

Happy Birthday, *Renditions*!

Ching-Hsi Perng

contributed an article on Yuan drama to *Renditions* in 1978. His experience as Editor of *Chinese PEN* gives him a unique insight into the workings of a translation journal.



Ching-Hsi Perng (second right) was an adjudicator for the Stephen Soong Awards For Translation Studies in 2000.

One day in the spring of 1978, less than a year after I returned to Taiwan to start my teaching career, a letter came from George Kao, then Editor-at-Large of *Renditions*. He began by congratulating me on the acceptance of an article that I had submitted to the magazine some time ago, which I, swamped with work in my first-year teaching, had almost forgotten. Although I had published before, this was my first piece written in English and published by a meticulously edited journal of international standard. I could not contain my excitement; popping into my head were J.B. Priestly's words when he saw his first essay in print: 'I have arrived!' Indeed, when the magazine came some months later, I found my article listed in the table of contents alongside those by such giants as C.T. Hsia and Qian Zhongshu, and other luminaries.

In his letter Mr Kao also mentioned that he would be visiting Taipei shortly, and that he would like to have a chat with me. About a week later we met for the first time at the Grand Hotel in Taipei. I have forgotten what we talked about exactly, other than my article, but I remember him clearly as a true gentleman—affable, gracious, considerate, and most generous with kind and encouraging words. Mr Kao could not have known what that short visit from him meant for me. If the publication of the article boosted the confidence—or even complacency—of a novice in the academe, that morning at the Grand Hotel demonstrated to him the urbane, humane side of the competitive world of scholarship.

Mr Kao has long since retired from the editorship, but *Renditions* continues to thrive in the good hands of successive editors. Every time I hold a copy of the handsomely wrought magazine before me, I see not only first-rate articles and translations by illustrious scholars and expert translators, but also the tender love and painstaking care that have gone into its every page. During my stints as Editor of the Chinese *Chung-Wai Literary Monthly* 中外文學月刊 and especially of the bilingual *Chinese PEN Quarterly* 中華民國筆會季刊, the exemplary model of *Renditions* was always there before me.

On the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of *Renditions*, it is my great pleasure as well as privilege to record here my indebtedness to this magnificent magazine. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my greatest admiration for its editorial staff, past and present, and extend my best wishes for its continued success. ☒

Chyi-Hsiung Peng