

SELECTED FAMOUS ANCIENT CHINESE POEMS AND ARTICLES IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION



中国古代诗文名篇精选 英文译注

译注 张敬群

英语审订 盖尔·艾科夫【美】

中国古代诗文名篇精 选英文译注

Selected Famous Ancient
Chinese Poems and Articles
in English Translation

张敬群 译注

英语审订：[美]盖尔·艾科夫

Translated by Zhang Jingqun

Revised in English by Gale Acuff (US)

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 黄河入海流
 欲穷千里
 目
 更上一层楼
 王之涣
 诗一首

Introduction

Gale Acuff

Zhang Jingqun, from Hainan, China, is my good friend and former colleague. We met at Hainan University in 2003, shortly after I arrived to teach American literature for the College of Liberal Arts. I remember that Paul (this is Zhang's English name) sought me out to discuss poetry and to show me his English poems and solicit my opinion of them. For many years, we have both enjoyed reading and writing poetry. Paul contacted me again later, after I left Hainan University to teach elsewhere, and asked me if I would revise two books which he had written in English: *From the Depth of Silence* and *A Chinese-English Appreciation of Selected Ancient Chinese Poetry*. I did so with great pleasure.

Paul and I frequently correspond about poetry and mutual academic interests, so we are old friends now. I know him as an honest, serious, studious, and refreshingly unpretentious teacher, poet, music lover, and family man.

In 2014, Paul asked me to revise another of his manuscripts, *Selected Famous Ancient Chinese Poems and Articles in English Translation*. During the past year, we have had a number of spirited discussions during the course of his translating and my revising and proofreading. Essentially, Paul requested that I help him recast his translations of the original Chinese works which comprise the book into contemporary English.

After much time and effort, we have at last completed *Selected Famous Ancient Chinese Poems and Articles in English Translation*, which contains 120 poems and 40 articles. To make the book as representative as possible, Paul has selected poems and articles ranging from the Spring and Autumn Periods to the Qing Dynasty. For example, "Turtledove" and "A Maiden Chaste and Refined" have been taken from *The Book of Songs*, and "Lisao" by Qu Yuan is from the Warring States Period. "Poem about Mu Lan" (a ballad from the Northern Dynasty); "An Everlasting Regret" by Bai Juyi, "Expressing



Feelings in Five Hundred Words on the Way to Fengxian County from the Capital” by Du Fu, “The Moon over the River on a Spring Night” by Zhang Ruoxu, and other poems, were composed during the Tang Dynasty. Such works are essentially literary touchstones of China. Moreover, many terse and forceful classic poems from different dynasties are presented in the book, including (also from the Tang Dynasty) “Song of the Departing Son” by Meng Jiao; “Tomb Sweeping Day” by Du Mu; “Meditating on a Quiet Night,” “Watching the Waterfall of Mount Lu” and “Leaving White Emperor Town at Dawn” by Li Bai; “On the Stork Tower” by Wang Zhihuan; “On the Leyou Plain” by Li Shangyin; “Spring Morning” by Meng Haoran; “Pitying Peasants” by Li Shen; “Two Poems after Returning Home” by He Zhizhang; and others. From the Song Dynasty come “Graffiti in Xilin Temple” and “Prelude to Water Melody—The Mid-Autumn Festival” by Su Shi; “A Request of My Son” by Lu You; and “The Plucked Blossom: The Gloom of Separation” by Li Qingzhao.

The 120 poems in the book have distinctive characteristics; for instance, most of them are readable rhymed verses, which should please Western readers perhaps accustomed to the pleasures of rhyme. The contents of the poems are wide-ranging, some describing magnificent mountains and rivers and clear and beautiful streams and ravines, some other poems telling stories of chaste love, some expressing the warmth and affection among relatives and friends, some showing courageous generals and soldiers, some exposing the political corruption and darkness of officialdom, and some narrating with poignancy the austere life of peasants. These poems reflect the changes in attitudes towards nature and society throughout ancient Chinese history.

