

Professor Joseph LAU Shiu-Ming

Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*

Citation

Professor Joseph LAU Shiu-Ming was born in Hong Kong. Graduating from the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at National Taiwan University in 1960 with a BA in English, he was awarded a scholarship in the following year to study comparative literature at Indiana University, where he earned his PhD in 1966. Prof Lau is known for multiple achievements: as a scholar in modern & contemporary Chinese literature, as a writer, and as a translator.

Prof Lau is not a typical top-notch student; his early life and path to learning was not a smooth ride. His parents passed away when he was young, and his education came to a halt after primary school, where he worked as a printing shop apprentice. He also worked as a bookstore assistant for a living. Yet his yearning for study persisted amid adversity, and the young Prof Lau used his spare time to learn Chinese and English. He studied at an English language school, sat for the secondary school Certificate of Education Examination as a private candidate, eventually finding his way to academic research, teaching and translation.

Prof Lau had taught at Miami University, the University of Wisconsin (Madison), The Chinese University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore and University of Hawaii, and had also been a visiting scholar at the University of British Columbia and Freie Universität Berlin. In 1995, his identity changed from Visiting Professor of Chinese to a formal appointment as Chair Professor of Translation at the then Lingnan College, becoming Dean of the Arts Faculty as well. Subsequently he also served as Head of the Chinese Department at Lingnan University. Prof Lau retired in 2004 as Emeritus Professor of Chinese.

A scholar in modern Chinese drama early in his career, Prof Lau had published a book on CAO Yu, and co-translated Cao's play *Yuanye* into English (*The Wilderness*). Yet it was on the cross-cultural transmission of Chinese literature that his efforts focused. Prof Lau is undoubtedly one of the pilots in the transmission and spread of Chinese literature in the American undergraduate curriculum. He was co-editor of *Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes & Variations* (with Y W MA, 1978) and *Modern Chinese Stories & Novellas: 1919-1949* (with C T HSIA and Leo LEE, 1981); both anthologies have been widely recognised in the past three decades or so, and are among the most widely adopted "standard textbooks" in Chinese literature courses in the US undergraduate curriculum. In addition, Prof Lau edited two anthologies of 20th-century Taiwan fiction (1976, 1983). His academic editing further extended in scale with the growth of his scholarship, as seen in co-editing *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* (with Howard GOLDBLATT, 1995) and *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations, vol. I: from Antiquity to the Tang Dynasty* (with John MINFORD, 2000); each ranks, in its own domain, among the most thorough and comprehensive English-language anthologies of Chinese literature in Western academia. All these anthologies aided the teaching and research of Chinese literature in the English-language academic world. In addition, Prof Lau edited various book series in "modern Chinese prose", "contemporary Chinese prose" and "contemporary Chinese fiction", contributing tirelessly to the preservation and study of modern Chinese literature.

In the journey of Prof Lau's life, what began earlier than academic work was his writing career. An independent mind, a touch for language and the practical needs of livelihood turned him into

a freelance writer since the age of 16, earning self-supporting writer's fees from newspapers such as *New Life Evening News*, *Hong Kong Times* (HK), *United Daily News* and *Central Daily News* (Taiwan). Under the pen-name "Er Can" (Second Wreck), Prof Lau has published *The Travels of Er Can* fiction series, and collections of miscellaneous essays like *Potato-Eating Days* and *Miscellanea by Er Can*. These recall the late Qing writer LIU E's *The Travels of Lao Can* (Old Wreck). No doubt inspired by the talent, spirit and experiences of the "manifold-tempered scholar" with the same surname, Prof Lau's pen-name may also allude to his deficient life resources and diligent struggle for self-reliant survival while he was growing up; the tinge of self-mockery is at once self-affirmation and self-encouragement. Spanning a period of over 60 years, his miscellaneous writings and critical essays amount to over 30 books, the former marked by a relaxed and often humorous style. During his undergraduate days in Taiwan, he founded the literary magazine *Modern Literature* along with schoolmates like PAI Hsien-Yung, CHEN Ruoxi, OUYANG Zi, YEH Wei-Lien and Leo LEE; but apart from this singular instance, Prof Lau has never joined any literary society, testimony to his preference for independent thinking, writing and living.

With the start of his academic career in the US, Prof Lau also actively embraced translation work. Beginning in the late 1960s, he rendered works by well-known writers like Bernard MALAMUD, Saul BELLOW, Isaac SINGER and George ORWELL into Chinese over a decade and a half. During this period he also engaged in academic translation, rendering Prof C T HSIA's *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction* into Chinese in collaboration with others.

