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Foreword

Recently some literary critics have written that there is a decline in poetry interest by the younger generation of readers and writers. Crystal, Ji Jing, gives us a possible reason in that the current trend in free verse varies little from prose. It lacks the beauty, sound, and rhythm that carefully composed poems provide. In order to begin correcting this lack of younger English language readers' interest, Crystal has undertaken the difficult task of translating some poems that she believes readers of all ages will enjoy. In this book of beautiful images and sounds she reconnects us with the beauty of poetry. She asks readers to persevere with her as she confronts the difficulties of translating complete poetic meaning from one language to the next.

Ted Johnson Ed. D. Chengdu, China



序

如今,一些文学评论家认为年轻一代的读者和作家对诗歌的兴趣正日趋降低。Crystal (吉晶)认为造成这个问题的可能原因是现今的自由诗风格与散文大同小异。它缺乏诗歌严谨传达的音韵美和韵律美。为重新唤醒这些年轻英语读者对诗歌的兴趣,Crystal 正从事着一项艰难的工作:翻译一些她相信各年龄段的读者都会喜欢的诗歌作品。在这部充满美丽的意象和音韵的书中,她试图使我们再度感受到诗歌的美。她希望读者在她面临用另一种语言展示诗歌完整意境的困难和挑战时,能够一如既往地支持她。

泰徳・约翰逊 于中国成都



Preface

I have long explored in the palace of literature and have become deeply immersed into the beauty of Chinese culture. From surfing in the river of a five-thousand-year history, I have gained tremendous joy and satisfaction. Of all kinds of literature, I especially enjoy poetry and have devoted myself to it.

Since I began to study English, I have tried to write essays in English and do translation. During the process, I encountered a lot of confusing problems. A great poet, Robert Frost, once said, "Poetry is what gets lost in translation." If we compare respectively the sense, sound and form to the light, colour and line of a painting, Frost's words may mean that in the process of putting Chinese poems into English, the splendid painting might become a bit faded, or be unsymmetrical in composition. Due to the linguistic disparities, loss to a certain degree in translation is inevitable. Consequently, the question is what part can be lost and what part can not be lost in translating a poem. The very talented translator Xu Yuanchong condensed the marrow of translation into three beauties: beauty in sense, beauty in sound



and beauty in form. This theory guides us down a more explicit road and helps to reduce a great number of difficulties.

New as I am to the world of translation, I still persevere with the task. The path ahead of me is full of opportunities and challenges. If I want to acquire some achievement, a good many complicated problems are waiting for me to settle. In this book, I didn't touch the translation of classical Chinese old verse. But I'm now trying to do that and learning from these masters. I believe I can proceed forward the task of presenting our splendid Chinese culture to the whole world.

Coming back to my book, there are three reasons for choosing this title. This title was inspired from an aesthetic movie which was full of sceneries and color. It shows us the spirit of resistance and pursuance. On the other hand, I wrote an essay about this movie and have placed it in the beginning. But most of all, my book is just like a room; from it you can see various views. There are essays; poems from English, including some of my own poems. I worked hard creating the material for this book and made every effort to write it well.

Because of my lack of knowledge and experience, there still may be some mistakes for which I hope you can forgive me. I'll be grateful to receive your advice and suggestions.

> Crystal July 30, 2006



前言

我久久在文学的殿堂里探索并被璀璨的中国文化深深地吸引。遨游在五千年的历史长河中,我得到了巨大的快乐和满足。 在众多的文学形式中,我尤其迷恋诗歌并致力于诗歌创作。

在接触了英语后,我开始英语散文的写作并进行一些翻译工作。在这个过程中,我遇到了许多棘手的问题并经常为之感到疑惑。就像一位伟大的诗人罗伯特·弗罗斯特所说的那样,"诗,就是在翻译中失掉的东西"。如果我们把中国诗歌中的意、音、形,分别比做一幅画的光线、颜色和线条的话,那弗罗斯特的话就意味着在把中国诗歌翻译成英语的过程中,这幅精美的声话会变得有些黯淡,或者在构图上有些不对称,或是失落一些损失。因此,就自然出现了在翻译过程中哪些东西是可以丢失的,哪些是不能丢失的问题。颇有造诣的翻译家许渊冲先生曾把诗歌翻译的精髓凝练成"三美",即意美、形美。这个理论给我们指引了一条更加明确的道路并帮助我们在翻译中减少了不少麻烦。

作为翻译界的一名新成员,我仍将坚持不懈地从事这项工 作。前面的路途充满了机遇与挑战,要想有所收获,层出不穷的



问题正等着我去解决。在这本书中,我并没有涉及中国古典诗词的翻译。但我正试图做这方面的翻译工作并向那些大师们学习。 我相信自己能继承把灿烂的中国文化呈现给世界的任务。

回到这本书中,有三个原因让我选择了这个书名。这个名字是从一部充满美景和色彩的唯美电影中得到了灵感。它向我们展示了一种为了追求而抗争的执著精神。另一方面,我写了一篇与这部电影相关的散文并把它放在了本书的开篇。然而最重要的是我的书就像一个房间,通过它你能看到各种不同的风景。有散文、英译汉及汉译英诗歌,包括我自己的一些诗篇。为写好这本书我付出了所有努力。

由于本人缺乏知识和经验,书中仍有一些错误或纰漏,望见谅。我将欣然接受你们提出的意见和建议。

吉 晶 2006年7月30日

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Essays and Poems

散文和诗歌

看得见风景的房间

随心灵去流浪

神秘花园

从电影中捕捉人性

心灵之旅

听雨

人间四月天

爱

雨霖铃

秋 语

秋 日

星星





A Room with a View

To have a room with scenic views is always an exciting privilege. Imagine that you own such a room and every morning and when you push the windows open, a glorious and marvelous scene appears before you waiting for your greeting.

I desire to have such a room. When I push the wooden windows I can see half of the world. The sky of light blue along with some slight clouds, a lot of scattered little purple flowers blossom on the fresh green meadow. Beside these flowers, there must be a row of oak railing, which is old and broken but still diffuses a kind of subtle fragrance. Looked further, a flourishing and huge tree stands in the center of the meadow. All of them make up a gorgeous painting, a painting of nature, a painting of life.

I have seen an aesthetic film which was entitled A Room with a View before. It was a story about how a female leader broke through the feudal force and finally found her true love. The background of this movie is in Italy, an old and mysterious country. There are many groups of Gothic architectural complexes built in the Middle Ages, and there are splendid and excellent natural views as well. I remember another sensational



film Roman Holiday was also shot in this romantic and historic country. The most attractive view that still lingers in my heart is the scene of little purple chrysanthemums. These petite flowers grew along railings and embellished the ambiance. They had an indomitable life force. It was a symbol of struggle and also reflected the female leader's character.

From then on, I expected to have such a room to appreciate the marvelous landscape in front of my windows. It's a room of nature and a room of mine. I'm tired of living in the hustle and bustle cities. Day after day, we do the same things again and again. We get up at the same time, greet each other with the same words, and even enter the same shop to buy what we need. We are now living in a circle and lack of courage to break it. But this room can see the views of freedom and will bring fresh and minted air. Once in this room, all the unhappy things will go away with the wind. The only requirement is to calm down and enjoy the fabulous scenery quietly.

Everyone could have this room and everyone could build the room themselves. There are a large number of views waiting for you to discover. If you always check your heart, some unnoticed twinkling can be the rare sceneries in your life. Pay attention, and you can build your room everywhere.

Mar. 31, 2006