qián yán
前　言
Preface

The Tang Dynasty (618-907) was the golden age of Chinese poetry. In a period of almost 300 years, about 50,000 poems were composed and handed down, and more than 50 poets we re distinguished for their own works and style.

Chinese poetry reached its peak in the rising Tang Dynasty. Apart from the most famous Li Bai and Du Fu, many other poets also made enduring contributions in this period. These poets fall roughly into two categories: the landscape poets represented by Meng Haoran and Wang Wei and the frontier poets represented by Gao Shi and Cen Shen. Wang Changling, Li Qi, and Wang Zhihuan are other famous frontier poets.

Poetry of the mid-Tang Dynasty built on the creative output of the height of the Tang Dynasty. Works of this period mainly spoke of social turbulence and people's sufferings. Bai Juyi was eminent as a realist poet of this period. He carried on and developed the realist tradition of The Book of Poetry and the Wefu folksongs of the Han Dynasty, and inspired an outpouring of realist poetry in terms of literary theory and practices -- the new yuefu movement.

Poetry of the late Tang Dynasty exudes a strong sentimentality, observed in poets such as Du Mu (803-852) and Li Shangyin (813-858).

The late Tang Dynasty also witnessed the rise of a group of realist poets who carried on the spirit of the new yuefu movement. Followers of this school included Pi Rixiu, Nie Yizhong, and Du Xunhe, and their poems criticized social injustices.

guān yú yì zhě
关　于 译 者
About the electronic version

Tang Shi San Bai Shou

300 Tang Poems

Heng-t'ang-t'ui-Shih, 618-907

Creation of machine-readable version: Xuezhi Guo. Chung-ming Lung.

Conversion to TEI.P3-conformant markup: University of Virginia Electronic Text Center. University of Virginia Alderman Library Humanities Services.

University of Virginia Electronic Center

Charlottesville, VA

Alderman Library, University of Virginia Charlottesville VA 22903

1997 The Chinese version of this Tang Shi is edited by UVa based on Mr. Wei-chang Shan's electronic version.

English translations are primarily from Witter Bynner's Jade mountain. Translations of poems 001, 003, 039, 040, 042, 083 and 084 are from 300 Tang Poems of Commercial Press. Translations of poems 190, 191, 193 are from "Perspectives on the Tang" edited by Arthur Wright and Denis Twitchett, published by Yale University Press, 1973.

About the print version

The Jade Mountain

Translator Witter Bynner.

Alfred A.Knopf

New York



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About the print version

300 Tang Poems : a new translation

Editor Yuan-zhong Xu. Bei-yei Loh. Juntao Wu. Translator Various.

Commercial Press

Hong Kong

1987 Reproduced by permission of the Commercial Press (Hong Kong) Limited from the publication of "300 Tang Poems : A New Translation"

About the print version

Perspectives on the Tang

Editor Arthur Wright. Denis Twitchett.

Yale University Press

New Haven

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