# **The Renditions Experience 1973-2003**

譯叢點滴

40th Anniversary of CUHK

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# **The Renditions Experience 1973-2003**



Edited by Eva Hung 孔慧怡編

Sponsored by Mr George Kao 高克毅先生贊助出版

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### A Note from the Editor

A few decades ago, there was a rather well-known saying in Hong Kong that went something like this: if you want to see an enemy ruined, all you have to do is encourage him to publish a literary journal. Little has changed since those days—the market for literary works in Hong Kong is still miniscule, and local publishers are still wary of getting burned. It may therefore seem rather strange that a locally based English-language journal devoted to Chinese literature should now be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

But *Renditions* is fundamentally different from other local literary journals in that it is aimed at an English readership, and its mission early attracted both institutional and foundation support. It was conceived in an internationally-oriented university which has the development and propagation of Chinese culture as one of its main goals, and could count on the then fast developing field of Sinology (now Chinese Studies) in Europe and North America as a rich source of contributions. At the same time, in concentrating on good writing that provides insight or pleasure, it has remained largely free from the fluctuations in academic fads and trends. While Chinese Studies is important to *Renditions*, it has never been the journal's sole *raison d'être*. After all, literary translation occupied an extremely important position in China's reinvention of her own culture in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a tradition which nurtured our two founding editors. While they understood the importance of the lecture room, they would not have wanted to be confined within its walls. As for the present incumbent, fortified by years of research into Chinese translation history, taking the long view has become a matter of habit.

And the long view tells us that to publish a journal is easy—particularly in these days of desktop publishing—but to sustain one of recognized quality requires a lot more than technology and funding. It calls for a dedicated staff as well as the long-term support of translators, writers, readers, teachers, well-wishers and critics. This slim volume showcases the experiences of some of our supporters and collaborators. Like pieces of a jigsaw, they give a suggestion of what the full picture looks like. The rest is up to our imagination.

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### 編者的話

幾十年前香港有個流行的說法:假如你想害某一個人,只需要鼓勵他出版文藝雜誌。雖然幾十年過去了,但情況卻沒有多大改變,文藝書籍在香港的市場仍然微不足道,本地出版商對文藝作品也還是抱有戒心。但今日一本在香港出版,以中國文學爲題材的英語期刊卻慶祝三十周年,這可能讓人覺得有點驚訝。

不過《譯叢》和香港其他文藝刊物在本質上有很大的分別。第一,它的讀者群不在華人社會,而在英語世界;第二,《譯叢》的文化使命讓它從創刊開始就能吸引基金會和學術機構的支持。這份刊物最大的幸運,是構思於一家有國際視野、又以發揚中國文化爲己任的大學,而創刊後又得到在歐洲和北美蓬勃發展的漢學界作爲豐厚的稿源。同時,由於《譯叢》的著眼點在文學作品本身,選材或怡人心性,或發人深省,所以並沒有受到學術界此起彼落的時興潮流所左右。西方漢學界對《譯叢》來說,固然有點唇齒相依的關係,但卻從來不是《譯叢》存在的唯一理由。說到底,文學翻譯在 20 世紀初中國的文化改革大潮中,佔有極重要的位置,而正是這個文化傳統孕育了《譯叢》兩位創刊編輯。他們固然了解到大學講室可以發揮的威力,但也絕不希望影響力囿於講室之中。至於《譯叢》的現任編輯,長年浸淫於中國翻譯史的研究,早已養成凡事要看得遠的習慣。

如果我們把眼光放遠一點,就會知道出版一本期刊其實並不困難——現在有了網上出版的技術,就更容易了——但要長期維持一本有口碑的刊物,就不光是要得到經濟和技術支持那麼簡單了。刊物需要一群有忘我精神的工作人員,但更需要譯者、作者、讀者、教師、評家和擁護者的長期支持。這本小冊子爲大家展示了《譯叢》部份支持者和合作夥伴的經歷,每一篇文章就像拼圖遊戲的一塊碎片,讓我們看到一個小角落的風景,至於整幅圖畫到底是甚麼模樣,還得靠我們發揮想像力去描繪出來。

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