

通往金山之路

华裔美国作家英语名著系列丛书

Sui Sin Far
水仙花 著

Edited by Amy Ling and Annette White-Parks
山林英敏和安妮特·怀特·帕克思编辑

Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Writings

春郁太太
及其他作品

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University of Illinois Press

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Sui Sin Far



AMY LING

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Gateway to the Golden Mountain

Series Editor

Fan Shouyi

丛书主编 范守义(中国·外交学院)

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Sui Sini Far

My Life in China and America

Yung Wing

America through the Spectacles of an Oriental Diplomat

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策划人语

在经济、市场全球化和我国已加入 WTO 的今天,学英语已是我们每一个中国人日常生活中必须做的事,学好和掌握英语、了解英语国家的文化已是一个国际型人才的必备条件。怎样才能学好和掌握英语,并了解英语国家的文化呢?经验告诉我们:读英语原著!

《通往金山之路——华裔美国作家英语名著系列丛书》,是山西教育出版社在人类跨入21世纪之际为顺应潮流隆重推出的一套全新的引进版权的英语教育系列丛书。丛书向读者介绍了一批美国华裔作家在20世纪用英语撰写的文学作品。这些作品从不同的侧面真实地记录了自19世纪中叶起,一些中国人卷入世界范围的赴美国加利福尼亚州淘金热潮,及其以后在美国留下来生活和创业的种种经历和感受。这些作品中,有艰苦奋斗,有成功和失败,有种族尊严,有喜怒哀乐,有善意和友情,有各种族之间的错综关系,也有中西文化的碰撞和融合。我们希望通过这套丛书能够开启一扇通过华裔美国人的眼睛去认识和研究美国社会、文化的窗户,为广大的英语学习者和爱好者提供一些新鲜的、优秀的、原汁原味的英语原著读本,同时也为从事美国社会和跨文化研究的学者和爱好者开辟一块园地。

为了便于读者阅读和理解作品,我们特请有关专家为每一种作品作了评介性的序和专门的词汇表,供读者阅读参考。

To L. Charles Laferrière, of Montreal,
whose zeal in recovering his great-aunt's accomplishments
and whose generous sharing
have helped make this book possible

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Foreword

Fan Shouyi

More than a century and a half ago, China was still under the feudal rule of the Manchurians. The doors of the heretofore isolated, self-centered, Middle Kingdom were forced open by the joint assault of imperialist powers of the West. The humiliating unequal treaties signed between China and the invaders awoke the Chinese people to the realization that the world was much larger than they had ever known it to be and that there were much stronger nations existing in the rest of the world, and their people lived in quite different societies. The impotence of the Qing rulers in face of Western aggression fermented strong discontent among the intellectuals as well as among the masses.

While the gun-boat policies of the Western powers had been successful in reducing China to subjugation, the activities of missionaries played a large part in influencing mentally those Chinese who had had an opportunity to receive a Western education. Yung Wing was a typical example of the early beneficiaries, who became the first Chinese graduating from Yale. Persuaded by Yung Wing, the Qing Government agreed to send 120 boys in 4 detachments to the United States for study for a duration of 15 years as of 1872, who, though recalled before their time due, were able to render services to their fatherland one way or another. They were the ones who helped the people on either side of the Pacific to know and understand each other.

The discovery of gold in Sacramento, California in 1848 attracted the first wave of Chinese from Canton to join the world-wide rush for gold. A decade later, some 50 Chinese were enlisted on a trial basis to help build the transcontinental railroad, to be reinforced later by more Chinese laborers from China. The Chinese were also engaged in farming, fishing, running restaurants, laundries, and doing domestic services, etc. Many

Chinese merchants also went to the US to trade. But in an inherently racist society where white supremacy reigned, the services of Chinese in California were no longer welcome. A handful of racists stirred up anti-Chinese sentiments, which led to the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act by Congress in 1882, making further entry of Chinese into the United States more difficult, followed by a series of other acts enacted for the same purpose. These acts remained in force until 1943 when they were finally repealed. However, despite the unfair treatment and persecutions, the Chinese in America managed to survive in an hostile country. With their wisdom and diligence, they have made positive contributions to the growth of the United States from the mid nineteenth century until today.

Many educated Chinese in America took up their pens as an instrument of expression to write about their own stories or the stories of others, or fictionalize their experiences. Sui Sin Far, or Edith Eaton, was the first writer to write in defense of the Chinese in the late nineteenth century. Then came Yung Wing, Pardee Lowe, Jade Snow Wong, C. Y. Lee, Louis Chu, Maxine Hong Kingston, and a wave of younger writers, like Frank Chin, Amy Tan, Gish Jen, Gus Lee, David Henry Hwang, David Wong Louie, Fae Myenne Ng, among others. They write in a variety of literary genres and styles, and on a wide range of subject-matters, to give voice to their sentiments, demands, and dreams.

In *Gateway to the Golden Mountain*, which is an educational series organized and reprinted by the Shanxi Education Press, we plan to present to our mainland readers some of the Chinese-American authors, through whose works we will learn about the life of the Chinese Americans—their hardships and struggles, successes and failures, thoughts and feelings, their interrelationship with the other races, etc. We believe that mutual understanding is essential to furthering the friendly ties between the Chinese and American people, and the publication of this educational series shall be instrumental in this regard. We sincerely hope that our efforts are appreciated and more authors would agree to let their works appear in this series. It is expected that with more and more works available here in the mainland Chinese American studies will become an independent inquiry for the aspiring students to pursue, the implication of which will be tremendous in deed.

Acknowledgments

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FSY/1 January, 2001