Renditions: Three Decades of Chinese-English Literary Translation

Mabel Lee

is Honorary Associate Professor in Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney and a member of the *Renditions* Editorial Committee. She is also the English translator of Gao Xingjian's novels.



In a situation where literary translation in the English-speaking world still fails to receive due credit, over the past three decades *Renditions* has successfully established a position of leadership for high-quality translations of a good cross-section of writings in the Chinese language. Its position as the leading Chinese-English translation magazine in the world remains unchallenged.

This reputation has been built on the efforts of a line of dedicated editors and their teams of support personnel, their sponsors, as well as their numerous translators. The careful attention to selection and translation of well-written originals, followed by meticulous editing has allowed *Renditions* to stand ahead of other Chinese-English translation magazines.

Translation serves to erase linguistic barriers between cultures and hence allows communication between peoples. A literary work comprises to varying degrees an author's striving in a specific language to communicate his or her meditations, ethics, morality and aesthetics to others. The literary translator may therefore be perceived also as facilitating communication at all these levels between cultures. Whereas a literary work represents an author's striving to communicate within a specific language, literary translation takes the author's work beyond the confines of that specific language into a second-language domain and hence encourages greater understanding across cultures in the world.

I offer my warm congratulations to *Renditions* for its thirty years of sustained achievements in literary translation from Chinese to English, and to all who have contributed to this important enterprise.

Mahel Lee