Working Bibliography – Translations and Studies of Chinese Poetry

A. Translations and studies of Chinese poetry
B. Translation studies; criticism of translation of Chinese poetry; China and the West
C. Bibliographies and selected sinology

A. Translations and studies of Chinese poetry

• Note: The list is neither complete nor selective, particularly for more recent work. Not free from errors of omission, fact, and judgment.

  • Discussion of Shijing and prose translations of eight poems.


Morrison, Robert. 1815. A Dictionary of the Chinese Language, in Three Parts…. Macao: East India Company Press, by P.P. Thoms. [scattered references, e.g. in entry on Meng Haoran]


Weston, Stephen. n.d. A Specimen of Picturesque Poetry, in Chinese, Inscribed on a Cup in the possession of Lady Banks and dedicated to her ladyship by the translator - S.W. • 4 pages: Chinese text, an English “Version”, character-by-character transliterations, word-for-word English. The poem (handwritten in vertical right-to-left lines): 南楼夜雨晓初晴,几案山光照眼明。—爾細評蒙頂味,隔墻叢竹鷓鴣鳴。The “Version”: “It rains all night, but in the morn returns / Sol’s orient beam, and darts its rising light, / Reflect’d from the hill, on your bright eyes, / Whilst in your lofty chamber to the South / Before your table placed, you sip the high / Flavour’d souchong; and tow’ring ’bove the wall, / Perch’d on a clump of bamboos, the Chay-koo sings”.


  • Vol. 5 on poetry. Waley (170 Chinese Poems) says it was a key source for later translators, including Giles’ *Chinese Poetry*.


Edkins, Joseph. 1889. “On the Poets of China During the Period of the Contending States and of the Han Dynasty”. *Journal of the Peking Oriental Society* 2.4: 201-39. [early essay on *Chuci* and a number of *fu*]


  • Giles’s memoir (1894 and 1898 entries; see *East Asian History* 13-14 (1997): 1-90) notes “Chinese Poetry in English Verse”, published in the January 1894 *Nineteenth Century*, as basis for this work.


• “…the poems rendered in this volume were written about three hundred years ago, by poets who lived in or around the strange old city of Canton. A large majority of the Chinese poets is reported to have come from the same district” (p. 52).


Budd, Charles. 1911. *A Few Famous Chinese Poems*. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh. [Not seen.]


Budd, Charles. 1912. *Chinese Poems*. London: Oxford University Press. [same as above?]


Pound, Ezra. 1915. *Cathay: Translations by Ezra Pound; for the most part from the Chinese of Rihaku, from the notes of the late Ernest Fenollosa, and the decipherings of the professors Mori and Ariga*. London: E. Mathews. [Many studies. For poem identifications see Achilles Fang, "Fenollosa and Pound" (HJAS 20.1/2 (1957): 213-38)]


  • Reviewed by Waley in TLS.

   • Note first publications in BSOS 1.1 (1917), and influential reception in TLS.


   • Note Lowell-Ayscough correspondence, in MacNair, ed. 1945. See Huang 2002.


- The bibliography at pp. 215-218 gives a good overview of Chinese poetry in Western translation by this point – German works stand out. Reviewed by Waley in TLS.

Tsen Tsonming. 1923. Anciens Poèmes chinois d'auteurs inconnus. Lyons: Joannès Desvignes. [Not seen]


[Journal] 1924-34, 1949-75 (New Series), 1988-present (Third Series). Asia Major. Based in Germany, then England, now Taipei. [Regular contributions on poetry and related topics (history, classical language, etc.); 1.1 (1924) has von Zach translations of Li Bai. http://www.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/~asiamajor/, with full-text for all but most recent issues.]


- Note: increased scholarship on poetry with inauguration of Asia Major.

Zach, Erwin von. 1924. Li Bai in Asia Major 1 (1924), 3 (1926), 4 (1927), 5 (1930); Du Fu in Asia Major 2 (1925).

- note Ayscough's English translation of same Du Fu poem in Asia Major 10 (1934)


- See study in Alleton and Lackner, ed. 1999.


• Review by Pelliot in TP 28.1/2 (1931) lists earlier translations of Li Sao: Pfizmaier into German in 1852, d'Hervey de Saint-Denys into French in 1870, Parker into English in 1879, and Legge in 1895. Cf Biallas 1927.


• Greenwood reprint of 1968 describes 1933, 1938 copyright Regents of University of California; 1954 copyright Stanford. 35 page intro includes “Problems of Translation”. Bibliography. Revised editions?


   • Post-war reissue. Note also Waley 1941.


   • Compiled in Kunming, 1942-46, with aid of Chinese scholars at Xinan lianda.


   • Review by Hightower, HJAS 12.1/2 (June 1949): 231-37.


