

Editor's Page

This edition marks our 100th issue, a landmark that follows fifty full years of publishing our journal. We have throughout our existence attempted to follow in the footsteps of our founding editors, George Kao and Stephen C. Soong, by publishing important translations, and have been in effect the only journal that does what we do: print accurate and more often than not elegant translations of all literary genres from every period of Chinese history. As an added bonus, we have been from time to time fortunate enough to publish significant translations of work concerning Chinese literary and intellectual history, thereby rounding out our rich offerings. As the saying goes, however, there is no banquet that does not end, and we have with much regret come to the conclusion that the 100th issue will have to be our final one. The periodical market has been in decline for some time now, and we have decidedly not been exempt from that trend, added to which are virtually insuperable personnel issues: with my retirement this past fall, the likelihood of finding an appropriate successor appeared ever more remote, and rather than struggle on with a makeshift crew on an uncertain passage, it seemed for the best that we quit while still in robust health and in the both fortunate and regrettable position of having fine submissions substantially outstripping our capacity to publish them. Happily, Renditions Books will continue on, with Robert E. Hegel's superb translation of the late-Ming-dynasty writer Yuan Yuling's 袁于令 epic novel, *Forgotten Tales of the Sui* 隋史遺文 to appear soon, followed shortly thereafter, by Simon Schuchat's excellent rendering of the modern writer Zhang Henshui's 張恨水 overlooked masterpiece, *Eighty-One Dreams* 八十一夢.

That we have continued to play an important role in literary communication between the Chinese-speaking realm and the world of letters in English is testified to by the extensive collection of pieces we have assembled for this valedictory issue. Whereas this space is traditionally occupied by brief remarks about the work we are publishing in our current offering, along with a list of the names of the translators, given the embarrassment of riches collected here such

a list would prove to be too unwieldy, so I must leave it to readers to consult the table of contents and make their own choices.

When I assumed the post of chief editor some fourteen years ago I did so with more than a little trepidation: the mantle being passed to me seemed extraordinarily heavy, and I was genuinely unsure if I would be able to hold up under it. As time passed, however, I grew not just accustomed to but extremely enthusiastic about the job: the chance to read and edit so many fine samples of literature so well translated, and to see the work immediately published was one that could not weary me, and to get to know so many diverse translators—each with his or her own particular genius—was a great pleasure. Perhaps the most satisfying part of my tenure was the ability to put together and/or collaborate on special issues that concentrated either on one writer or a specific literary genre, such as our memorable compendia of Yang Jiang’s 楊絳 work and of Chinese science fiction.

It would be remiss of me not to mention all the excellent staff who have shared the work of *Renditions* since I came on board in 2010: their skill and dedication have added immeasurably to the pleasures of working here. While I cannot enumerate them all, I want to thank especially the most recent members of the staff: Sunny Yuchen Liu and Emily Suet Yi Lau, whose wise counsel, brilliant research capabilities, and editorial skills made working here so gratifying. I need also to thank Lawrence Wang-chi Wong, director of the Research Centre for Translation, the organization in which we have been housed: no one could have asked for a more supportive or congenial boss (loath as he is for me to use that word!), who did everything he could to make the course of our work as smooth as possible. There is yet sadder news, however: we note with regret that this writing coincides with the news of the passing of David E. Pollard, who for so many years was a key contributor and supporter of the journal’s work.

The journal’s existence has paralleled one of the momentous periods in Chinese history, and in many ways has held up a mirror to it, so it is our hope that you, our readers, can reflect on what the journal’s work has meant to you in these interesting times.

If it turns out readers end up missing the journal even a fraction as much as we enjoyed putting it together, then our work will not have been in vain. We humbly thank you for your support over the years.

—Theodore Hutters