



Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean: Remembering Chinese Scientist Phu Zhelong

By Sigrid Schmalzer

Tilbury House Publishers. Hardcover. Condition: New. Melanie Linden Chan (illustrator). 40 pages. Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean tells its story through the memories of a farm boy who, inspired by Zhelong, became a scientist himself. The narrator is a composite of people Zhelong influenced in his work. With further context from Melanie Chans historically precise watercolors, this story will immerse young readers in Chinese culture, the natural history of insects, and the use of biological controls in farming. Backmatter provides context and background for this lovely, sophisticated picture book about nature, science, and Communist China. The first time I saw a scientist in my village was also the first time I saw a wasp hatch out of a moths egg, writes the narrator of this picture book about Chinese scientist Pu Zhelong. In that moment I could not have said which was the more unexpected or the more miraculous. In the early 1960s, while Rachel Carson was writing and defending Silent Spring in the U. S. , Pu Zhelong was teaching peasants in Mao Tse-tungs Communist China how to forgo pesticides and instead use parasitic wasps to control the moths that were decimating crops and contributing to Chinas widespread famine....



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Reviews

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