



Contents

Foreword 1

PART ONE: ANCIENT CHINESE LITERATURE

by Yao Dan

***The Book of Songs: The Earliest Anthology of Poetry* 7**

“Folk Songs of Fifteen Regions” (*Guofeng*) 9

The Epic of the Western Zhou People 12

Prose Writings of Various Schools of Thought during the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States Period 17

Tao Te Ching 19

The Analects 23

Mencius 29

Zhuangzi 33



Qu Yuan: A Romantic Lyricist 41

Qu Yuan 42

The Lament on Encountering Sorrows 45

***Records of the Historian: The First and Last Work by Historians, Li Sao without Rhyme* 53**

Pre-Qin Historical Books 54

About *Records of the Historian* 56

Characterization in *Records of the Historian* 59

History and Literature 64





**Literature in the Wei and Jin Period: Jian'an
 Literature and Tao Yuanming 69**

Li Bai and Du Fu: the Two Summits of Tang Poetry 79

Li Bai—A Romantic Genius 80

Su Fu—A Compassionate Sage 89

Ci Poetry: Poems that can be Sung 101

Su Shi 105

Li Qingzhao 112

Xin Qiji 116

Two Outstanding Playwrights of Yuan Opera 121

Guan Hanqing 122

Wang Shifu 127

Classical Fiction in the Ming Dynasty 135

Romance of the Three Kingdoms 138

Outlaws of the Marsh 141

Journey to the West 145

**Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio:
 Short Stories of the Qing Dynasty 151**



**A Dream of Red Mansions: The Pinnacle
 of Classical Literature 161**

PART TWO: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LITERATURE

by Deng Jinhui, Wang Feng and Tang Huiyun

Lu Xun: Founder of New Vernacular Literature 177

The Transformation of Literature 178

Lu Xun 182



Modern Fiction: Echo of the Times 187

- Mao Dun and Modern Fiction 188
 Ba Jin and His “Torrent Trilogy” 191
 Lao She and “Beijing Style” Citizen Fiction 194
 “Beijing School” and “Shanghai School” 197



New Poetry: Finding a Voice of their Own 203

- Guo Moruo: A Destroyer and a Creator 206
 Ai Qing: A Singer of the Land and the Sun 208
 Mu Dan: Richness vs. Rich Suffering 210

Modern Drama 213

**Literature in the New Era: Reflections,
 Root-Seeking and Explorations** 223

- Memories of Historical Wounds 224
 Root-Seeking and Countryside Literature 228
 Avantgarde Novels 231
 Neo-Realism 233
 New Poetry 235



**Contemporary Literature: Writing
 for the Public** 239

- New Historical Novels: Voices of
 Individuality 240
 Cultural Prose: A New Literary Style 242
 Youth Writing: Keeping Abreast with Fashion 246
 Film-Television Literature and Cyber-Literature 248



**Appendix: Chronological Table of the
 Chinese Dynasties** 252