The 40 ancient articles in the book are classics of each dynasty in China. For example, from the Spring and Autumn Period the reader will find “Cao Gui’s War Strategy” from *The Commentary of Zuo*; “Zi Lu, Zeng Xi, Ran You, and Gongxi Hua Are Enlightened by Confucius” from *Analects of Confucius*; from the Warring States Period, “Zou Ji Politely Advises the King of Qi to Accept Criticism” from *Strategies of the Warring States*; “Climate or Weather, during a Battle, is Not as Helpful as a Favorable Geographical Position” from *Mencius*; “Fish are What I’d Like to Have” from *Mencius*; “A Persuader’s Difficulties”

and “Bian Que Advises Cai Huan’gong” from *Han Feizi*; from the Western Han Dynasty, “The Faults of Qin (Part 1)” by Jia Yi; “Collected Biographies of Lian Po and Lin Xiangru” by Sima Qian; from the Three Kingdoms Period, “The First Petition to the Throne for Dispatching Troops to Crusade against Cao Cao” and “The Second Petition to the Throne for Dispatching Troops to Crusade against Cao Cao” by Zhuge Liang; from the Tang Dynasty, “A Snake Catcher’s Story” by Liu Zongyuan; “The Inscription for a Poor Dwelling” by Liu Yuxi; “A Discussion about Teachers” by Han Yu; and from the Song Dynasty, “The Yueyang Tower” by Fan Zhongyan; “A Discussion about the Six States” by Su Xun; and “Our First Visit to the Red Cliff” by Su Shi.

The 40 articles, like the representative poems, contain a broad range of forms and content. Some appear in the form of *fu*; some as Chinese “proses,” some as arguments, some as dialogs, some as narratives, and so on. These articles variously depict and analyze the development of politics, military affairs, education, economic developments, and social welfare of the societies of each dynasty in ancient China. For example, “Cao Gui’s War Strategy” shows Cao Gui’s ability of analyzing war and also his talent at leading troops into battle; “Zou Ji Politely Advises the King of Qi to Accept Criticism” is a narrative about Zou Ji, who compared his beauty to Xu Gong’s and shrewdly persuaded the King of Qi to accept the advice of his critics; “Bian Que Advises Cai Huan’gong” warns that a person with a minor illness who refuses treatment might eventually die of an incurable disease; “The Faults of Qin” by Jia Yi reveals why the powerful kingdom of Qin came to extinction at last; “A Snake Catcher’s Story” by Liu Zongyuan, recounts the people’s miserable life and exposes the evil social system produced by the tyranny which was fiercer than a tiger at that time; “The Yueyang Tower” by Fan Zhongyan, through its description of changing scenery, ends with “The first to care about the grief of people all over the world, but the last to enjoy worldly comforts,” and “Good gracious! With whom would I be comrades if there were no such men?” These sentiments express the author’s genuine concern for the happiness of others.

For Selected Famous Ancient Chinese Poems and Articles in English Translation,



Paul provides extensive, detailed notes to help English readers who might not understand Chinese to appreciate more fully the historic culture of China. The frequent exchange of opinion between Paul and me during the course of his translating and my revising has motivated me to become better acquainted with several aspects of Chinese traditional culture; I found the notes for each poem and article especially helpful in this regard.

I think that Paul's book is a significant one. He and I hope that it will help English readers from different countries to admire and even cherish some of the best literature of ancient China and to understand key aspects of Chinese culture which are not irrelevant today. We also hope that the book will spur English readers to seek out more such Chinese literature, the appreciation of which is especially important for Westerners in the 21st century as China again rises to prominence and its cultural contributions continue to exert global influence.

