

A Bouquet of Poems from China's Tang Dynasty

龚景浩 选译

英译唐诗名作选



商務印書館

THE COMMERCIAL PRESS

英译唐诗名作选

A Bouquet of Poems from
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商务印书馆

2007 年·北京

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英译唐诗名作选/龚景浩选译. —北京:商务印书馆,
2006

ISBN 7-100-04574-6

I. 英… II. 龚… III. 唐诗—选集—英文
IV. I222.742

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 066827 号

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龚景浩 选译

商 务 印 书 馆 出 版

(北京王府井大街 36 号 邮政编码 100710)

商 务 印 书 馆 发 行

北 京 民 族 印 刷 厂 印 刷

ISBN 7-100-04574-6/H·1138

2006 年 3 月第 1 版

开本 787×1092 1/32

2007 年 4 月北京第 2 次印刷

印张 5 3/8

定价: 10.00 元

序

李赋宁

诗歌翻译是一门艺术，是一种再创造。爱国华侨龚景浩先生数年前曾在商务印书馆出版《英译中国古诗词精选》，受到读者的欣赏和欢迎。

他虽超过古稀之年，体力渐衰，但仍坚持诗歌翻译的爱好。夜间常失眠，默诵唐诗，译成英文诗来消遣。我有幸读到他的手稿，觉得新颖可喜。我想许多读者也会有同感。

他译的这些首唐诗都是读者从小就能背诵的好诗。如，李白的“静夜思”。龚译为“Musings on a Quiet Night”。译文为“The bright moonlight near my cot/Seemed to me like white ground frost. /I looked up to gaze at the moon;/I looked down to think of home.”多么平易、自然！虽未完全押韵，但采用英诗“近似韵”(assonance)，也能产生声音美。

又如，孟浩然的“春晓”。龚译为“Spring Morn”。译文为“Spring slumber goes on and on. /Everywhere you hear birds' song. /Last night there was wind and rain. /How many flowers in mud have lain!”龚译“不觉晓”采用意译：“goes on and on”，颇为传神，似乎是睡不醒的感觉。“花落知多少”译为感叹句：“How many flowers in mud have lain!”也颇具匠心。押韵很

自然:rain—lain。

另一首为王之涣的“登鹳雀楼”。1985年我作为美国鲁斯基金会的亚洲学者访问美国康乃尔大学,和该校英文系 Robert Kaske 教授时常来往。系中同事为他庆 65 岁生日。我曾译此诗为英文为他祝寿。现在读到龚译此诗,感到很亲切,也十分欣赏他译的这首诗作。“白日依山尽”,龚译为“The setting sun dips behind the mountains”,“dips”一词很有力。“欲穷千里目”译为“For a better view of things out there”,也用意译法。“更上一层楼”译为“We need to climb one more flight of stair”。此处押韵亦佳:there—stair。

再看王维的“相思”。龚译为“Love's Yearnings”。我在昆明西南联大任专任讲师,同事英国人 Robert Payne 欲译唐诗为英文,约同事参加共译。分配给我的几首中就有此诗。看到龚译感到很亲切。龚译文为:

“The Red Beans grow in the South.”(红豆生南国)

“Each spring this tall shrub puts out some new twigs.”(春来发几枝)

“I hope you would pick a great deal.”(愿君多采撷)

“They bring on th' most exquisite love's yearnings/One can feel.”(此物最相思)

龚译最后一句用长行,甚为别致。押韵也令人满意。

中、外译唐诗的人很多。龚先生的译作应列为上乘。我喜欢英国人 Arthur Wayley 的译作。我以前访问康乃尔大学英文系,曾参加该系的诗歌朗诵会。我选了李白的“花间一壶酒”一首,曾试译为英文,但觉不满意,还是采用了 Arthur Wayley 的译文,获

得听众的称赞。我想好的译文一方面要译出原文的神韵,同时也要具有英诗的味道,读起来像英诗。龚先生译的唐诗我感到符合此要求,因此愿意推荐给读者。

于北京大学

2003 年 6 月

FOREWORD

A modern Chinese poet once told his friends: "I've read Shakespeare in translation, and I've tried to read Shakespeare in the original, though I have little English. To me, one tasted like plain boiled water, while the other tasted like fine vintage wine. It was that kind of a difference."

"Poetry is what gets lost in translation," indeed!

In translating the present slim volume of Tang poems, I have endeavored to make them taste more like Chinese green tea (for that is what they taste like to me)—in particular, the kinds of green tea that are grown, picked and roasted in China's south-eastern provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, with these qualities: They are pure, green, and refreshing; unpretentious, never complicated, and yet subtle.

Kung Ching Hao
Summer 2004, Beijing

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唐诗一卷赠与君
清幽淡雅今古吟

A bouquet of Tang poems
For one who cares,
Elegant and evergreen
Thru'out the years.

龚景浩 Kung Ching Hao

2006 年 1 月于北京

静 夜 思

李 白

床前明月光，疑是地上霜。
举头望明月，低头思故乡。

Musings on a Quiet Night

Li Bai

The bright moonlight near my cot
Seemed to me like white ground frost.
I looked up to gaze at the moon;
I looked down to think of home.