Hoffman, Alfred. 1951. *Frühlingsblüten und Herbstmond*. Köln: Greven. [not seen; on *ci*-lyrics]


- Note Appendix II, “Problems in the Translation of Chinese Poetry”.
- Review by Hightower (HJAS 16.1/2 (June 1953): 265-70. Closes with reflections on what translation *should* be. And interesting to see what mistakes Acker made – many rather obvious to students in our day).


- Hightower (p. x): complete Han Yu and Du Fu, with Li Bai complete but for a hundred poems Zach thought had been done well.


- Hightower pp. ix-x: “The reader who knows no Chinese will find this book a means of controlling the accuracy of other published versions of Tu Fu which may present the poems in a more poetic garb”


[Journal]. 1954-. *Journal of Oriental Studies* 東方文化. Currently co-published by University of Hong Kong and Stanford University. [Articles in Chinese and English; some on poetics and east-west interaction]


- Footnote in Fang intro says “A volume containing a sound key to the 305 Odes (transcriptions of each syllable of the poems), along with the Chinese text in seal script and the present English translation, will be published by the Harvard University Press.” Pound “has agreed to the publication of present volume” but “does not believe that [quote from Pound] ‘there can be any real understanding of a good Chinese poem without knowledge both of the ideogram reaching the eye, and the metrical and melodic form reaching the ear or aural imagination’” (p. xiv)


- Influential series of translations of Chinese poetry with accessible commentary by leading Japanese scholars.
• 1st series (1958): Shijiing (Guofeng; 2 vol.); Cao Zhi; Tao Yuanming; Han Shan; Wang Wei; Li Bai (2 vol.); Du Fu (2 vol.); Han Yu; Bai Juyi (2 vol.); Li He; Li Shangyin; Li Yu 李煜; and general intro to Tang poetry by Ogawa.

• 2nd series (1962): General intro to Song poetry, and to Yuan-Ming-Qing poetry, both by Yoshikawa (see later translation); Mei Yaochen; Wang Anshi; Su Shi (2 vol.); Huang Tingjian; Lu You; Yuan Haowen; Gao Qi; Yuan Hongdao; Wu Weiye; Wang Shizhen 王士禎; Gong Zizhen; Huang Zunxian.


* Original edition part of UNESCO Chinese series.


• This might be a watershed point, marking the beginning of the mature study of Chinese poetry in English. Review by Hans Frankel in HJAS 24 (1962-63): 260-70.


Vanderbilt UP, 1970. [more *ci*, followed by Bai Juyi’s “Pipa xing” and “Changhen ge”.


- Poetry entry in the Columbia College program that produced de Bary’s *Sources of Chinese Tradition.* James Liu review (JAOS 86.2-252-54): “much more colloquial and less ‘literary’ than the original poems” (252).

- Note: This is the first entry in this series, published through the 1980s, with volumes on: Du Fu (by A.R. Davis), Xin Qiji (Irving Yucheng Lo), Su Manshu (Liu Wuji), Liu Zongyuan (William H. Nienhauser et. al.), Jiang Kui (Timothy A. Ross), Gong Zizhen (Shirleen S. Wong), Xiao Gang (John Marney), Yang Wanli (J.D. Schmidt), Lu You (Michael S. Duke), Yuan Zhen (Angela C.Y. Jung Palandri), Gao Shi (Marie Chan), Li He (Kuo-ch’ing T’u), Pi Rixiu (Nienhauser), Wen Yiduo (Kai-yu Hsu), Guan Yunshi (Richard John Lynn), Wang Wei (Marsha L. Wagner), Jiang Yan (John Marney) and Meng Haoran (Paul Kroll).


- Review by Demieville in TP 56.4/5 (1970)


Liu Shih-Shun. 1967. *One Hundred and One Chinese Poems, with English Translations and a Preface by Shih Shun Liu; Introductory by Edmund Blunden; Foreword by John Cairncross, with seven additional translations.* Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP.
- Cross-references to other translations in index. Preface is Liu's criticisms of others’ misunderstandings. Reviews by D.R. Jonker in TP 55.4/5 (1969); A.C. Graham in BSOAS 31.3.
  • Review by Holzman in TP 55.1/3.


  • Review by David Hawkes in TP 55.1/3 (1969).


Wells, Henry W. 1968. *Ancient Poetry from China, Japan and India*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press. [Note also Wells on Li He (Tamkang Review 6.1) and Du Fu (Tamkang Review 5.1)]


  • For Chen bibliography, see CLEAR 3.1 (1981):150-54. Also rpt. of Chinese essays, Taipei 1972; e.g., BIHP 1958 article on “time and scansion” in Chinese poetry.


