

一百丛书

汉英对照 Chinese-English

中国历代短简 一百篇

谢百魁 陈启达 选译

100

CHINESE
SHORT
LETTERS
THROUGH
THE AGES

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汉英对照“一百丛书”原由商务印书馆（香港）有限公司在香港出版。为了满足内地读者学习英语的需要，我公司同商务印书馆（香港）有限公司达成合作出版协议，将这套丛书在内地出版发行。同时本公司亦在内地直接为“一百丛书”组稿。本书即系本公司自行组稿的一种。特此说明。

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前 言

短简产生于春秋战国时期，但在秦汉以前，它基本上是作为一种社会交往的实用工具而存在的；汉魏六朝，人们赋予了它鲜明的文学色彩。短简在唐代经过短暂的停滞，在宋代又得到复兴，并进一步受到重视而成为一种独具规模的文学样式。明清时期，短简的文学色彩更加鲜明，人们更为自觉地用文学创作的态度来写短简，使短简文学进入鼎盛时期。作为散文的一种形式，短简经历了漫长而曲折的发展演变，经过历代作家的艰苦创作，千锤百炼，它最终成为一种简洁便利、艺术性很强的文学形式。我国丰富的短简作品，是古人留下来的一项非常宝贵的文学遗产，具有很高的文学价值，也产生了很大的影响。

《中国历代短简一百篇》时代上起先秦，下迄清代，共选历代短简一百篇。这些短简或提倡爱国主义和优良的民族传统，或讨论品德修养问题，或商榷治学的方法和途经，或抒发个人真实的情感，或描绘祖国的大好河山，都是文字优美、富有情趣的佳作。我们将这一百篇短简译成英文，以汉英对照的形式出版，旨在向英语世界的读者传播我们中华民族的文化，使他们了解我国古代文化对后人的影响以及在中国文学史上的价值。

本书的前五十篇由陈启达先生译出，后五十篇由谢百魁教授译出。

编 者

1996.6

Foreword

Short letters originated in the Spring and Autumn (770-476 B.C.) and Warring States (475-221 B.C.) periods, but existed only as a practical means for social communication before the Qin (221-207 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C. -220 A.D.) dynasties. From the Han, Wei(220-265) and Six Dynasties(222-280)(317-589) period, a sharp feature of literature began to develop in short letters. After a short stagnant interval in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), short letters revived again in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), and developed into a unique form of literary form. In the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, the literary characteristic of short letters became more and more evident, and since people instinctively wrote short letters just as creating a literary work, short letters entered its heyday then. As a form of proses, short letters has witnessed a long, complicated process of development and evolution. With meticulous creation by men of letters generation after generation, it eventually developed itself into a literary form, simple yet precise, functional yet accessible, and a high artistic value. Short letters, rich as they are in China, are valuable literary legacy left over by the ascendants, are of high literary value and also are of magnificent impact.

Chinese Short Letters Through The Ages collects 100 short

letters from the Qin Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. These short letters, either advocate patriotism, contemplate issues concerning character cultivation, discourse methods and approaches of learning, or express true personal feelings or portray the beautiful natural scenery of the country, and they are all written beautifully and are works of delightful interests. Here we have translated 100 short letters into English and present to you in the Chinese-English bilingual form, hoping to disseminate the culture of the Chinese nation among readers of English World so as to make them familiar with ancient Chinese culture and its influence on the descendants as well as its value and rule in the Chinese literary history.

The first 50 short letters of this book are translated by Mr. Chen Qida, and the latter 50 are translated by Professor Xie Baikui.

Editor
June 1996

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