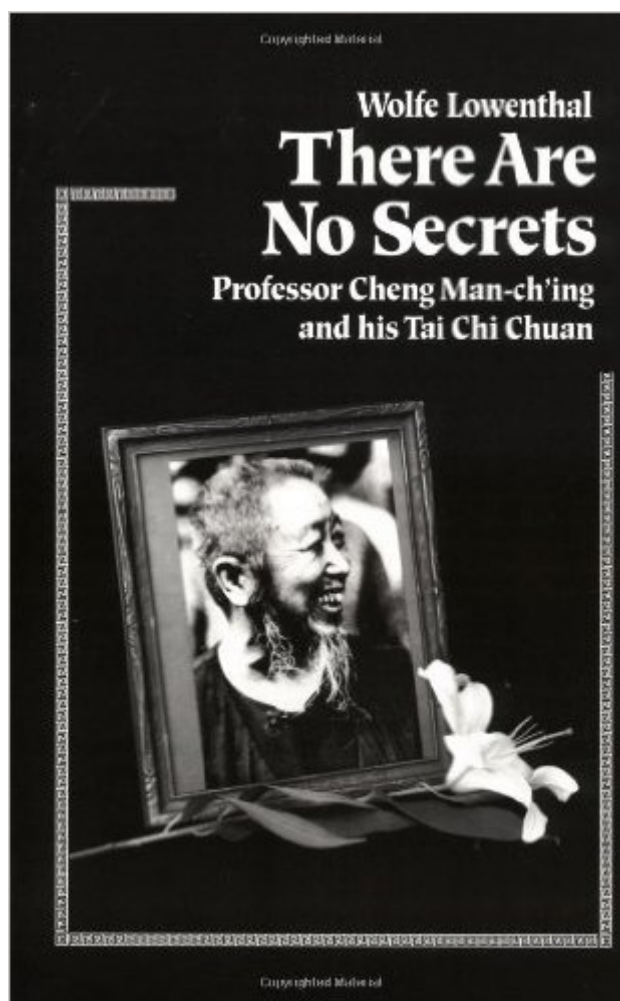


The book was found

There Are No Secrets: Professor Cheng Man Ch'ing And His T'ai Chi Chuan



Synopsis

"Wolfe Lowenthal's quiet little memoir will with window-opening wisdom reinforce, I think, my view of how Cheng stood on Tai Chi. It tells how a young writer reacted to this strange Chinese man when he appeared in New York City in the mid-1960s and stayed there for a decade before returning to Taiwan to die in 1975. In a nickel town where neurosis is a cardinal virtue, the Tai Chi center established by Cheng soon became an oasis of learning. In my visits there I was invariably approached by a quiet fellow with a ready smile and loads of questions. His form and sensing hands improved but he never lost his kindly ways. This led me once to tell the three seniors that the one person in the club who best exemplified Tai Chi was this junior. That man who has since become a teacher of the art is the author of this book."-Robert W. Smith, from the Preface

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THERE ARE NO SECRETS: PROFESSOR CHENG MAN CH'ING AND HIS T'AI CHI CHUAN by Wolfe Lowenthal, 2003 ed. from 1993 original ed., 142 pages ~ What an excellent little reminiscence of Master Cheng and his T'ai Ch'i Ch'uan. After all, he did vastly improve the art ~ to the eternal anger of the Chinese ~ and shortened the entire form considerably by eliminating extraneous moves. Lowenthal to his eternal credit shows great love, respect and best of all humility in dealing with Master Cheng as a teacher in the 1960s. Lowenthal was a pot-smoking hippy who decided this old Chinese guy couldn't be so bad, and ... years later, Lowenthal himself ended up a T'ai Ch'i master 1st generation from Master Cheng's school. Filled with spectacular black-and-white photos of Master Cheng and the school, this slender volume in fact speaks volumes about the

martial art. It is definitely not a biography of Master Cheng, but as I said, a reminiscence of one of the master's most prolific students. It speaks generally about anything and everything that happened in those days, but I appreciated Lowenthal's coverage of Master Cheng's early days in America. There are jewels in this book: memories of hilarious, touching and sometimes very sad events that no one but a former student could describe. Look for the particularly hilarious description of Master Cheng giving a lecture to the class about why Americans, and not the Chinese, got to the moon first. Fall-down funny. I noted other reviews here seem sort of self-serving, with comments about how this book was read mainly because the reviewers are T'ai Ch'i students. Well, I do not like that sort of thing and those reviews are too short, really saying nothing about this book. At least I have told you what to expect.

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