



许译中国经典诗文集  
CLASSICAL CHINESE POETRY AND PROSE



GOLDEN TREASURY OF  
SONG, YUAN, MING  
AND QING POETRY

TRANSLATED BY XU YUANCHONG  
& FRANK M. XU

宋元明清诗选  
许渊冲 许明 译



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CLASSICAL CHINESE POETRY AND PROSE

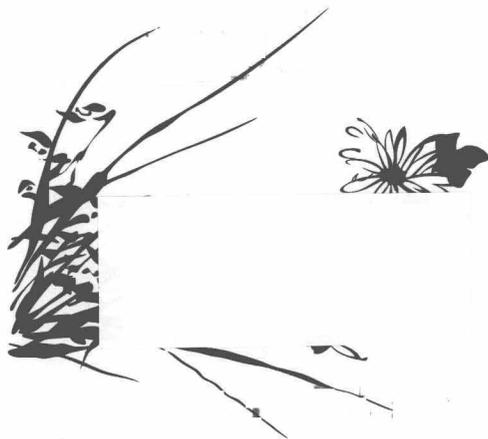
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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Ancient Chinese classic poems are exquisite works of art. As far as 2,000 years ago, Chinese poets composed the beautiful work *Book of Poetry* and *Elegies of the South*. Later, they created more splendid Tang poetry and Song lyrics. Such classic works as *Thus Spoke the Master* and *Laws Divine and Human* were extremely significant in building and shaping the culture of the Chinese nation. These works are both a cultural bond linking the thoughts and affections of Chinese people and an important bridge for Chinese culture and the world.

Mr. Xu Yuanchong has been engaged in translation for 70 years. In December 2010, he won the Lifetime Achievement Award in Translation conferred by the Translators Association of China (TAC). He is honored as the only expert who translates Chinese poems into both English and French. After his excellent interpretation, many Chinese classic poems have been further refined into perfect English and French rhymes. This collection of Classical Chinese Poetry and Prose gathers his most representative English translations. It includes the classic works *Thus Spoke the Master*, *Laws Divine and Human* and dramas such as *Romance of the Western Bower*, *Dream in Peony Pavilion*, *Love in Long-life Hall* and *Peach Blooms Painted with Blood*. The largest part of the collection includes the translation of selected poems from different dynasties. The selection includes various types of poetry. The selected works start from the pre-Qin era to the Qing Dynasty, covering almost the entire history of classic poems in China. Reading these works is like tasting "living water from the source" of Chinese culture.

We hope this collection will help English readers "understand, enjoy and delight in" Chinese classic poems, share the intelligence of Confucius and Lao Tzu (the Older Master), share the gracefulness of Tang poems, Song lyrics and classic operas and songs and promote exchanges between Eastern and Western culture. We also sincerely invite precious suggestions from our readers.

## 出版前言

中国古代经典诗文是中国传统文化的奇葩。早在两千多年以前，中国诗人就写出了美丽的《诗经》和《楚辞》；以后，他们又创造了更加灿烂的唐诗和宋词。《论语》《老子》这样的经典著作，则在塑造、构成中华民族文化精神方面具有极其重要的意义。这些作品既是联接所有中国人思想、情感的文化纽带，也是中国文化走向世界的重要桥梁。

许渊冲先生从事翻译工作70年，2010年12月荣获“中国翻译文化终身成就奖”。他被称为将中国诗词译成英法韵文的唯一专家，经他的妙手，许多中国经典诗文被译成出色的英文和法文韵语。这套“许译中国经典诗文集”荟萃许先生最具代表性的英文译作，既包括《论语》《老子》这样的经典著作，又包括《西厢记》《牡丹亭》《长生殿》《桃花扇》等戏曲剧本，数量最多的则是历代诗歌选集。这些诗歌选集包括诗、词、散曲等多种体裁，所选作品上起先秦，下至清代，几乎涵盖了中国古典诗歌的整个历史。阅读和了解这些作品，即可尽览中国文化的“源头活水”。

我们希望这套许氏译本能使英语读者对中国经典诗文也“知之，好之，乐之”，能够分享孔子、老子的智慧，分享唐诗、宋词、中国古典戏曲的优美，并以此促进东西文化的交流。也敬请读者朋友提出宝贵意见。

