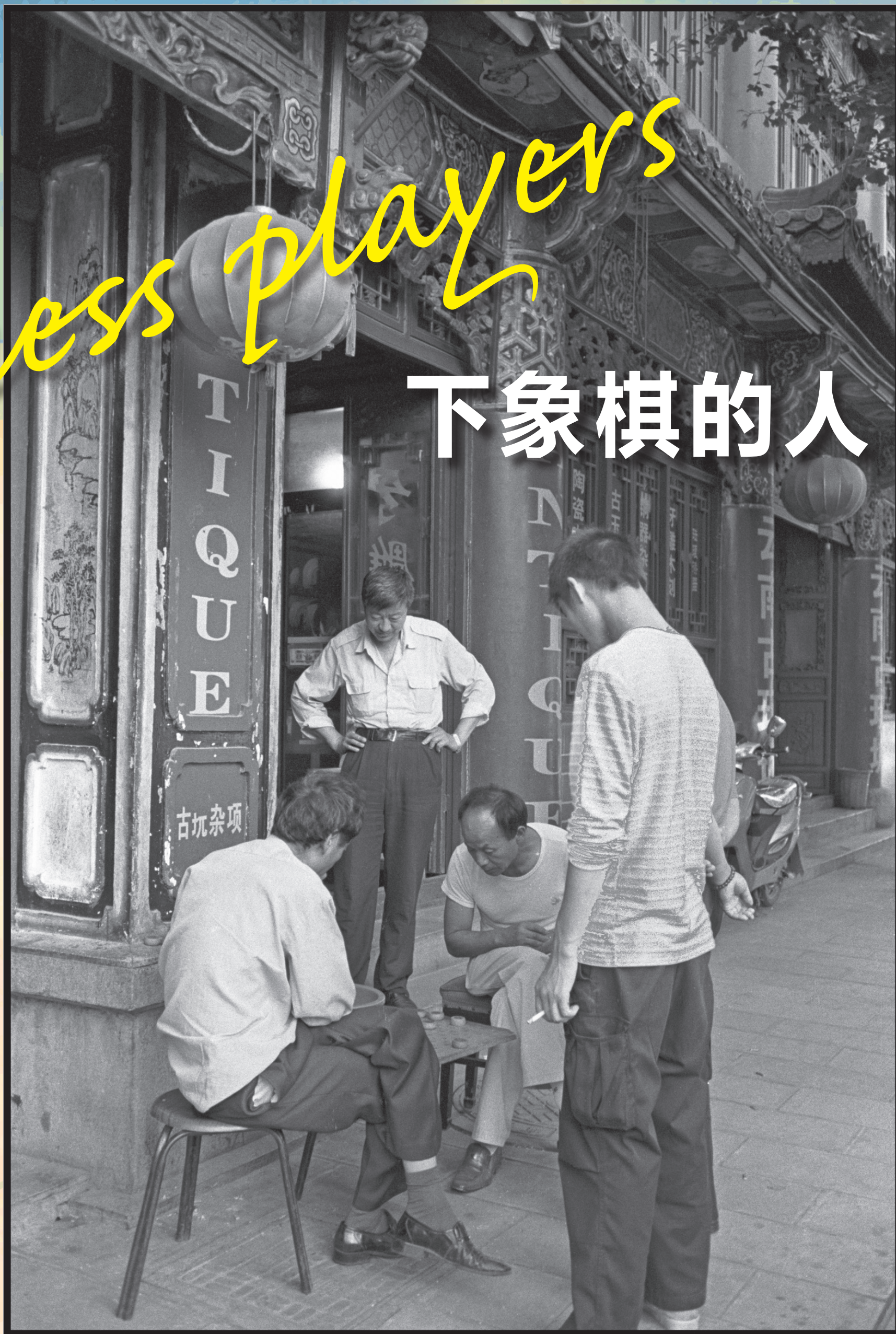


Chess players

下象棋的人



Two men play chess on the streets of Kunming, Yunnan province, China, in 2009.
兩名男子在中國雲南省昆明市的街上對奕，攝於二〇〇九年。

PHOTO: PAUL COOPER, TAIPEI TIMES
照片：台北時報記者古德謙攝

T

o me, there is something quite timeless about this photo. Had I not taken it myself, I could perhaps have been persuaded that it had been taken in the 1950s or 1960s.

Two men are playing chess in the street, surrounded by three onlookers. The relationships between the men are unknown, but they form a tight group, with all attention focused firmly on the chessboard.

The players appear unintimidated by the presence of their audience, but they would probably be used to curious passersby stopping and watching for a while, even if for only part of the game.

The player to the left and the onlooker furthest from the camera are similarly dressed, in suit pants and shirts, with formal leather shoes. The second player is more casually dressed, in T-shirt, slacks and loafers. From his body language, you would imagine that it is his turn next. You would imagine these three to be roughly the same age.

The spectator closest to the camera, standing slightly to the side, from his clothing — casual striped top and cargo pants, the shoes being cut off and out of the frame — appears to be much younger. It is impossible to know whether he is related to any of the others. It appears that he is the only one smoking.

There is a fifth onlooker almost entirely obscured by the smoker. You can just about discern his arms, crossed behind his back, to the smoking man's right.

(PAUL COOPER, TAIPEI TIMES)

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我而言，這張照片捕捉到一種永恆的感覺。若不是我本人拍攝的，我大概會以為這張照片是一九五〇或一九六〇年代拍攝的。

兩名男子在街上對奕，一旁有三人圍觀。兩名下棋者之間的關係無從得知，但他們的棋局集中了眾人的目光，吸引了一團人緊緊圍攏。

兩名下棋者面對觀眾的注視毫不畏懼，應該是習慣了不時有好奇的路人佇足逗留，只為觀戰片刻。

左手邊的下棋者和最遠處的圍觀者穿著相似，都是襯衫和西裝褲，配上正式的皮鞋。另一名下棋者穿著比較隨性，穿的是T恤、寬鬆長褲配休閒鞋。從他的肢體語言可見，接下來應輪到他下棋子。以上三人應該都是差不多的年紀。

離鏡頭最近的圍觀者站得微微靠邊，他穿著休閒的條紋上衣、工作褲，鞋子因出了畫框而被截掉，從打扮看來應該較其他人年輕許多。從畫面裡看不出他和其他人物的關係。他似乎是他們之中唯一一個抽煙的人。

第五個圍觀者完全被抽煙的男子遮住了身子。你只能剛好看到他的一隻手背在背後，就在抽煙的人的右方。

(台北時報編譯涂宇安譯)