Gale Acuff, PhD

Sichuan University for Nationalities

28 June 2015

序 言

盖尔·艾科夫

张敬群是中国海南人，是我的好友、以前的同事。2003年，我到海南大学文学院讲授美国文学，旋就和他在海大相遇。我记得保罗（他的英文名）曾找过我和他讨论诗，还把他的英文诗给我看并征求我的意见。多年来，我们俩都喜爱读诗、写诗。在我离开海南大学到别处任教以后，保罗再次联系我，并问我是否愿意为他的两本英文书稿做修改：一本是《从静默深处》，另一本是《中国古代诗词选中英文赏析》，我非常乐意地为他做了修改。

我和保罗常有谈论诗歌和学术兴趣之类的信件来往，为此，我们俩现在已是老朋友了。我知道他是个诚实、严谨、勤奋、爽快、谦虚的教师、诗人和音乐爱好者，也是一个有家室的人。

2014年保罗请我修改他的另一本书稿——《中国古代诗文名篇精选英文译注》。在过去的一年里，在保罗的翻译与我的修改和校对的过程中，我们有过大量而热烈的讨论。实质上，保罗是要我帮他重铸他以当代英语把中国的原著译成的这本书。

花了大量时间和付出不少的辛劳后，我们终于完成了《中国古代诗文名篇精选英文译注》一书。这本书共收诗词120首、文章40篇。为尽可能使该书具有代表性，保罗把诗文选取的时代范围定为从春秋时期到清朝。如：从《诗经》中选取的《关雎》和《静女》；战国时代屈原的《离骚》；北朝民歌中的《木兰诗》；唐朝白居易的《长恨歌》，杜甫的《自京赴奉先县咏怀五百字》，张若虚的《春江花月夜》和其他的诗。这些作品本来就是中国文学的经典。此外，该书还选录了许多不同朝代的短小精悍的诗歌，其中包括唐朝孟郊的《游子吟》，杜牧的《清明》，李白的《静夜思》《望庐山瀑布》和《朝发白帝城》，王之涣的《登鹳雀楼》，李商隐的《乐游原》，孟浩然的《春晓》，李绅的《悯农二首》，贺知章的《回乡偶书二首》，等等。宋朝的有：苏轼的《题西林壁》《水调歌头·中秋词》，陆游的《示儿》，李清照的《一剪梅》。



这 120 首诗都具有鲜明的特色，例如，它们大多数读起来都是津津有味的韵诗，这或许会唤起习惯于欣赏韵诗的西方读者的兴致。诗歌内容的范围跨度宽广——有的描绘宏伟壮丽的山川和清澈锦绣的山溪小涧；有的讲述了纯洁的爱情故事；有的表达了亲朋好友间挚热纯真的温情；有的展示了将士的英勇气概；有的揭露了朝政的腐败与官场的黑暗；有的描述了农民艰辛简朴的生活。这些诗篇从不同的视角反映了自然环境的变化和整个中国古代历史社会的变迁。

书中 40 篇古文都是中国每个朝代的经典作品。例如，读者会发现，春秋时期《左传》中的《曹刿论战》，孔子《论语》中的《子路曾皙冉有公西华侍坐》；战国时代《战国策》中的《邹忌讽齐王纳谏》，《孟子》中的《天时不如地利》和《鱼我所欲也》，《韩非子》中的《说难》和《扁鹊见蔡桓公》；西汉时期贾谊的《过秦论》，司马迁的《廉颇蔺相如列传》；三国时代诸葛亮的《前出师表》和《后出师表》；唐朝柳宗元的《捕蛇者说》，刘禹锡的《陋室铭》，韩愈的《师说》；宋朝范仲淹的《岳阳楼记》，苏洵的《六国论》和苏轼的《前赤壁赋》。

