

"It's hard to imagine one man—I can't think of any other—who influenced and transformed and changed so many people's lives."

—Student, New York 1970s

"[Man-ch'ing's paintings] flow naturally and freely, carrying all the flavor of the ancients....Though he is now only a little more than twenty years old, should he consistently progress, he will undoubtedly become a great master."

—Wu Changshi, Shanghai, 1926

"Professor Cheng has many decades of experience in Chinese medicine....The old saying is that only every hundred years will there appear a superior doctor and the finest prime minister for a nation. Professor Cheng could very well be one of them for China."

—Patient, New York, 1970s



Lotus, 1963. Ink and wash. detail.

### The Lotus

Lifting itself above the earth, not stained by  
the dirty mud;  
Placed in a simple surrounding unexpectedly  
nature's truth is revealed.  
I paint the lotus flower, but it laughs at me;  
Its everlasting fragrance faces a hundred-  
year-old mortal only for a moment.

—Cheng Man-ch'ing, 1963

Translated by Dr. S. D. Ren

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Cheng Man-ch'ing  
Biography Project



# Cheng Man-ch'ing Biography Project

Teacher, artist, doctor, father, husband, and friend, Professor Cheng Man-ch'ing has touched the lives of thousands of people around the world. Known as the "Master of Five Excellences,"

Professor Cheng was accomplished in painting, poetry, calligraphy, traditional Chinese medicine, and the martial art of t'ai chi ch'uan by his mid-thirties. He spent the next

forty years as a tireless promoter of Chinese culture in a rapidly modernizing world.

The Cheng Man-ch'ing Biography Project has been established to tell the story of this extraordinary man. What were his dreams, his ideals, his accomplishments? Who were the people in his life? What was the historical backdrop? How did he draw together all of his "excellences"? Most importantly, what was his message, and how is it still relevant today?

## The Project

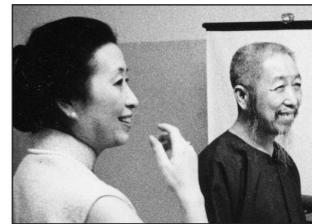
The biography is being meticulously researched and documented, and draws from the copious amount of writing, poetry, and art that Professor Cheng himself produced, from audio, film, and videotapes; articles, photographs, letters, memoirs, diaries, and correspondence of those close to him; as well as from hundreds of interviews with family, students, friends, and colleagues.



This full-length biography is being undertaken with the cooperation of Professor Cheng's children and senior students. The biography will be published in book format and will have an accompanying website with both English and Chinese pages. A Chinese edition of the book will also be prepared.

## Personnel

The project is headed by Barbara Davis, a respected researcher in the field of t'ai chi ch'uan. She is author of the only lengthy biography to date of Professor Cheng, "In Search of a Unified Dao: Zheng Manqing's Life and Contributions to Taijiquan" (*Journal of Asian Martial Arts*, 5/2, 1996) and *The Taijiquan Classics: An Annotated Translation*. She is translator of Chen Weiming's *Taiji Sword* and editor of



*Taijiquan Journal*. Davis has studied t'ai chi ch'uan for thirty years with Professor Cheng's senior students, and has an MA in East Asian Studies, a BA in Studio Arts, and is a former acupuncturist. She is assisted by Fang Qin, PhD candidate in Chinese history at the University of Minnesota. Fang has an MA in history from Fudan University, and served as a librarian at the Shanghai Library in the Rare Books and Genealogy Divisions.

## How You Can Help

Biographies utilize a wide variety of source material including stories, anecdotes, reminiscences, date-

books, diaries, documents, class notes, photos, tapes, films, videos, art, correspondence, clippings, pre-scriptions, and so on. Please contact us if you have materials that you think would be relevant to telling the story of Professor Cheng's life. Confidentiality can be arranged.

## Project Funding

Beyond sharing your memories and memorabilia, you can help support the project financially. To carry out this project to its fullest requires funding for salaries, travel, archival research, interview transcription, digitalization, office, storage, newsletter, postage, data entry, translation, and web design and maintenance. Many of the unique materials being gathered for the project are being organized in preparation for the establishment of a Cheng Man-ch'ing archive.



The preliminary budget for the biography is approximately \$120,000 per year, for 5 years. Donations are tax-deductible; and funds are managed by Intermedia Arts, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donors will receive a semi-annual newsletter with updates on the project, and can choose to have their names listed on a donors' page in the newsletter.

Your support for this project will help ensure that Professor Cheng's legacy continues to spread.

For further information about the Cheng Man-ch'ing Biography Project or to receive additional brochures, please contact:

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612-822-5760  
editor@taijiquanjournal.com

## Support the Cheng Man-ch'ing Biography Project!

Yes, I would like to support the Cheng Man-ch'ing Biography Project. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$10,000  \$5000  \$1000  \$500  
 \$250  \$100  \$50  other \_\_\_\_\_

Check is enclosed. Please make checks payable to Intermedia Arts—Cheng Man-ch'ing Project and send to the address below

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