

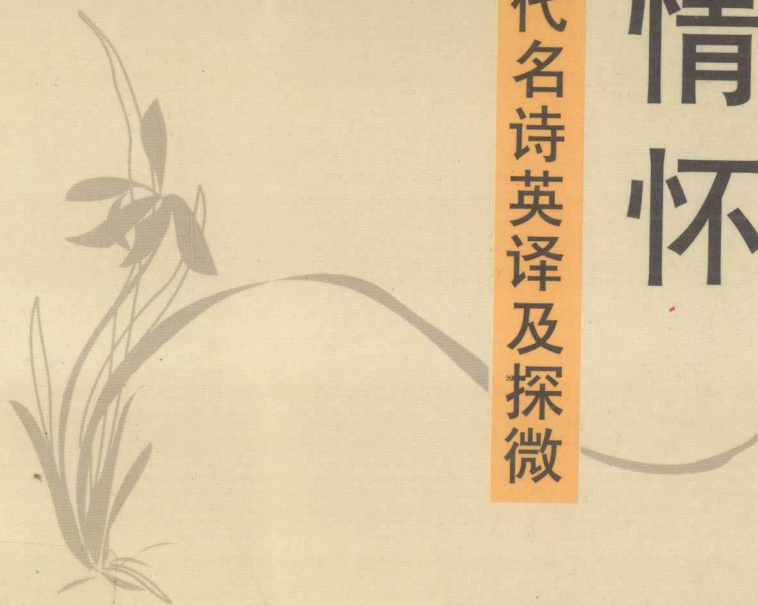
The Chinese Sentiments  
— As Expressed in 128  
Oft-Quoted Poems  
(1100BC – AD1910)

卓振英 著

中山大学出版社

# 华夏情怀

——  
历代名诗英译及探微



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*Dedicated to  
the Sacred Cause of World Peace*



# Preface

“God sent his Singers upon earth  
With songs of sadness and of mirth,  
That they might touch the hearts of men,  
And bring them back to heaven again.”

—H. W. Longfellow *The Singers*

“Poetry may serve to inspire, to reflect, to commune and to criticize” (Confucius, 551BC—479BC). As far as Chinese poetry is concerned, it may also serve to educate.

Chinese poetry is a great cultural heritage of all mankind. It reflects the Chinese values, sentiments and, in the final analysis, the Chinese national character. It is national, but in what is national lies what is universal.

Unfortunately, appreciation of Chinese verse is hindered by language and cultural barriers on the part of non-Chinese-speaking people, and the translation of Chinese verse is a real challenge.

Interlingual communication, as I. A. Richards has pointed out, is “very probably the most complex type of event yet produced in the evolution of the cosmos”, and it is “particularly true of the translation of classical Chinese verse in English rhyme” (Xu Yuanzhong. *On Chinese Verse in English Rhyme*, Beijing, 1992, p.1). Notwithstanding that, Chinese and foreign scholars have made laudable and fruitful efforts since the eighteenth century, though there is still much to be desired in the translations by and large.



Perhaps something more can be attained by standing on the shoulders of the giants before us? Perhaps the wonderful beauty of Chinese poetry can be preserved without diminishing the taste of English-speaking readers? The answer should be affirmative, provided that we make repeated and conscientious attempts.

The present book is supposed to be one such attempt. It includes one hundred and twenty-eight oft-quoted poems, which fall into eight chapters, each chapter opening with introductory remarks. The English version of each poem is preceded by the original and followed by the notes and commentary, which give prominence to analyses of the sentiments expressed therein. An alphabetical Index and Concordance is provided for the convenience of the readers.

The Tower of Babel\* can be built only when men, who are scattered all over the earth, have built up a perfect understanding among themselves. May this book facilitate the understanding and offer a small and yet useful brick for the construction of the Tower.

Zhuo Zhenying

August 31, 1994

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\* According to *The Holy Bible*, there was a time when men had one language. They began to build a tower that might reach the heaven—that was the Tower of Babel. But the Lord was afraid that “nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them”. So he made them speak different languages by scattering them over all the earth. Consequently men stopped building the tower (Refer to Genesis 11:1).

Here the Tower stands for unprecedented human progress.