

SELECTIONS FROM RECORDS OF THE HISTORIAN

CHINESE-ENGLISH

CHINESE CLASSICS

中國經典
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史记选

汉英对照

(西汉)司马迁 著
杨宪益 戴乃迭 英译

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外文出版社
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出版前言

本社专事外文图书的编辑出版，几十年来用英、法、德、日等多种文字翻译出版了大量的中国文学作品和文化典籍，上自先秦，下迄现当代，力求全面而准确地反映中国文学及中国文化的基本面貌和灿烂成就。这些图书均取自名家名作，由国内外译界权威翻译。每本图书的编选、翻译过程审慎严肃，精雕细琢，中文作品及相应的翻译版本堪称经典。

我们意识到，这些翻译精品，不单有对外译介的意义，而且对国内外语学习者、爱好者及翻译工作者，也是极有价值的读本。为此，我们对这些翻译精品做了认真的遴选，编排成中外对照的形式，陆续推出，以飨读者。

外文出版社

Publisher's Note

Foreign Languages Press is dedicated to the editing, translating and publishing of books in foreign languages. Over the past several decades it has published, in English, a great number of China's classics and records as well as literary works from the Qin down to modern times, in the aim to fully display the best part of the Chinese culture and its achievements. These books in the original are famous and authoritative in their respective fields, and their English translations are masterworks produced by notable translators both at home and abroad. Each book is carefully compiled and translated with minute precision. Consequently, the English versions as well as their Chinese originals may both be rated as classics.

It is generally considered that these English translations are not only significant for introducing China to the outside world but also useful reading materials for domestic English learners and translators. For this reason, we have carefully selected some of these books, and will publish them successively in Chinese-English bilingual form.

Foreign Languages Press

目 录

项羽本纪	2
陈涉世家	88
留侯世家	110
陈丞相世家	148
孙子吴起列传	182
商君列传	204
平原君虞卿列传	230
魏公子列传	258
范雎蔡泽列传	282
廉颇蔺相如列传	346
田单列传	380
刺客列传	392
淮阴侯列传	438
张释之冯唐列传	496
魏其武安侯列传	516
李将军列传	558
游侠列传	588
滑稽列传	608

CONTENTS

Xiang Yu	3
Chen She	89
Zhang Liang, Marquis of Liu	111
Prime Minister Chen Ping	149
Sun Wu and Wu Qi	183
Lord Shang	205
Lord Pingyuan and Yu Qing	231
Lord Xinling	259
Fan Sui and Cai Ze	283
Lian Po and Lin Xiangru	347
Tian Dan	381
The Assassins	393
Han Xin, Marquis of Huaiyin	439
Zhang Shizhi and Feng Tang	497
The Marquises of Weiqi and Wuan	517
Li Guang	559
The Gallant Citizens	589
The Jesters	609

项羽本纪

项籍者，下相人也，字羽。初起时，年二十四。其季父项梁，梁父即楚将项燕，为秦将王翦所戮者也。项氏世世为楚将，封于项，故姓项氏。

项籍少时，学书不成，去学剑，又不成。项梁怒之。籍曰：“书，足以记名姓而已。剑，一人敌，不足学。学万人敌。”于是项梁乃教籍兵法，籍大喜；略知其意，又不肯竟学。项梁尝有栎阳逮，乃请蕲狱掾曹咎书，抵栎阳狱掾司马欣，以故事得已。项梁杀人，与籍避仇于吴中。吴中贤士大夫皆出项梁下。每吴中有大繇役及丧，项梁常为主办，阴以兵法部勒宾客及子弟，以是知其能。

XIANG YU

Xiang Ji, whose other name was Yu, was a man of Xiaxiang. He was twenty-four when he first rose in arms. His uncle Xiang Liang was the son of Xiang Yan, a general of Chu who was killed by the Qin general Wang Jian. For many generations the heads of the clan had been enfeoffed in Xiang as generals of Chu; hence Xiang became their family name.

