

Charting New Seas

Mary M.Y. Fung

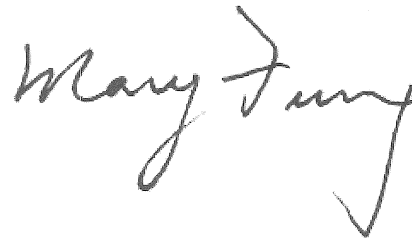
taught Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature and Translation at the University of Hong Kong from 1966 to 1994. Her translations of poetry first appeared in *Renditions* in 2001.



Although I have followed the course of *Renditions* since its inauguration in 1973, and read with interest its many well-prepared issues, especially those on modern and contemporary Chinese literature, my involvement with the magazine as a contributor is very recent. Having been in the field of translation studies for more than thirty years, my work had been mainly concerned with translating from English into Chinese, both in theory and in practice. It was the 'Dialogue Among Civilizations Through Poetry' organized by the Chinese University's Research Centre for Translation in early 2001 that 'press-ganged' me into service, translating local poetry into English. I had so much fun 'translating the other way round' that I never regretted taking up the challenge. Lo! It's like a wide expanse of ocean suddenly coming into view, on which one is free to explore. In the process of translating, especially in the

stage of preparation for the press, I came to realize how true translating is negotiation and cooperation. You may be affronted by the editorial comments and suggestions at first sight, but later find that they actually stimulate your thinking in directions that will ultimately bring improvement to the finished work. After these exercises I feel I am now a more rounded person as a translator.

Then in connection with translation work, there is the joy of meeting new friends, first in cyberspace and then in person. I am especially thankful to the Editor, through whose introduction, I've found a most able and understanding collaborator. We are now embarking on a project translating Bian Zhilin's 卞之琳 poetry into English. As a sometime researcher on Bian, I had not covered this area before. I am very glad that I could do it now and offer this as a tribute to Bian, who passed away in December 2000. ☒

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Fung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping 'y' and a checkmark-like tail.