2011年10月



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# CONTENTS

## 目 录

### Song Dynasty

#### Preface 1

#### Chen Tuan

My Hermitage.....22

#### Liu Kai

On the Frontier.....22

#### Wang Yucheng

In Banishment.....23

The Mourning Day.....23

#### Yang Pu

The Double Seventh Eve ...24

#### Kou Zhun

On the River.....24

#### Lin Bu

To the Mume Blossom .....25

### 宋 代

#### 陈抟

归隐.....188

#### 柳开

塞上.....188

#### 王禹偁

村行.....188

清明.....189

#### 杨朴

七夕.....189

#### 寇准

书河上亭壁.....189

#### 林逋

山园小梅.....190

**Fan Zhongyan**

The Fisherman on the Stream  
.....25

**Yan Shu**

To One Unnamed .....26

**Song Qi**

To the Fallen Flower .....27

**Mei Yaochen**

Roving in the Mountains...27

**Ouyang Xiu**

Reply to a Banished Friend... 28

Before the Pavilion .....28

Written in Dream.....29

**Su Shunqin**

Passing by Suzhou .....29

**Li Gou**

Nostalgia .....30

**Shao Yong**

Song of Flower Spray.....30

**Wen Tong**

The Moon Viewed After Rain  
in the Mountain .....31

**Zeng Gong**

The West Tower.....31

范仲淹

江上渔者  
.....190

晏殊

无题 .....190

宋祁

落花 .....191

梅尧臣

鲁山山行 .....191

欧阳修

戏答元珍 .....191

丰乐亭游春.....192

梦中作.....192

苏舜钦

过苏州.....192

李觏

乡思 .....193

邵雍

插花吟.....193

文同

新晴山月  
.....193

曾巩

西楼 .....194

**Sima Guang**

Early Summer .....32

**Wang Anshi**

On the Winged Peak.....32

A Spring Night.....33

Moored at the Ferry .....33

Song of a Radiant Lady .....34

The Lunar New Year's Day ... 35

Poolside Apricot Flowers ...35

Written on My Neighbor's Wall

.....36

The Northern Mountain ...36

**Zheng Xie**

At the End of Spring .....37

**Liu Ban**

The First Fine Day After Rain

.....37

**Wang Anguo**

Prince Teng's Pavilion .....38

**Wang Ling**

Drought and Heat.....38

Won't Spring Come Back ..39

**司马光**

客中初夏.....194

**王安石**

登飞来峰.....194

夜直.....194

泊船瓜洲.....195

明妃曲.....195

元日.....195

北陂杏花.....195

书湖阴先生壁

.....196

北山.....196

**郑獬**

春尽.....196

**刘攽**

新晴

.....196

**王安国**

题滕王阁.....197

**王令**

暑旱苦热.....197

春晚.....197

**Cheng Hao**

- Impromptu Lines on a Spring  
Day .....39
- Written at Random .....40
- An Excursion.....41

**Cai Que**

- A Summer Day in the Pavilion  
.....42

**Su Shi**

- A Poem to My Brother ZiYou  
.....43
- Visiting in Winter the Two  
Learned Monks .....44
- Written While Drunken in  
Lake View Pavilion.....45
- On My Way to New Town... 45
- Drinking at the Lake, First in  
Sunny.....46
- Two Lonely Isles in the Yangzi  
River .....47
- The Hundred-pace Rapids... 48

**程颢**

- 春日偶成  
.....198
- 秋日偶成.....198
- 郊行即事.....198

**蔡确**

- 夏日登车盖亭  
.....198

**苏轼**

- 辛丑十一月十九日，既与子  
由别于郑州西门之外，马上  
赋诗一篇寄之.....199
- 腊日游孤山访惠勤惠思二僧  
.....199
- 六月二十七日望湖楼醉书  
.....200
- 新城道中.....200
- 饮湖上初晴后雨  
.....200
- 李思训画长江绝岛图  
.....200
- 百步洪.....201

