

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Monsoon 2019

Andrea Lingenfelter's translations include *The Changing Room: Selected Poetry of Zhai Yongming* (Northern California Book Award winner), Hon Lai Chu's *The Kite Family*, (NEA Translation Fellowship grantee), Li Pik-wah's *Farewell My Concubine* and *Candy* by Mian Mian. Her translations have appeared in *Manoa*, *Granta*, *Chinese Literature Today*, *Pathlight*, *Zoland Poetry Annual*, *Words Without Borders*, *Asian CHA*, *Two Lines*, and elsewhere. Current translation projects include poetry by Wang Yin and Zhai Yongming's *Following Huang Gongwang Through the Fuchun Mountains*, and Wang Anyi's novel *Scent of Heaven*.

Ashis Nandy is one of India's most significant thinkers and public intellectuals. His work spans the fields of political psychology, sociology, nationalism, public conscience and culture. He is the author of many books, some of them seminal in Indian thought, such as *The Intimate Enemy*, and *The Savage Freud*. For many years he was a Fellow and a Director of the Centre for Developing Societies in New Delhi. He was awarded the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007, and the Hans Kilian Award in 2019.

David Herd's collections of poetry include *All Just* (Carcenet 2012), *Outwith* (Bookthug 2012), and *Through* (Carcenet, 2016). He has given readings and lectures in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, India, Italy, Poland, the USA and the UK, and his poems, essays and reviews have been widely published in magazines, journals and newspapers. He is the author of *John Ashbery and American Poetry* (2000), *Enthusiast! Essays on Modern American Literature* (2007), and the editor of *Contemporary Olson* (2015). His recent writings on the politics of human movement have appeared in *Detention Unlocked*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Parallax*, *PN Review* and the *TLS*. He is a co-organiser of the project *Refugee Tales* and Professor of Modern Literature at the University of Kent.

Han Shaogong 韩少功 is one of the representative names of Chinese contemporary literature, often mentioned in the same breath as Wang Meng, Feng Jikai and Liu Suola. During the mid-eighties, he led the development of a literary school called "Root-seeking literature," the practitioners of which sought to distill an independent, "Chinese" narrative

from their rural backgrounds. Something of a hermit, Han Shaogong moved back to the countryside of his native Hunan province after several years working for the Writer's Association of Hainan. A prolific writer, Han Shaogong is famous for his novellas *Da Da Da* and *Woman Woman Woman*, as well as for the full-length novel *A Dictionary of Maqiao*, first published in 1996 and translated by Julia Lovell into English in 2003. In 1987, he collaborated on a translation of Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* into Chinese.

Julia Lovell teaches modern Chinese history and literature at Birkbeck College, University of London. She is the author of *The Politics of Cultural Capital: China's Quest for a Nobel Prize in Literature*, *The Great Wall: China Against the World* and *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China*. Her several translations of modern Chinese fiction include Han Shaogong's *A Dictionary of Maqiao* (winner of 2011 Newman Prize for Chinese Literature), Zhu Wen's *I Love Dollars*, and Lu Xun's *The Real Story of Ah-Q, and Other Tales of China*. Recipient of the Philip Leverhulme Prize, she is currently working on a global history of Maoism.

Lucas Klein is a father, writer, and translator, as well as assistant professor in the School of Chinese at the University of Hong Kong. His translation *Notes on the Mosquito: Selected Poems of Xi Chuan* (New Directions) won the 2013 Lucien Stryk Prize, and his scholarship and criticism has appeared in *Comparative Literature Studies*, *LARB*, *Jacket*, *CLEAR*, *PMLA*, and other venues. Other publications include *October Dedications*, his translations of the poetry of Mang Ke (Zephyr and Chinese University Press, 2018), and contributions to *Li Shangyin* (New York Review Books, 2018), as well as the monograph *The Organization of Distance: Poetry, Translation, Chineseness* (Brill, 2018). His translations of the poetry of Duo Duo, forthcoming from Yale University Press, recently won a PEN/Heim Translation Fund grant.