和那些具有代表性的诗词一样，这 40 篇文章的内容与形式的范围跨度宽广——有些以赋的形式出现；有些为中国“散文”；有些为论证文；有些为对话；有些为记叙文等。这些文章对中国古代的政治、经济、军事、教育的发展以及每一朝代的社会福祉做了不同的描述与分析。例如：《曹刿论战》展示了曹刿对战争的分析能力及他领军作战的指挥天赋；《邹忌讽齐王纳谏》是个故事，邹忌通过讲述了他和徐公比美的经过，机灵地说服了齐王接受了他的批评与建议；《扁鹊见蔡桓公》提出了预警：一个有小病而拒医的人可能最终会死于不治之症；贾谊的《过秦论》揭示了强大的秦国为何最终走向灭亡的道理；柳宗元的《捕蛇者说》讲述了人们的悲惨生活，揭露了那个时代苛政猛于虎的邪恶的社会制度；范仲淹的《岳阳楼记》，通过对景物变幻无常的描写，以“先天下之忧而忧，后天下之乐而乐”和“噫！微斯人，吾谁与归？”结束，这些言辞表达了作者真正关注他人幸福的情感。

为帮助那些可能不懂汉语的英语读者更加充分地欣赏中国的历史文化，保罗给《中国古代诗文名篇精选英文译注》提供了大量而详细的注解。在保罗的翻译与我的修改过程中，我们之间频繁地交换了意见，这促使我对中国传统文化的一些方面有了更加深刻的了解。就这点而言，我发现，每首诗和每篇文章的注解都特别有用。

我认为保罗的这本书有重大意义。我和他希望该书将有助于不同国家的英语读者去欣赏乃至珍惜中国古代一些最佳的文学作品，了解与当今中国相关的中国文化的重要面貌；我们还希望该书将能激励英语读者去寻找更多这样的中国文学。由于中国的再次崛起及其文化贡献继续对全球产生影响，这种文学欣赏对 21 世纪的西方人显得特别重要。

盖尔·艾科夫博士
2015 年 6 月 28 日
于四川民族学院
(张敬群 译)



Selected Famous Ancient Chinese Poems and Articles in English Translation Introduction

Jane Jackson

Several years ago, I met Zhang Jingqun (Paul) at the China Association for Intercultural Communication (CAFIC) International conference that took place at Haikou on Hainan Island, in southern China. I soon discovered Paul's love of poetry and ancient Chinese literature, and his passion for translation. He kindly gave me a copy of a book that he had recently published, which included translations of beautiful poems that were first penned in Chinese long ago. It offered me a window into China of yesteryear.

Through email correspondence, I learned more about a major translation project that Paul had initiated. Over the past few years, he has been compiling and translating a much larger collection of ancient Chinese poems and articles. Paul has kept me informed about his project and in 2014, I reviewed a draft of the manuscript. He has refined the translations with the help of Gale Acuff and I am now delighted to see the finished product, which includes 120 poems and 40 articles.

The poems and articles have been selected with great care to offer insight into life in China during different dynasties. For example, the collection includes creative works that emerged during the Spring and Autumn Periods and classic poems that were written in the Qing Dynasty as well as earlier periods. As one might expect, the poems vary in style and content. While some focus on nature, others recount stories of relationships, including interactions between lovers, family members, or compatriots. The poems offer insight into the shifting views, attitudes, and aspirations of Chinese people over time and space.

Classic articles have been chosen to represent different dynasties in the long history of China. Like the poems, they offer us insight into social and political life, and vary in terms of style and content. While some articles are in the form of narratives, others depict dialogs. In terms of content, the coverage is broad. Some articles deal with education, the economy, politics, or military life, while others center on everyday social life. In this way, we are able to gain some understanding of the concerns, challenges, and triumphs of people in China during the various dynasties.

As well as compiling a wonderful collection of poems and essays, Paul has prepared detailed notes to help readers better understand the material. In particular, his commentaries contextualize the writing, as they provide essential information about the period in which each of the writings was created. This historical background enriches the volume and makes it more accessible to readers who may not have a deep understanding of Chinese history. Without his interpretations, much of the work would be difficult for non-Chinese to comprehend. His detailed notes also help to make ancient writings accessible to young Chinese people who do not have a solid grasp of history.

For individuals who are not able to read Chinese script, Paul's collection offers access and insight into classic poems and essays that would otherwise be beyond their reach. He has carefully selected works that draw attention to core values, beliefs, and attitudes that are associated with a particular period of time in Chinese history. Through these classic works, we learn about the politics and societies of various periods in Chinese history.

