

# THE CHARM OF BAMBOO

100 SELECTED ANCIENT  
CHINESE POEMS ON BAMBOO

FENG ZHENHUA JIANG ZEHUI



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七律  
園竹

二〇〇〇年二月五日

欣逢庚辰春節回首過去歲月  
嶄瞻生未來征途猶去值此新春之  
際出七律一首以明心志

小園靜靜碧湖邊  
閱歷滄桑數百年  
夏吻青篁冬悅雪  
晝巡紅鏡夜觀天  
民生最念狂風后  
世事常思細雨前  
把卷南窗桑梓月  
鞠躬盡瘁為蒼黔

出贈國際竹藤中心

江澤民



二〇〇〇年  
七月十二日

## Note

Jiang Zehui, Director-General of ICBR (International Center for Bamboo and Rattan) and Co-chair of the Board of Trustees of INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan), recalled:

In July, 2008 when informed that President Jiang Zemin was coming to inspect our Center, all the researchers and staff members were excited. On July 10th, President Jiang told me over the phone that he would present a poem entitled “Bamboo in My Garden” to our Center as a gift, reading it out loud and asking me to write it down right away there. When it came to the sentence “昼巡红镜夜观天”, I had no idea what “红镜” (red mirror) meant and asked him. He told me it referred to the sun. He then calligraphed the poem and gave it to our Center on his inspection tour on July 12th, 2008 for our permanent collection.

**Jiang Zemin**  
**Bamboo in My Garden**

February 5, 2000

*In welcoming the Spring Festival of the year 2000, I recalled memorable times and reflected on the long road yet to be traveled. On the occasion of the New Year, I composed this poem to express my feelings.*

By the emerald lake, my tranquil garden witnesses  
The changes time has brought over centuries.  
Summer bamboo whispers and winter snow delights the eyes  
In the Red Mirror of day and under the starry night.  
Caring for people's livelihood after storms,  
Thinking of their affairs before rainy days.  
Home moon in view from southern window, book in hand,  
Devoting all my life to men of my land.

*Composed and written as a present for  
the International Center for Bamboo and Rattan*

**Jiang Zemin**

July 12, 2008



THE CHARM OF  
BAMBOO



## **The Charm of Bamboo**

—100 Selected Ancient Chinese Poems on Bamboo

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# THE CHARM OF BAMBOO

100 Selected Ancient Chinese

Poems on Bamboo

Peng Zhenhua  
Jiang Zehui

of the 15th Anniversary  
ing of the International  
Network for Bamboo and Rattan



## Preface

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China, the home of the bamboo plant in all its many varieties, boasts abundant bamboo resources. Over the long course of Chinese history, the bamboo has been incorporated as an essential part of Chinese culture, and poetry singing the praises of bamboo is an enchanting flower in the country's blooming cultural garden.

*The Charm of Bamboo—100 Selected Ancient Chinese Poems on Bamboo* includes the cream of Chinese poetry in the praise of the bamboo, ranging from remote antiquity to modern times. From time immemorial, poets have praised the bamboo for its enormous vitality or integrity, and manifold uses. “Nodes already sprout, before breaking through rocky soil, (Bamboo is distinct from most other plants in that it can survive even under extremely hard conditions.) When soaring sky high, seeming devoid of all drive. (The word ‘devoid’ here vaguely suggests that the bamboo being hollow inside implies the virtue of *xuxin*, i.e., modesty.)” Another epigrammatic verse runs as follows: “With unswerving faith, never to lose, Striking root deep in clefts twixt rocks. Against a thousand odds, stand strong – Let winds blow, wherever they’re from.” These quotations are the crystallization of China's bamboo culture, and have become an indispensable part of the spirit of self-reliance and perseverance of the Chinese nation.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), this book's timely compilation and publication will contribute to a more profound understanding of the fine traditional Chinese culture and the promotion of the “bamboo spirit.”



**Jiang Zemin**

September 19, 2012



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