

Behind the Scenes

Audrey Heijns

joined the staff of *Renditions* as Assistant Editor in 2001.

Coming from European soils it is quite a unique opportunity to contribute to *Renditions*. Back in my schooldays at Leiden University, this oriental literary journal was like an exotic, academic institution far away. Then in 2001, I was so lucky to join the Research Centre for Translation and actually take part in the production of this fine journal. To give you a glimpse inside the *Renditions* offices, I'll take you on an imaginary tour. Visualize through my eyes the place where an issue of *Renditions* is incepted, illustrated, edited, produced, printed ...

Let's start on the hilly, green and spacious campus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Walk through the main door of the Institute of Chinese Studies and turn right. Feel your way up the dim stairs and walk past the warning sign of 'No Sightseeing'. First visit the offices where new ideas for *Renditions* are conceived, conceptualized and planned. These are the connecting rooms of Eva Hung and Alena Chow. Alena's office is small but cozy, full of *Renditions* publications and textbooks on all sorts of computer software. Alena does magic with the website of the journal. Walk through the office of Alena into the light of Dr Hung's office. African violets on the window sill, a huge painting and calligraphy on one wall, and rows of books on translation studies and Chinese literature covering another wall. Here's where the whole process of a *Renditions* publication is incepted and monitored, from first concept to editing, writing the editorial lines and making the last crucial corrections before another issue goes to print.

Next door is where the production is done. Enter the office of Cecilia Ip with many files and illustrations neatly stacked on desk and shelves. Cecilia works on the layout of texts and illustrations of each issue. And when all is completed she contacts the printer. Walk through the office of Cecilia into Mr Tam's. Amidst his dictionaries and reference works Mr Tam takes care of publicity and copyright business, sets up contracts with the authors and translators and deals with the reprint requests.

Then next door there are the quiet offices of David Pollard, the Advisory Editor. He's there and he's not, but he plays a vital role in translating and editing many of the texts in *Renditions*. And more ...

Last but not least are the offices of research. Upon entering there's a rather large front room with a small library of Chinese literature, magazines, dictionaries. This is the place where the weekly meetings are held and ideas and progress are discussed. In the back there are two bright rooms for the researchers. One of these is temporarily occupied by Alice Cheang, editor of *The Silver Treasury of Chinese Lyrics*. In the other room is a desk covered with papers and books lightened up by natural light falling through large windows that reach the five-metre high ceilings. It is here and in the library that I conduct research on themes of the journal and the biographies of authors.

Of course this is just a brief impression. Limited by space I haven't even mentioned how manuscripts travel from one desk to another. But one thing is clear, the colleagues at *Renditions* work in a team producing each issue of the journal neatly and effectively and I'm happy to take part in it. ☒



The *Renditions* team, 2001.

Andrey Hejns