- Crabapple Flower ..... 49
- Written on the Wall of West  
Forest Temple ..... 50
- Vernal Scene on a River .... 50
- Winter Scene ..... 51
- Impromptu Verse Written in  
Exile ..... 51
- Huang Tingjian**
- Parting at Nightfall ..... 52
- To Huang Jifu ..... 53
- The Fairy Hills Viewed in Rain  
From Yueyang Tower ..... 53
- The Southern Tower ..... 54
- Two Quatrains in Reply to Li  
Hefu ..... 55
- A Picture of Farewell ..... 55
- Qin Guan**
- Evening View From Sizhou .... 56
- Chen Shidao**
- The Tidal Bore Viewed on the  
Seventeenth Day ..... 57
- Zhang Lei**
- Summer Days ..... 57
- 海棠 ..... 201
- 题西林壁  
..... 201
- 惠崇春江晓景 ..... 202
- 赠刘景文 ..... 202
- 纵笔  
..... 202
- 黄庭坚**
- 夜发分宁寄杜涧叟 ..... 202
- 寄黄几复 ..... 203
- 雨中登岳阳楼望君山二首  
..... 203
- 鄂州南楼书事 ..... 203
- 奉答李和甫代简二绝句  
..... 204
- 题阳关图 ..... 204
- 秦观**
- 泗州东城晚望 ..... 204
- 陈师道**
- 十七日观潮  
..... 205
- 张耒**
- 夏日 ..... 205

At First Sight of Mount Song .....	初见嵩山 .....	58	205
<b>Chao Yuezhi</b>	<b>晁说之</b>		
Picture of Ball Playing.....	题明王打球图.....	58	205
<b>Cowherd</b>	<b>牧童</b>		
A Cowherd's Song .....	答钟弱翁 .....	59	206
<b>Monk Huihong</b>	<b>僧惠洪</b>		
The Swing .....	秋千 .....	60	206
<b>Xu Fu</b>	<b>徐俯</b>		
A Spring Day on the Lake ...	春游湖.....	60	206
<b>Li Gang</b>	<b>李纲</b>		
To a Sick Buffalo .....	病牛 .....	61	206
<b>Li Qingzhao</b>	<b>李清照</b>		
A Quatrain .....	绝句 .....	61	207
<b>Zeng Ji</b>	<b>曾几</b>		
On My Way in the Mountains .....	三衢道中 .....	62	207
<b>Chen Yuyi</b>	<b>陈与义</b>		
The Chill of Spring.....	春寒 .....	62	207
<b>Zhu Shuzhen</b>	<b>朱淑真</b>		
The Scene in View.....	清昼 .....	63	207
Fallen Flowers.....	惜春 .....	63	208
<b>Lu You</b>	<b>陆游</b>		
Indignation .....	书愤 .....	64	208

A Sunny Spring Day After a Rainy Night .....	64	临安春雨初霁 .....	208
Early Dawn at My Wicket Gate .....	65	秋夜将晓出篱门迎凉有感 .....	208
The Storm on the Fourth Day of the Eleventh Moon.....	65	十一月四日风雨大作 .....	209
The Garden of Shen .....	66	沈园 .....	209
A Quatrain on Mume Blossoms .....	67	梅花绝句 .....	209
Testament to My Son .....	67	示儿 .....	209
<b>Fan Chengda</b>		<b>范成大</b>	
The Lakeside Lane.....	68	横塘 .....	210
Rural Life .....	68	四时田园杂兴 .....	210
<b>You Mao</b>		<b>尤袤</b>	
River Xiao Xiang Written on a Picture Drawn .....	69	题米元晖潇湘图 .....	210
<b>Yang Wanli</b>		<b>杨万里</b>	
Grief in Spring .....	70	伤春 .....	211
After a Nap in Early Summer .....	70	闲居初夏午睡起 .....	211
The West Lake.....	71	晓出净慈寺送林子方 .....	211
Passing by Songyuan .....	71	过松源晨炊漆公店 .....	212

