



Lecture

New Books in Print

SASHA SU-LING WELLAND

Anthropology and Women Studies
University of Washington

A Thousand Miles of Dreams: The Journeys of Two Chinese Sisters

(Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2006)

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

4:00 pm

Communications 202

Reception to follow

A Thousand Miles of Dreams is an evocative and intimate biography of two Chinese sisters who took very different paths in their quest to be independent women. Ling Shuhao arrived in Cleveland in 1925 to study medicine in the middle of a U.S. crackdown on Chinese immigrant communities, and her effort to assimilate began. She became an American named Amy, while her sister Ling Shuhua burst onto the Beijing literary scene as a writer of short fiction. Shuhua's tumultuous affair with Virginia Woolf's nephew during his years in China eventually drew her into the orbit of the Bloomsbury group.

The sisters were Chinese "modern girls" who sought to forge their own way in an era of social revolution that unsettled relations between men and women, and among nations. Shaped by the social history of their day, the journeys of these extraordinary women spanned the twentieth century and three continents in a saga of East-West cultural exchange and personal struggle.

Sasha Su-Ling Welland is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Women Studies at the University of Washington. She has published articles in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* and *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*. Her current research project is titled *Experimental Beijing: Contemporary Art Worlds in China's Capital*.