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Chinese - English Bilingual Edition

中国诗词精选英译

An English Version of the Selected Chinese Poems

赵甄陶 译



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◆ 湖南师范大学出版社

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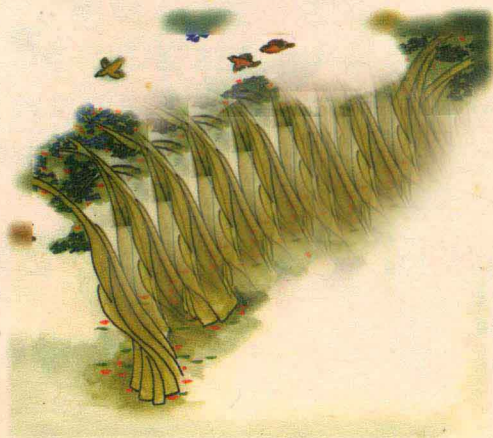
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Translated by Zhao Zhentao

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责任编辑 李阳·凯思

湖南师范大学出版社出版发行

(长沙市岳麓山)

湖南省新华书店经销 望城县湘江印刷厂印刷

787×1092 24开 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ 印张

1999年5月第1版 1999年5月第1次印刷

印数: 1—5200册

ISBN7—81031—727—X/G·303

定价: 8.80元

序 言

这本彩图中国诗词英译精选集原是我为我的孙男孙女翻译的，目的是便于他们知道如何学习翻译中国诗词；为了同样的目的，我也经常给在学校所教的学生观看。湖南师范大学出版社的一位编辑，读了我的译文，认为译文可使人爱读，建议为广大读者出版，并附以彩图。对我可能得到的读者，我希望能谈谈我译诗的原则：

1. 我是用韵律而非用自由体译中国诗词的，因为如用自由体译，就会失去诗词的音乐之美。中国诗词的音乐之美，主要依赖韵律和韵脚。
2. 每行不超过 6 个音步，以保持中国诗词用字的简洁性。
3. 使用通俗语言。正如爱尔兰诗人威廉 B·耶茨“用通俗口语”写诗，虽然我坚持用格律体译中国诗词。

翻译可以说是再创造，尤其译诗是这样，我向读者提供的这种再创造，很难说是极为成熟的，尽管我费了很大一番力气。

我很感激湖南师范大学出版社以汉英对照的方式并附以彩图出书。

赵甄陶

Foreword

This anthology of ancient Chinese poems was translated into English for my grandson and granddaughter so that they could learn English translation of Chinese ancient poems. Formerly I even showed it to my college students for this purpose, too. Having read my renditions, an editor of the Hunan Normal University Press considers them readable and suggests that they should be published with colored pictures for the reading public.

To the potential readers I hope I may be allowed to say something about the principles I have followed in translating the poems:

1. To translate the poems in the metrical style, not in free verse. Our ancient poems are basically metrical. If translated in free verse, they will, in my opinion, lose beauty in sound which mainly lies in rhythm and rhyme.

2. To confine the number of feet in each line to not more than six. This may keep the succinctness in wording of the Chinese ancient poems.

3. To use the language of common speech. I have done the translation in "a style like speech", as advocated by the Irish poet William B Yeats though I insist on translating Chinese metrical poems in the English metrical style.

Translation is, so to speak, re-creation, and this is especially true of the translation of poetry. In presenting my re-creation to the reading public, I lay no claim to its being a perfect re-creation, though I have done my level best.

I am grateful to the Hunan Normal University Press for making possible the appearance of the bilingual edition of this book with colored pictures.

