

Volunteers and Translators Needed

A Letter to prospective translators

April 12, 2010

Dear Translator,

Taiwan Literature: English Translation Series started to publish in 1996 as a biannual with the purpose of introducing to English readers voices of Taiwan literature by translating Taiwanese writers' and scholars' viewpoints on their own literature, together with exemplary pieces of fiction and poetry. Its publication aims to promote a better understanding and effective knowledge among scholars abroad of the current state and tendencies of literature as it has developed in Taiwan, as well as to enhance the study of Taiwan literature from international perspectives. Since then, for an uninterrupted thirteen years, the journal has published twenty-six issues to date. For each issue there is a thematic focus; the contents of each issue comprise critiques, fiction, essays, poems, and studies, and the themes include the following:

“Aboriginal Literature in Taiwan,” “The Nativist Voice of Taiwan Literature,” “Literature and Social Concerns,” “Urban Literature and the Fin de Siècle in Taiwan,” “Travel and Visiting One’s Homeland,” “Taiwan Literature, Nature, and Environment,” “Taiwanese Folk Literature,” “Children’s Literature in Taiwan,” “Women’s Literature in Taiwan,” “Taiwan Literature and History,” “Taiwan Literature and Folklore,” “Lai Ho, Wu Cho-liu and Taiwan Literature,” “Taiwan Literature and Hakka Culture,” “Taiwan Literature and the Ocean,” “Mountains, Forests and Taiwan Literature,” “Taiwan Literature during the Period of Japanese Rule,” “Taiwan Literature and Home-Longing,” “Taiwan Literature and Childhood,” “Taiwan Literature and the February 28 Incident,” “Myths and Legends of Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan,” “Special Issue on Yeh Shih-t’ao,” “Special Issue on Yang Ch’ih-ch’ang,” “Popular Fiction in Taiwan under Japanese Rule,” and “Folk Ballads in Taiwan.”

With the view to continue this important endeavor and on the foundation of practical experience in translation for more than a decade, we have now established a nonprofit organization in the United States, US-Taiwan Literature Foundation. In collaboration with several friends of like mind, the Foundation will carry on this task of translating Taiwan literature into

English to achieve the long-range goal of promoting Taiwan literature from international perspectives, along with the continuous development of Taiwan literature itself from one generation to another.

For our long-term planning, we need an extensive muster of translators. Therefore we are writing this letter to enlist your continued support and cooperation as translators. Your response to the following questionnaire would be very helpful for the planning of future translation projects to be published by the Foundation. Your cooperation as seasoned translators or talented new hands is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kuo-ch'ing Tu and Robert Backus
Editors