**Lin Sheng**

Written at the New Capital .... 72

**Zhu Xi**

A Spring Day ..... 72

The Book ..... 73

The Floating Ship ..... 73

Pomegranate Flowers ..... 74

**Monk Zhinan**

A Quatrain ..... 74

**Zhang Shi**

Impromptu Lines Written on  
the Spring Day ..... 75

**Weng Juan**

Rural Life ..... 76

**Zhao Shixiu**

A Promise Unkept ..... 77

**Dai Fugu**

A Pleasure Garden in Early  
Summer ..... 77

**Gao Zhu**

The Mourning Day ..... 78

**Liu Kezhuang**

The Shuttling Orioles ..... 79

**林升**

题临安邸 ..... 212

**朱熹**

春日 ..... 212

观书有感 ..... 212

泛舟 ..... 213

题榴花 ..... 213

**僧志南**

绝句 ..... 213

**张栻**

立春日禊亭偶成  
..... 213

**翁卷**

村居即事 ..... 214

**赵师秀**

约客 ..... 214

**戴复古**

初夏游张园  
..... 214

**高翥**

清明日对酒 ..... 214

**刘克庄**

莺梭 ..... 215

**Ye Shaoweng**

Calling on a Friend Without  
Meeting Him .....79

**Zheng Hui**

Written on the Wall of an Inn  
.....80

**Bai Yuchan**

Early Spring .....80

**Wang Qi**

Visiting a Small Garden in  
Late Spring.....81  
Mume Blossoms .....81

**Lei Zhen**

Rural Scene at Dusk .....82

**Lu Meipo**

Mume and Snow .....82

**Wen Tianxiang**

Sailing on Lonely Ocean ...83  
Passing the Post at Jinling ....84

**Yuan Dynasty****Hao Jing**

Fallen Flowers.....86

**叶绍翁**

游园不值  
.....215

**郑会**

题邸间壁  
.....215

**白玉蟾**

早春 .....216

**王淇**

暮春游小园  
.....216  
梅 .....216

**雷震**

村晚 .....216

**卢梅坡**

雪梅 .....217

**文天祥**

过零丁洋 .....217  
金陵驿 .....217

**元 代****郝经**

落花 .....219

**Chen Fu**

- The Hammer Blow.....87  
 Snow on the River at Dusk... 87  
 To the Temple of Golden Hill  
 ..... 88  
 The Mountain Pass.....88

**Dai Biaoyuan**

- A Songster on West Lake...89

**Liu Yin**

- Song of the White Wild Geese  
 ..... 89  
 Mountainside Cottage.....90  
 On Seeing the Mume Flower  
 ..... 90  
 A Moonlit Night in the Mountains  
 ..... 91

**Zhao Mengfu**

- The Tomb of General Yue Fei  
 ..... 92  
 Spring Grief ..... 92  
 An Excursion Recalled..... 93  
 A Quatrain..... 93

**陈孚**

- 博浪沙.....219  
 江天暮雪.....219  
 金山寺  
 .....220  
 居庸叠翠.....220

**戴表元**

- 感旧歌者.....220

**刘因**

- 白雁行  
 .....221  
 山家.....221  
 观梅有感  
 .....221  
 山中月夕  
 .....221

**赵孟頫**

- 岳鄂王墓  
 .....222  
 绝句.....222  
 纪旧游.....222  
 绝句.....222

## Yang Zai

- The Moon Viewed from the  
Taoist Hall .....94
- Written in the Lakeside Pavilion  
.....94
- In the Capital.....95
- Late Spring on Northern Hills  
by West Lake.....95

## Fan Peng

- Leaving Yangzhou .....96
- Song of Grave-digging.....96

## Yu Ji

- Song of White-plumed Skylarks  
.....97
- Sitting Alone in the Courtyard  
.....97
- Elegy on Premier Wen Tianxiang  
.....98
- On Cold Food Day  
.....99
- To Historian Yuan in Imperial  
Train .....99

## 杨载

- 宗阳宫望月  
.....223
- 宿浚仪公湖亭  
.....223
- 到京师.....223
- 暮春游西湖北山  
.....223

## 范梈

- 离扬州.....224
- 掘冢歌.....224

## 虞集

- 白翎雀歌  
.....224
- 院中独坐  
.....225
- 挽文丞相  
.....225
- 至正改元辛巳寒食日示弟及  
诸子侄.....225
- 送袁伯长扈从上京  
.....225