Lydia H. Liu received a bicultural education in China and the United States. She completed her Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature from Harvard University in 1990. After that, she taught at UC Berkeley for more than a decade (1990-2002) where she eventually became the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures. She also taught at the University of Michigan in 2004-2006 and held the chair of

the Helmut Stern Professorship in Chinese Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature. Her research and publications have focused on cultural exchange in modern history and literature, the movement of words, ideas, and artifacts across national boundaries, political thought in translation, and the evolution of writing, textuality, and technology. She is the author of *The Freudian Robot: Digital Media and the Future of the Unconscious* (University of Chicago Press, 2010).

Her other books include *The Clash of Empires: The Invention of China in Modern World Making* (2004); *Tokens of Exchange: The Problem of Translation in Global Circulations* (editor, 1999); *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity* (1995); and *Writing and Materiality in China* (co-edited with Judith Zeitlin, 2003). As a creative writer in Chinese, she published a book (in Chinese) called *The Nesbit Code* with Oxford University Press in Hong Kong which received the 2014 Hong Kong Book Award.

Ouyang Jianghe 欧阳江河 is a poet, critic, calligrapher, professor of Creative Writing at Beijing Normal University, and publication director of *Jintian (Today)*. Born in 1956 in Luzhou, Sichuan, he is the author of over ten books of poetry and criticism published in mainland China, as well as the recipient of the Chinese Literature Media Award in Poetry and the Cambridge University's Silver Willow award. His works have been translated into over ten languages, including the books *Doubled Shadows* and *Phoenix*, translated into English by Austin Woerner and published by Zephyr Press.

Srinivas Rayaprol was born in 1925 in Secunderabad. He studied in Nizam College, Hyderabad and at the Banaras Hindu University before going to Stanford University from where he obtained an M.S. in Civil Engineering. While in the U.S., he started writing poetry in English and interacted closely with writers like William Carlos Williams, Yvor Winters, and James Laughlin. His correspondence with Williams has been published as *Why Should I Write a Poem Now: The Letters of Srinivas Rayaprol and William Carlos Williams* (2018), edited by Graziano Krätli. His books of poetry include *Married Love and Other Poems* (1972) and *Selected Poems* (1995).

Xi Chuan 西川 (penname of Liu Jun 刘军) was born in Jiangsu in 1963 but grew up in Beijing, where he still lives. One of contemporary China's most celebrated poets, having won

the Lu Xun Prize for Literature (2001) and the Zhuang Zhongwen Prize (2003), he is also one of its most hyphenated littérateurs—teacher-essayist-translator-editor-poet, and has been described by American writer Eliot Weinberger as a “polymath, equally at home discussing the latest American poetry or Shang Dynasty numismatics.” A graduate of the English department of Beijing University, where his thesis was on Ezra Pound’s Chinese translations, he is currently professor Creative Writing at Beijing Normal University. He was recently awarded Sweden’s Cikada Prize.

Zhai Yongming 翟永明, born in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, graduated from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. She then worked as a physics institute engineer until 1986. She began publishing poetry in 1981. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe, and has also lived in the United States for nearly two years, during which she toured the nation by car. Her poetry has received numerous awards, including the Zhongkun International Poetry Prize, the Best Ten Women Poets of China Award, the Italian Ceppo Pistoia International Literary Prize, the 31st Annual Northern California Book Awards and the Chinese Media Award. She was also invited to attend the San Francisco International Poetry Festival in the United States in 2009. Among her many poetry collections are *Woman; Above All Roses; The Collected Poems of Zhai Yongming; Call It All; Fourteen Plain Songs; and Interlinear Spaces*. Her poetry has been translated into English, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, and German. She has also published six collections of essays and literary criticism. She lives in Chengdu, where she owns and operates the art and literary bar, “White Nights”.