Zhao Zhentao

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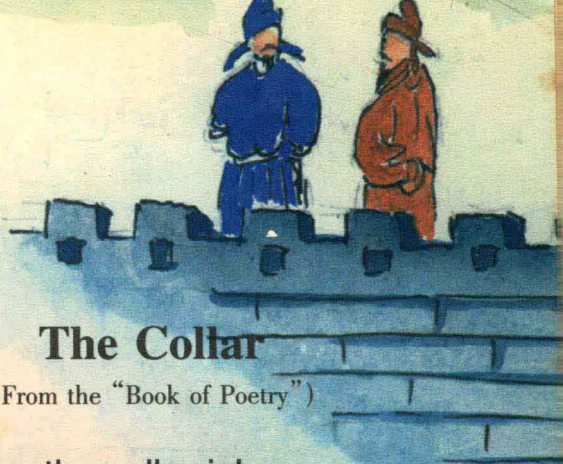
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子衿

《诗经·郑风》

青青子衿，悠悠我心。
纵我不往，子宁不嗣音？
青青子佩，悠悠我思。
纵我不往，子宁不来？
挑兮达兮，在城阙兮。
一日不见，如三月兮。



The Collar

(From the "Book of Poetry")

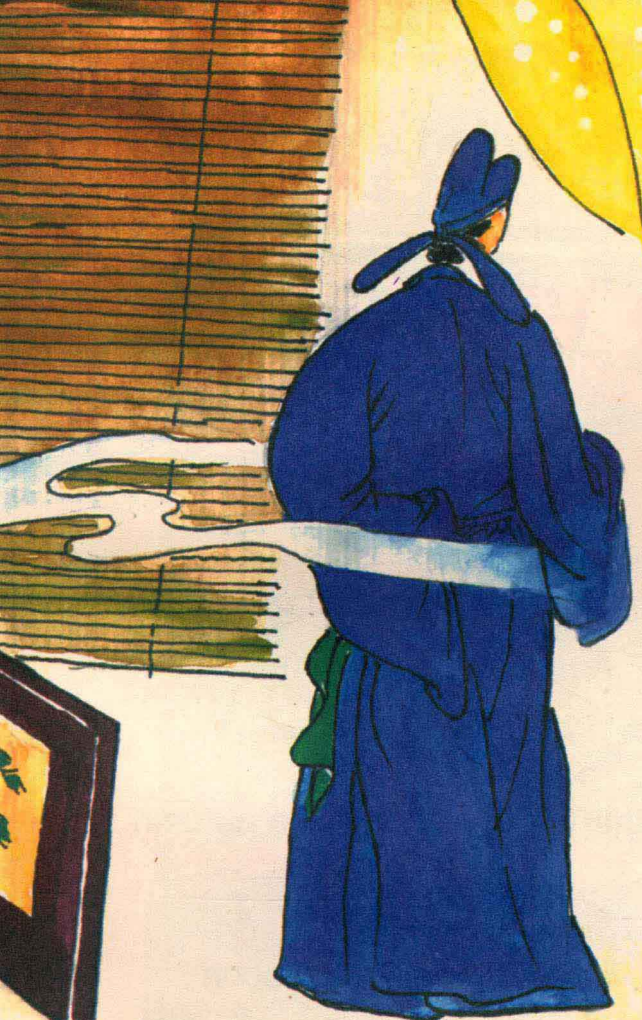
How blue thy collar is!
How much I think of thee!
Though I haven't come to thee,
Wherefore not write to me?
How blue thy girdle - jade!
How much I yearn for thee!
Though I haven't come to thee,
Wherefore not come to me?
Thou jumpest and thou dancest
On the tower of the city wall.
One day away from sight——
It seems three months in all!