As a lad Xiang Yu studied to be a scribe. Failing in this, he took up swordsmanship. When he failed in this too, Xiang Liang was angry with him, but he said:

"All scribes do is make lists of names, and swordsmen can only fight a single foe: that is not worth learning. I want to learn how to fight ten thousand foes."

Then, to his great joy, Xiang Liang taught him military strategy. But once he had a general grasp of the subject, Xiang Yu again refused to study to the end.

Xiang Liang was arrested at Yueyang, but procured a letter from Cao Jiu, gaoler of Ji, and presented this to Sima Xin, the gaoler of Yueyang, who thereupon let him go. Later Xiang Liang killed a man and fled from vengeance with Xiang Yu to Wu. As all the local figures lacked his ability, Xiang Liang generally took charge of large labour conscriptions or important funerals. And in secret he trained his followers and young men in the arts of war, to test their abilities.

When the First Emperor of Qin crossed the River Zhe on a

秦始皇帝游会稽，渡浙江，梁与籍俱观，籍曰：“彼可取而代也！”梁掩其口，曰：“毋妄言，族矣！”梁以此奇籍。籍长八尺余，力能扛鼎，才气过人，虽吴中子弟皆已惮籍矣。

秦二世元年七月，陈涉等起大泽中。其九月，会稽守通谓梁曰：“江西皆反，此亦天亡秦之时也。吾闻先即制人，后则为人所制。吾欲发兵，使公及桓楚将。”是时桓楚亡在泽中。梁曰：“桓楚亡人，莫知其所，独籍知之耳。”梁乃出，诫籍持剑居外待。梁复入，与守坐，曰：“请召籍，使受命召桓楚。”守曰：“诺。”梁召籍入。须臾，梁眴籍曰：“可行矣！”于是籍遂拔剑斩守头。项

visit to Kuaiji, Xiang Liang and Xiang Yu looked on.

"Why not take over from him?" exclaimed Xiang Yu.

"Don't talk so wildly!" said Xiang Liang, stopping his nephew's mouth. "Do you want our clan wiped out?" But this sent Xiang Yu up in his estimation.

Xiang Yu was over six feet tall and so strong that he could carry a bronze cauldron. He was more brilliant and ambitious than others, so that all the young men in the district stood in awe of him.

In the seventh month of the first year of the Second Emperor, Chen She and his men rose in Daze. In the ninth month Yin Tong, governor of Kuaiji, summoned Xiang Liang and said:

"All the lower reaches of the Yangtse have revolted. Heaven is about to destroy the House of Qin. Whoever strikes first, they say, becomes a leader, while those who delay are led. I want to raise troops with you and Huan Chu as my generals."

Huan Chu was then an outlaw in the marshes.

"Huan Chu is an outlaw," replied Xiang Liang, "and no one but Xiang Yu knows where he is." He withdrew and told Xiang Yu to wait outside with his sword. Then he went back, sat down again by the governor and said, "Please summon Xiang Yu to take your orders to Huan Chu."

When the governor agreed, Xiang Liang called Xiang Yu in. After a moment he glanced at him and said, "The time has come!" Then Xiang Yu drew his sword and cut off the governor's head. Xiang Liang picked up the head and hung Yin Tong's seal

梁持守头，佩其印绶。门下大惊，扰乱，籍所击杀数十百人。一府中皆慑伏，莫敢起。梁乃召故所知豪吏，谕以所为起大事。遂举吴中兵。使人收下县，得精兵八千人。梁部署吴中豪杰，为校尉、侯、司马。有一人不得用，自言于梁。梁曰：“前时某丧，使公主某事，不能办。以此不任用公。”众乃皆伏。于是，梁为会稽守；籍为裨将，徇下县。

广陵人召平于是为陈王徇广陵，未能下；闻陈王败走，秦兵又且至，乃渡江，矫陈王命，拜梁为楚王上柱国。曰：“江东已定，急引兵西击

and insignia on his own belt. The governor's men panicked and were thrown into confusion. Xiang Yu killed several scores of them. The whole office cowered in terror and no one dared stand against him. Then Xiang Liang summoned the chief citizens and some officers whom he knew, gave them his reasons for raising a revolt, and took command of the army of Wu. He sent officers to conscript men from the various districts and gathered a picked force of eight thousand men, appointing the best local men as his lieutenants, scouts and sergeants. One man complained that he had received no post, but Xiang Liang retorted:

"When I asked you to see to something at so-and-so's funeral, you let me down. That is why you are being passed over."