- Important conference volume; but many previously published elsewhere. Note Ch‘en Shih-Hsiang, “The Shi-ching: Its Generic Significance in Chinese Literary History and Poetics” (Shijing); David Hawkes, “The Quest of the Goddess” (Chuci); Hans Frankel, “Yüeh-fu Poetry” (yuefu); James Robert Hightower, “Allusion in the Poetry of T’ao Ch’ien” (Tao Qian); James J.Y. Liu, “Some Literary Qualities of the Lyric (Tz’u)” (Ci poetry); Yeh Chia-ying, “Wu Wen-ying’s Tz’u: A Modern View” (Wu Wenying).


  • part of planned 6 volume series. 20 pp. general introduction, followed by selections and commentary on Tao Yuanming, Xie Lingyun, Wang Wei, Meng Haoran, Liu Zongyuan. “On the whole, I have thought in terms of lines and couplets rather than of words and phrases, the consideration being that each pair of lines should complement each other as in the original Chinese” (p. 18)


  • Note study by Paula Varsano in Chan 2003.


Lai, T.C., and Moica Lai. 1978. *The Young Cowherd and Other Poems*. Hong Kong: Kelly and Walsh. [Other works by Lai?]


Rickett, Adele, ed. 1978. *Chinese Approaches to Literature from Confucius to Liang Ch’i-ch’ao*. Princeton UP.


  * Some individual articles listed below, but not comprehensively. Note CLEAR 30 (2008): Egan on circulation of books in Song; Grace Fong on Qing woman poet; Charles Hartman on Du Fu in the Song; Michelle Yeh on modernist poetics; Pauline Yu on “hiding” in Chinese poetry.


- Introduction (12-13) makes case against reproducing Chinese syntax of parallelism.


http://www.tangstudies.org/Index.html
http://chinesesites.library.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/tang


[Various authors]. 1984. *Renditions* (Hong Kong) 21/22: Special Issue on “Poetry and Poetics”.


• Note also Schafer bibliography in *T’ang Studies* 8-9 (1990-91).


http://utdallas.edu/~jmf073000/emc/Early_Medieval_China.html
http://chinesesites.library.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/emc


• Valuable eyewitness account – apparently not published in English or Chinese?


• Translation of Qian Zhongshu’s essays. See also Theodore Huters, Qian Zhongshu (Boston: Twayne, 1982).


• Collection of published articles. Also from same publisher, same year: Immortals, Festivals, and Poetry in Medieval China: Studies in Social and Intellectual History.


• Elegantly presented and pleasing translations, with Chinese text that shows how bizarrely inaccurate they are.


• Review by Nienhauser, TP 88.1/3 (2002).


- Note also Branner, “‘Red Cliffś’ in Taiwanese Hânbûn”. *CHINOPERL* 2003: 67-100.


- review by Holzman TP 90.4/5 (2004).


Lewis, Mark Edward. 2006. *The Construction of Space in Early China*. SUNY UP. [Ch. 4 and 5 on capital *fu* of Ban Gu, Zhang Heng and Zuo Si.]


• Note also same author’s *Walking Into My World of Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology* (Fredericksburg VA: Emnes, 2009), his own compositions in classical forms as a member of a contemporary poetry society.


• Note also Swartz, “Naturalness in Xie Lingyun’s Poetic Works” (HJAS 70.2 (2010): 355-386).


Crevel, Maghiel van, Tian Yuan Tan, and Michel Hockx, ed. 2009. *Text, Performance, and Gender in Chinese Literature and Music: Essays in Honor of Wilt Idema*. Brill. [Owen on Du Fu’s “Qian chusai” series; Mair on Bai Juyi; Knechtges translation of Luo Binwang; Beata Grant on Gu Taiqing’s Daoist poetry; and many others (Dudbridge, Stephen West; Ellen Widmer, etc. touching on various kinds of poetry.]


Kroll, Paul W. 2009. *Essays in Medieval Chinese Literature and Cultural History*. Farnham UK and Burlington VT: Ashgate. [Collection of articles; also, another Ashgate collection on Taoism and Li Bai.]


• State of the field, note p. 14: “To a surprising degree, however, Western studies of Tang poetry have not yet pushed very far beyond those poets ensconced by Sun Zhu in the eighteenth-century *Tangshi sanbaishou*, an anthology, we remember, that was meant originally for children”.


**B. Translation studies; criticism of translation of Chinese poetry; China and the West**

- The three kinds of works listed here are not necessarily connected, and even within one of the rubrics there may not be a great deal of interaction. Listing them together, however, may suggest some new directions for the translation of Chinese poetry in practice and in theory.

  Many of the translations listed in section A contain critical remarks on the translation of Chinese poetry and could equally be listed here, and some materials listed here might have gone in the former section.


- Not seen. Note: also published a *Poems to Wu* in Shanghai in 1925.