This book makes a valuable contribution to several fields, e.g., Chinese literary studies, history, cross-cultural communication, and translation studies. By selecting classic poems and essays from different phases in China's history, this collection offers the reader the opportunity to gain some understanding of the country's long and rich cultural and historical development. Knowledge of the past can help to understand modern-day China. The book will surely appeal to many audiences, including foreigners as well as Chinese readers. It is a major achievement and is timely as interest in China continues to rise around



the world. I believe that readers from many parts of the world will enjoy this collection as much as I have.

Jane Jackson, PhD
Professor
Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
7 October 2015

《中国古代诗文名篇精选英文译注》序言

简·杰克逊

几年前，中国跨文化交际国际学术研讨会在中国南部的海南岛海口市召开，会时我遇到了张敬群（保罗）。很快，我发现保罗喜爱诗歌和古典文学，他还热心于翻译工作。他亲切地送给我他刚出版的一本书，那是包括把很久以前优美的汉语诗歌翻译为英文的一个本子。它给我打开了瞭望中国昨天的窗口。

通过电子邮件的交流，我更多地了解到关于保罗已经开始的一项重要的翻译计划。在过去的几年中，他一直在编译一本更大的中国古代诗文集。保罗已告知我他的计划，并于2014年让我看过他的一本手稿。在盖尔·艾科夫的帮助下，保罗已经完成了该译稿的修改，现在我很高兴地看到包括120首诗歌和40篇文章的一本成品书。

为了使人们深刻地了解不同朝代中国人的生活状况，该书对诗文的挑选都是非常细心的。例如：它包括了春秋时期出现的作品以及清朝甚至更早年代里所创作的经典诗篇。或许就像人们所期待的一样，所选诗歌的风格和内容都有所不同：有些聚焦于大自然，其余的是一些故事，这些故事讲述了包括爱人之间、家庭成员之间或同胞之间的相互关系。这些诗歌使人们对中国人就时空问题的观点变化、态度与渴望都有深层的了解。

该书所选录的经典古文都是中国悠久历史长河中各个朝代的代表作。和诗歌一样，所选文章的风格多姿、内容多彩，能使人们深入了解社会与政治生活。其文章，有些是叙述文，其余的是描述性的对话，内容覆盖面广。有些文章涉及政治、经济、军事、教育，其余的主要涉及日常的社会生活。这样一来，我们就能对在不同的各个朝代里中国人所关切的问题、挑战与胜利的状况有些了解。

与编译一本精美的诗文集一样，为了帮助读者更好地理解材料，保罗为该书做



了详细的注解。尤其是他在作品中所做的评注为每一个朝代的每一篇作品提供了必要的信息。这一历史背景使这部书的内容得到了充实，使那些可能没有深刻了解中国历史的读者更加容易接近。没有保罗的诠释，对于非中国读者来说，要想理解里面的大量作品是很难的。他的这些详细注解还能帮助没有扎实地掌握中国历史知识的中国年轻读者易于理解古代的作品。

对那些无法阅读中文书稿的个体来说，保罗的这一选集给他们提供了理解经典诗文的途径，否则他们就无法理解。他精心地挑选了那些与关注中国特别历史时期的核心价值观、信仰、态度有关的作品。通过这些经典作品，我们获悉与中国历史上不同时期的政治和社会相关的知识。

该书在中国文学、历史、跨文化交际与翻译这几个研究领域中做出了重大贡献。通过选取中国不同历史时期的经典诗文作品，该书为欲了解悠久而丰富的中国历史文化和历史发展的读者提供了良好的机会。过往的知识有助于人们了解当今的中国。此书肯定将吸引许多中外读者。当人们对中国的兴趣感于全世界范围内不断地上升之时，此书是一项及时而重大的成就。我相信世界上许多地区的读者都将会像我一样地喜爱欣赏这本选集。

香港中文大学英语系教授

简·杰克逊博士

于 2015 年 10 月 7 日

(张敬群 译)



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