All agreed that this was just. Xiang Liang became the governor of Kuaiji with Xiang Yu as his adjutant, and they took over all the districts in that province.

Zhao Ping, a native of Guangling, attacked that city for Chen She but failed to take it. When he heard of Chen She's defeat and flight and of the Qin army's approach, he crossed the Yangtse and, pretending that he was acting on Chen She's orders, conferred on Xiang Liang the title of chief minister of Chu.

"You have conquered the land to the east," he said. "Lose no time now but lead your army west against Qin."

Xiang Liang at the head of his eight thousand men crossed the river and marched west. When he learned that Chen Ying had taken Dong yang, he sent an envoy to propose that they join forces and advance west together. Chen Ying had been secretary

秦！”项梁乃以八千人渡江而西。闻陈婴已下东阳，使使欲与连和俱西。陈婴者，故东阳令史，居县中，素信谨，称为长者。东阳少年杀其令，相聚数千人，欲置长，无适用，乃请陈婴。婴谢不能，遂强立婴为长，县中从者得二万人。少年欲立婴便为王，异军苍头特起。陈婴母谓婴曰：“自我为汝家妇，未尝闻汝先古之有贵者。今暴得大名，不祥。不如有所属，事成犹得封侯，事败易以亡，非世所指名也。”婴乃不敢为王。谓其军吏曰：“项氏世世将家，有名于楚，今欲举大事，将非其人不可。我倚名族，亡秦必矣。”于是众从其言，以兵属项梁。项梁渡淮，黥布、蒲将军亦以兵属焉。凡六七万人，军下邳。

当是时，秦嘉已立景驹为楚王，军彭城东，欲距项梁。项梁谓军吏曰：“陈王先首事，战不利，

to the magistrate of Dongyang and was respected throughout the county for his integrity. After the young men there killed their magistrate, several thousands of men banded together and looked for a leader. Finding no one suitable, they approached Chen Ying. He declined with the excuse that he lacked ability, but they finally prevailed on him to take charge and some twenty thousand men of the county followed him. Then the young men wanted to set him up as their king and form a black-turbaned rebel force of their own.

Chen Ying's mother told him, "Since I married into your family, I have never heard that any of your ancestors ever attained noble rank. It is not safe to win fame overnight: you would do better to serve as a subordinate. Then if all goes well, you will be made a marquis; if things go badly, you can easily escape because you are not known to all."

So Chen Ying did not venture to become king. "The Xiang family has produced generals for several generations," he told his officers. "They are well known in Chu. If we want to revolt, we must have them on our side. With the help of such a distinguished family, Qin can certainly be destroyed."

They took his advice and put their troops under Xiang Liang's command. After Xiang Liang crossed the River Huai, Ying Bu and General Pu also came over to him with their men. The army, now nearly seventy thousand strong, encamped at Xiapi.

Meanwhile Qin Jia had made Jing Ju king of Chu and stationed his troops east of Pengcheng to block Xiang Liang's way.

未闻所在。今秦嘉倍陈王而立景驹，逆无道。”乃进兵击秦嘉。秦嘉军败走，追之至胡陵。嘉还战，一日，嘉死，军降。景驹走死梁地。项梁已并秦嘉军，军胡陵，将引军而西。章邯军至栗，项梁使别将朱鸡石、余樊君与战，余樊君死，朱鸡石军败，亡走胡陵。项梁乃引兵入薛，诛鸡石。项梁前使项羽别攻襄城，襄城坚守不下。已拔，皆坑之。还报项梁。项梁闻陈王定死，召诸别将会薛计事。此时，沛公亦起沛往焉。

居鄢人范增，年七十，素居家，好奇计。往说项梁曰：“陈胜败固当。夫秦灭六国，楚最无罪。自怀王入秦不反，楚人怜之至今，故楚南公