- Relevant for thinking about the place of language. Note Ming Xie, “Trying to Be on Both Sides of the Mirror at Once: I. A. Richards, Multiple Definition, and Comparative Method”. *Comparative Literature Studies* 44.3 (2007): 279-297.


• See also Paul Kroll review of latter, CLEAR 2.2 (July 1980): 271-73.


• With Arrowsmith 1961, seminal conference volume of this period. Includes annotated chronological bibliography of “translation studies” (not yet by that name). Essays by Nida, Jakobson, Nabokov, Quine, Hollander and others. Achilles Fang’s essay on Chinese reappears (unaltered?) here.


- As a study of Pound, now supplemented by more recent works that have had greater access to archival materials. But this book is valuable as a general inquiry into the nature of Chinese poetry, especially as it is presented in translation.


- Tour de force on single Catullus poem; but conclusions (99-104) are hardly an advance. Note also several Lefevere pieces in *Tamkang Review*.


- Early attempt at establishing “translation studies” as a field of study. Site of Gideon Toury’s “The Nature and Role of Norms in Literary Translation”.
  - Categorized bibliography.


[Interesting account of process, esp. p. 252]


- Edited by Gregory Orr from “over 100 pages of original material” from panel discussions at Academy of American Poets event April 21-23, 1977. 25 pages of
comments from: Gary Snyder, Kenneth Rexroth, Jonathan Chaves, James Wright, David Lattimore, W.S. Merwin, Wai-lim Yip, Robert Bly, Stanley Kunitz, Hans Frankel; translations by Chaves (Ming poetry), Lattimore (Du Fu’s Fengxian xian) and Weinberger (Wang Wei and Mao Zedong); abstracts from Yip, Ling Chung and Wang Hui-Ming.


  • Also in this issue, articles on translation of Li Qingzhao; Rexroth's Du Fu; Rexroth's Li Qingzhao; Knechtges on binomes in the fu; Andre Lefevere; Song ci-lyrics; Joseph Lau on “translation as interpretation”.


- 1985 editors' forward notes that a briefer version was compiled and published by Lü in 1948 in Shanghai, with a 1980 reprint. Useful prefaces in Chinese by Lü (1947) and Xu (1985).


Chan, Sin-wai, ed. 2001. *Translation in Hong Kong: Past, Present and Future*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press. [Note especially Chen Man Sing on 19th century translators in Hong Kong and Leo Tak-hung Chan on translation studies in Hong Kong (with reference to China, Taiwan, and the diaspora)].


• Note essays on Percy, Davis, Francois Cheng, translations into German and Hebrew. Idema on re-translations into Dutch (esp. pp. 223-27).


• Note here Lin Jinshui, “The Function of Poetry in Recording Events and Verifying History: Jesuit Activities in Fujian from the Mirror of Poems to Giulio Aleni by Fujian Scholars” and Federico Masini, “Chinese Dictionaries Prepared by Western Missionaries in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”


Burke, Peter and R. Po-Chia Hsia, ed. 2007. Cultural Translation in Early Modern Europe. Cambridge UP.


• Special issue on “Literary Translation: Current Issues and New Approaches”


Gentz, Joachim, with Ella Chmielewska, Hannah Sommerseth, and Jack Burton. 2009. Keywords Re-Oriented. Göttingen UP. [attempt to write a Keywords for students in Chinese studies]


• Critical of the lack of integration between area studies and translation studies: “The suppression of theoretical issues involving translation … was a strategy, conscious or unconscious, which strengthened Sinologists’ claims to knowledge” (60).

• pp. 141-58 on translation; good bibliography at 273-83, from which note following theses:


C. Bibliographies and selected sinology

• NB: Incomplete (obviously!)


Davidson, Martha. 1957. A List of Published Translations from Chinese into English, French, and German. Parts I (Literature, exclusive of poetry) and II (Poetry). New Haven: Yale Far Eastern Publications.


  - Note also Lynn, *Chinese Literature: A Draft Bibliography in Western European Languages* (Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1980).

  - Note Volume 2, issued in 1998.
  - Review by Knechtges and Taiping Chang, JAOS 107.2 (1987)

  - Collection now put online by Brill: [http://www.primarysourcesonline.nl/c32/](http://www.primarysourcesonline.nl/c32/).


Li Xueqin, ed. 1996. *Guoji Hanxue zhuzuo tiyao* 國際漢學著作提要 (Abstracts of Selected Sinology Works). Nanchang: Jiangxi jiaoyu. [Useful work for those of us who have not read everything]


- Reviews by Kern and Hegel (CLEAR 26) and Mather (JAOS 123).


- Part of Brill’s obscenely priced “Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section Four, China” series: http://www.brill.nl/publications/handbook-oriental-studies-section-4-china