

## Foreword

This volume marks the tenth year of the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) Visiting Professorship at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The ICS Visiting Professorship, which was introduced in 2003, brings eminent scholars in Chinese studies to conduct research as well as teach an advanced course or seminar at the university. Their presence brings intellectual stimulation to the scholarly community in Chinese studies on campus, and also contributes to the advanced training of students in this area. Each Visiting Professor also delivers a public lecture during his or her tenure, and this volume is based on the lectures delivered by the ICS Visiting Professors in residence between 2008 and 2013.

The collection of papers reflects the broad scope and diverse nature of “Chinese studies” as an area of inquiry. In his “Rose or Jade? Problems in Translating Medieval Chinese Literature,” David R. Knechtges discusses the pitfalls and traps in the translation of Chinese texts, and how translation can be a form of high-level scholarship if one can be aware of and overcome these pitfalls and traps. In his “Concepts That Make Multiple Modernities: The Conceptual Modernisation of China in a Historical and Critical Perspective,” Christoph Harbsmeier considers how concepts emerge in specific cultural and historical contexts, and in his “Language Contact: Spoken, Written, European, Asian,” Cornelius C. Kubler discusses the mutual influences that languages or dialects can exert upon each other when they come into contact. Edward L. Shaughnessy’s paper focuses on a more specific topic, “A Special Use of the Character 鄉 in Oracle-Bone Inscriptions and Its Significance for the Meaning of Early Chinese Divination: With Comments on the First Line of the *Yi Jing*.” By contrast, in his “Epistemological Nativism and the Inner Logic of Chinese Philosophy,” John Makeham discusses the much broader theme of the contemporary study of Chinese philosophy, whether paradigms and norms derived from the West are appropriate to the articulation of China’s philosophical lineage. In a more historical bent, Patricia Ebrey considers the reign of “Emperor Huizong as a Daoist,” while in his “The Enduring Costs of Forgetfulness: Europe, Asia and the Wars of the Twentieth Century,” Peter W. Preston discusses how contemporary politicians might have lost sight of the astonishing costs of warfare.

The Institute of Chinese Studies is delighted to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the ICS Visiting Professorship, and looks forward to welcoming more eminent scholars in the years to come.

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