行