狡童

《诗经·郑风》

彼狡童兮，不与我言兮。
维子之故，使我不能餐兮。
彼狡童兮，不与我食兮。
维子之故，使我不能息兮。





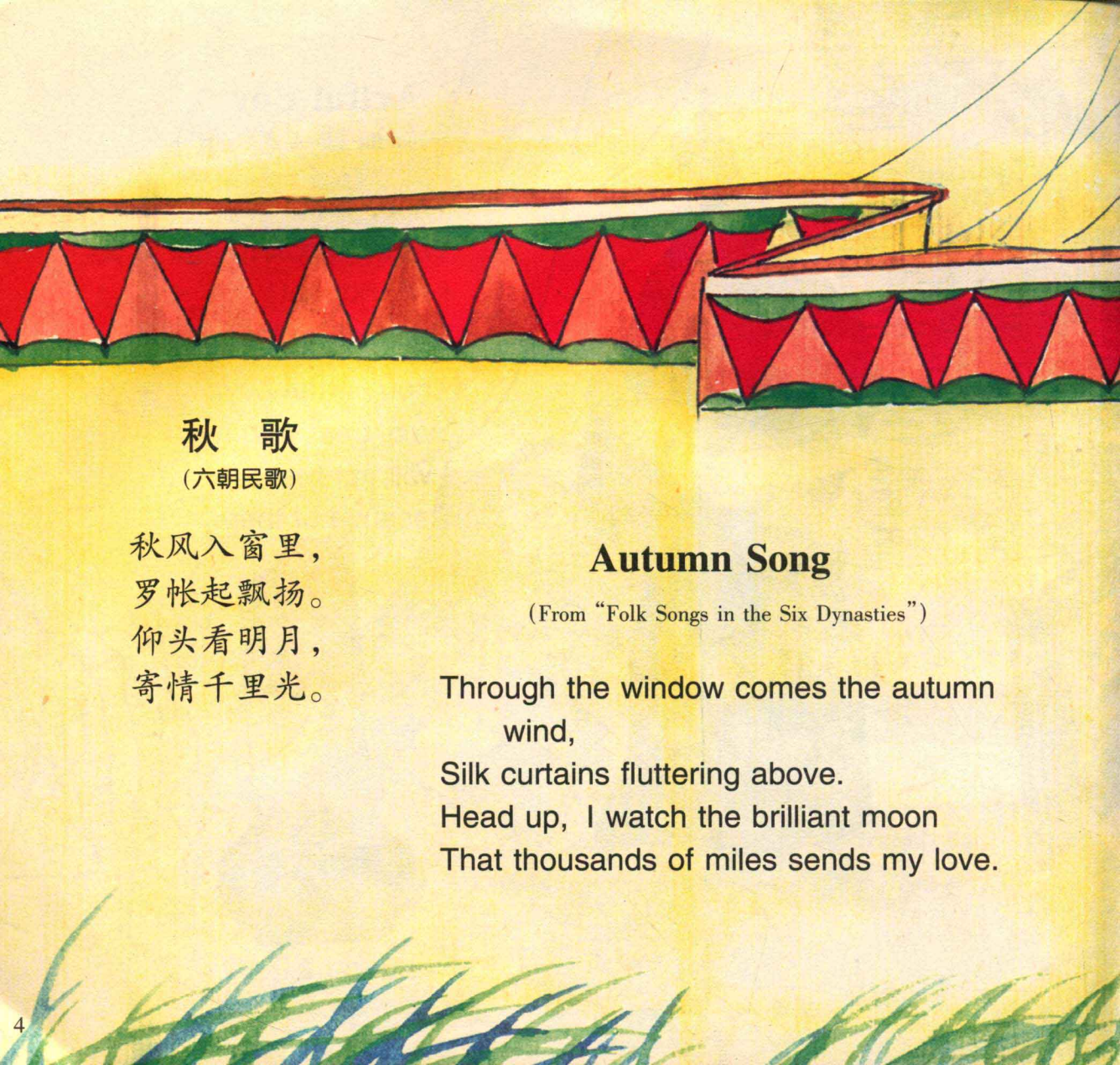
Artful Boy

(From the "Book of Poetry")

Thou, artful boy,
Won't speak to me.
I will not eat
Because of thee.

Thou, artful boy,
Won't eat with me.
I will not rest
Because of thee.





秋 歌

(六朝民歌)

秋风入窗里，
罗帐起飘扬。
仰头看明月，
寄情千里光。

Autumn Song

(From "Folk Songs in the Six Dynasties")

Through the window comes the autumn
wind,
Silk curtains fluttering above.
Head up, I watch the brilliant moon
That thousands of miles sends my love.



华山畿

(六朝民歌)

君既为侬死，
独活为谁施。
欢若见怜时，
棺木为侬开。

