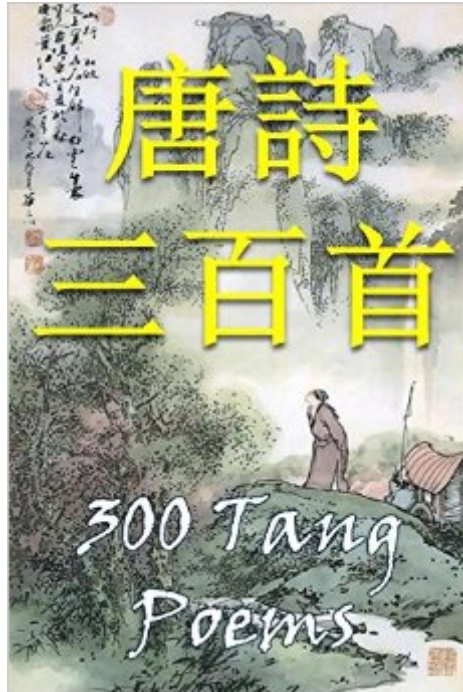


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300 Tang Poems: Bilingual Edition, English And Chinese



Synopsis

This bilingual edition of 300 Tang Poems features both English and Chinese side by side for easy reference and bilingual support. The poems are numbered and organized for easy reading and access. Tang poetry refers to poetry written in or around the time of or in the characteristic style of China's Tang dynasty, 618 - 907, and follows a certain style, often considered as the Golden Age of Chinese poetry. During the Tang Dynasty, poetry continued to be an important part of social life at all levels of society. Scholars were required to master poetry for the civil service exams, but the art was theoretically available to everyone. This led to a large record of poetry and poets, a partial record of which survives today. Two of the most famous poets of the period were Du Fu and Li Bai. This classic collection of 300 Tang Poems features the English translation of Witter Bynner, reprinted with the generous permission from The Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry. For more information, please visit www.bynnerfoundation.org.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a very nice edition of this famous collection. Why? Because it contains the Chinese characters and a servicable and classic translation. And because it is inexpensive. Why do you want the Chinese characters if you can't read Chinese? For one thing, it gives you an idea of the complexity of the poem. Also, you will often see doubled characters. Does the translation capture the repetition? You will also see certain characters a lot over time. Sometimes they are numbers. Sometimes basic characters like man or girl. Why not learn to read some Chinese? Another reviewer tells us that Chinese poetry does not rhyme and that this translation does. This is ironic, since Xu Yuanchong in his introduction to his Kindle edition tells us that this translation -- Witter Bynner's

from 1929 -- doesn't rhyme, but that another published in Hong Kong in 1987 does and his has been very well received. For the record, Chinese poetry often rhymes. How do I know? Because "How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology" edited by Zong-qi Cai and published by Columbia University Press says so. But better yet, download a sample and go to the mpg links and hear it for yourself. This is the book to read if the three dollar version hooks you. Finally, this edition isn't perfect. There are some typos. I certainly can't guarantee the Chinese is flawless. But it seems to have been done with care and looks good on my Kindle HDX. Are there better translations? No doubt. But Chinese poetry lends itself to countless translations. It isn't words with a syntax that is fixed. It is often pictures and images sung to tunes in dialects that even modern Chinese no longer know. The Anthology mentioned above allows us amateurs to experience some of this beauty. But this Kindle version is a nice place to start.

This bilingual book is nicely formatted for easy reading. I am quite happy with the purchase. Translating Chinese poems is difficult. 70% of the rendition does a good job in conveying the general feeling of the original; but many places are very odd and do not reflect the true meaning of the text at all..

Copied from Wikipedia: "The Three Hundred Tang Poems (simplified Chinese: 唐诗三百首; traditional Chinese: 唐詩三百首; pinyin: Tángshǐ sān bǎi shǒu) is an anthology of poems from the Chinese Tang Dynasty (618 - 907) first compiled around 1763 by Sun Zhu (1722-1778[1]), the Qing Dynasty scholar, ..." The Three Hundred Tang Poems is a world class anthology of ancient Chinese poetry. These timeless poems are enjoyable to read. However, the translation by Witter Bynner is very difficult for me to read. The words are twisted to force a rhyme at the end of the sentence. It gives me a headache. Chinese poetry does not rhyme. offers a free sample - look inside - read a few poems, and you might like this translation. I would suggest translations by John C.H Wu, Burton Watson, and Kenneth Rexroth.

Good format, translations are poor.

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