

## 鼉屬 BiXi

Sophia：嗨，Perry, Poli, 為什麼來這？古蹟?! 很無聊呢！喂，池塘前怎麼會有這麼多的石碑排列在一起啊？而且每個石碑下都有一隻烏龜呢！

Hi, Perry, Poli. Why met me here? Chikan Tower! Relics! That's really boring. Hmm! Why are there so many tablets lining up together in the pond? Moreover, is that a turtle under every tablet?

Poli：別呆了。這不是烏龜，這叫做「鼉屬」(拿出牌子)，龍的九子之一，喜好背負重物。Oh, come on. Don't be silly. Those are not turtles. They are called BiXi, one of the nine children of the dragon. They are usually depicted as a tortoise, with small ears and some hair on its head; they like to carry heavy things.

Perry：哦，所以他們就隨便撿些石頭放在身上囉。

Heavy stuff? So, those are random rocks they've picked up for their odd hobby.

Poli：我真是快受不了。那不是石頭。是碑文。

No! Your ignorance really drives me mad. Those are not random rocks, but tablets with inscriptions.

Perry：可是...真的嘛，有事沒事找石頭來刻字，還拿起來背，那不是太閒，不然是什麼呀？I'm sorry, but I am telling the truth. Carving words on the rocks is already troublesome enough, not to mention carrying them all the time. It's really time and energy consuming.

Poli：人沒有知識也要有常識。碑文是古代用來紀錄重要歷史事件的。而這些碑文是清朝乾隆皇帝在位時，親自寫下五篇詩文，分別用滿、漢文刻了十座石碑，用來紀念福康安將軍平定林爽文叛變的。Caspar, people should have common sense. You know, you should study harder. Inscriptions were used to record important historical events. These inscriptions were made in the realm of the Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty for the victory of General Fu Kang-an against Lin Shuang-Wen rebellion. The emperor was so pleased that he wrote 5 poems to celebrate the whole event, four in Chinese, four in Manchu, and two in parallel Manchu and Chinese.

Sophia：哦，所以上面的「御製」是這樣來的啊，可是這裡只有九座鼉屬耶！

Oh, that's why every tablet is marked "the emperor authorized." But, there are only nine Bixis here.

Poli：那是因為當初從大陸運送來台時，其中一座鼉屬不小心掉到海裡了。

That's because one Bixi unfortunately got dropped into the sea when they were unloaded while arriving at Taijiang inland sea.

Sophia：那工人不就要被斬啦?!

Oh no! The workers must have been in big trouble. They could have been sentenced dead.

Poli：幸好當時有個智慧的老人編了個說辭救了大家。於是皇帝再命人刻一座。

Fortunately, there was a very wise old man who came out a brilliant idea to soothe the Emperor and save everyone. The emperor then asked the craftsman to make another Bixi.

Perry：但是這兒就是九隻呀，新的那隻在哪兒呢？

Then, that must be ten Bixis here. Where is that newly-carved one?

Poli：因為新的那隻是用砂岩做的，顏色和大小都不一樣，與舊的鬩廩擺起來怪怪的。就把它送給在林爽文叛變時唯一沒被攻下的嘉義。你可以在現在的嘉義中山公園看到那隻新鬩廩。

The new one was made of sandstone. Its color was different, and its size was smaller. It was not fit to be put together with those old ones. At that time, Chia-yi happened to be the only city that was not overthrown by Lin Shuang- Wen. In order to honor loyalty and bravery of the citizens, the Emperor Qianlong sent them the new Bixi with the praising inscriptions. Now, you can find that newly-made Bixi still in Chiayi park.

Sophia：哇，鬩廩真好用。可以紀錄史蹟，又可裝點公園。那…。當初掉到海底那隻不就可以被當成海底景觀囉。哈哈。

Wow! Bixis are quite useful. They can be used to record historical events and be a decoration for the park. Then……., the one which sank under the sea, isn't it be the wonder of Taijiang Inland Sea?

Poli：故事還沒完。很久以後，台南有個工人在挖魚塭時，找到以前掉入海中的那隻鬩廩，現在被放在海安保安公裡被稱為「白蓮聖母」。

Don't jump into any conclusion so quickly. After a long period of time, when a fisherman was making fish farms, he found the original Bixi. Right now, this late-found Bixi is worshipped in Tanain Hai-An's Baoan Temple, called the goddess of white lotus.

Perry：哇！中國人真是聰明，善用 Bixi 這個建築特色，放碑文，做裝飾，還是當人間宗教信仰。

Wow, we Chinese are really smart, making good use of Bixi to be a kind of architectural feature, inscription-carrier, decoration and religious belief.

Poli：所以古蹟一點都不無聊。讓我們好好去欣賞鬩廩和碑文吧。

So, relics are not boring at all. Let's go and appreciate those Bixis and inscriptions.

Perry, Sophia：嗯，Let's go!

Yes, let's go.