

## FOREWORD

Since its inception two years ago, the Centre For Translation Projects has devoted its efforts to translating from English into Chinese. These projects will be continued. The present publication seeks to go in the other direction – Chinese to English – making accessible to Western readers selected Chinese writings in the humanistic fields. Its contents will be drawn from the whole span of Chinese literature, past and present. It will carry articles and excerpts of books under such rubrics as History, Philosophy, Literature, the Arts, etc. It will publish poetry, fiction, essays and criticism. There will also be special features to discuss and report on matters relating to translation.

There is today no lack of scholarly journals in the English language in the field of Chinese studies. *Renditions*, however, is designed for the general reader with an educated curiosity about Chinese culture, presenting to him materials originally intended for Chinese eyes. In this age of greater intercultural communication a new interest in the art of translation is evident. We are here primarily concerned with serving this interest by providing a place for the practice of Chinese-English translation. In the process, we hope that it also affords some fresh glimpses and insights into Chinese life and thought.

As quoted elsewhere in this issue, there are translations and translations. There is no such thing as a definitive translation, and *Renditions* does not aspire to the achievement of this result. What is found in these pages may be something hitherto unavailable in English, or it may be some oft-interpreted page from the classics, destined to be essayed many more times hence. Our translators range from experienced hands to young talent closer to home, perhaps some student from the University's burgeoning Department of Translation. In any case, contributions are welcome from Hong Kong and abroad, in this as yet limited fraternity of Chinese-English translators.

Though not intended as a bilingual magazine as such, each issue of *Renditions* will carry the Chinese texts of selected items in the interest of comparative study. Again, though this is not a reprint magazine, from time to time we will delight in uncovering material already published, whether translated from the Chinese or originally written in English, worthy of being introduced to a new audience.

That there is a niche to be filled by such a publication as *Renditions* is perhaps best indicated by the enthusiasm with which the idea was greeted by many distinguished bilingual scholars far and near, some of whom now serve on the Advisory Board. For their advice and encouragement, those who are associated with this magazine would like to express their appreciation. We also wish to thank the Asia Foundation for its contribution towards the printing of the inaugural issue. It is a source of satisfaction to all concerned that the launching of *Renditions* represents one of the activities marking the tenth anniversary of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

CHOH-MING LI  
Vice-Chancellor