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The Translator-Anthologist and "Gems": Herbert A. Giles and W. J. B. Fletcher as Translator-Anthologists of Classical Chinese Poetry

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Abstract

Examining late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century English translation anthologies of classical Chinese poetry by two British sinologists, Herbert Allen Giles and W. J. B. Fletcher, this article explores the translation anthology as a crucial medium for the translator to theorize through practice and a cultural form that enables the translation scholar to anchor theorization in historically constituted practices. The anthologies selected for discussion are single-translator anthologies made by sinologists, where the translator of the poems doubles as the editor of the anthology. Special attention is paid to how the translator-anthologist creates various features within the anthology space through a range of techniques: the use of figurative language that presents the Chinese poems as "gems," the selection and arrangement of anthology pieces, page layout, retitling, versification, and the interplay between translation and paratextual materials like annotations. This article aims to unpack the making of translation anthologies as complex microcosms of the translation field by reading these features and techniques as acts of discursive engagement, whereby the translator-anthologist mediates multiple forms of knowledge and value, formulates new methods and poetics of translation, and enters into intertextual dialogues with other approaches.

Keywords

translation anthology, classical Chinese poetry, British sinology, Victorian poetry, Herbert Allen Giles, W. J. B. Fletcher

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譯家選「珍」：翟理斯與弗萊徹的中國詩歌譯選集

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摘 要

本文考察翟理斯與弗萊徹在十九世紀末及二十世紀初編譯的中國詩歌譯選集，旨在探討翻譯選集中理論與實踐的互動。文章所討論的均為單一譯者選集，兩位漢學家既是編選者，也是英譯者。文章分析他們如何運用各種方法營造選集這一空間：如採用「珍寶」之喻，又如詩篇的選擇與編排、版面之設計、篇名之擬定、韻律之呈現，以及副文本與文本之互動。這些特徵與方法體現的是譯者在特定歷史語境中的話語實踐，他們在翻譯選集這一微觀世界裏，協調不同文化中的知識與價值，探索新的翻譯方法與詩學，並與其他譯者展開互文對話。

關鍵詞

翻譯選集、中國古典詩歌、英國漢學、維多利亞時期詩歌、翟理斯、弗萊徹