Over the years, Prof Lau's academic research and cultural transmission work have won awards from various institutions, including the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Social Science Research Council, Rockefeller Foundation (US), Pacific Cultural Foundation, Council for Cultural Planning & Development (under Executive Yuan), Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (Taiwan). He is an editorial board member of *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews*, and an advisory board member of *Renditions* and *Journal of Modern Literature in Chinese*. He was a member of the ACLS and China Times Foundation (Washington, DC) fellowship selection committees, and of the Fulbright Advisory Committee (US) and Research Grants Council (HK).

Over a full sixty-year cycle in traditional Chinese chronology, Prof Lau has been an industrious scholar, educator, translator and writer, devoted to the academic labour of cultural exchange. Honourable Chancellor, in recognition of his academic achievement and distinguished contributions to the field of translation and to cross-cultural transmission, may I present Prof Joseph LAU Shiu-Ming to you for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Charles KWONG

劉紹銘教授

榮譽文學博士

贊辭

劉紹銘教授生於香港。一九六零年畢業於國立台灣大學外文系，主修英文，獲文學士學位。翌年獲獎學金赴美國印第安納大學轉修比較文學，一九六六年獲哲學博士學位。劉教授是著名的現當代中國文學學者、翻譯家和作家，匯合多方面成就於一身。

劉教授並非典型的尖子學生；他早年的求學和人生道路，並不平坦。劉教授幼失怙恃，小學畢業後旋即失學。他曾在就讀的小學當印刷所學徒，又曾在書局當售貨員謀生。然而處於逆境中的劉教授向學之心不綴；他利用工餘時間自修中文及英文，又就讀於英文專科學校，並以自修生身分參加中學會考，最終踏上學術研究、教學和編譯之路。

劉教授曾經先後任教於邁亞密大學、威斯康辛大學(麥迪遜分校)、香港中文大學、新加坡國立大學、夏威夷大學，又曾為柏林自由大學及不列顛哥倫比亞大學的訪問學者。一九九五年由當時仍為嶺南學院的中文系訪問教授正式轉任翻譯系講座教授，同時擔任文學院院長，其後亦曾任嶺南大學中文系系主任。二零零四年退休，獲頒榮休教授銜。

劉教授早年研究現代中國戲劇，曾出版關於曹禺的專著，其後亦曾與人合譯曹禺的《原野》為英文。然而，劉教授的心力更集中於中國文學的跨文化傳播上。就中國文學在美國大學課程中的傳播和開展而言，劉教授無疑堪稱領航員之一。他曾與馬幼垣教授合編英文版《中國經典短篇小說精選》(1978)，又與夏志清教授、李歐梵教授合編英文版《中國現代中短篇小說選：1919-1949》(1981)。三十多年來，這兩冊書籍在美國各大學的本科中國文學課程中，一直深受認同，列於最被廣泛採用的標準教科書名單上。此外，劉教授亦先後編選了兩冊英文版的台灣小說選集(1976、1983)。隨著學養深化，劉教授的學術編輯工作亦進一步擴展幅度，包括與葛浩文教授合編英文版《哥倫比亞中國現代文學讀本》(1995)，又與閔福德教授合編題為《含英咀華》(上卷：遠古時代至唐代)的中國古典文學英譯讀本(2000)；兩者各屬於西方學術界在有關範圍內最全面而完備的英文譯本編選集之一。種種編譯選集，都促進了中華文學在英語學術界的教學和研究工作。此外，劉教授亦主編了「現代散文典藏」、「當代散文典藏」、「當代小說典藏」等系列書籍，孜孜不倦地為現當代中國文學的保存和研究作出貢獻。

在劉教授的生命歷程中，比學術工作開展得更早的，是寫作生涯。獨立思考的性格、對文字書寫的筆觸和謀生的實際需要，促使他自十六歲開始便投稿到報刊，從香港的《新生晚報》、《香港時報》到台灣的《聯合報》、《中央日報》等等，依賴稿費自給自足。劉教授有筆名「二殘」，其作品包括《二殘遊記》小說系列，以及雜文集《吃馬鈴薯的日子》、《二殘雜記》等。這令人想起晚清作家劉鶚的《老殘遊記》。以「二殘」為名，除了是對前賢的姓氏、才氣、精神，乃至「百煉生」的經歷產生共鳴外，大約也是以「殘」字誌記成長時期殘缺不全的生活資源，以至自力更生的掙扎和努力。帶點自嘲意味的自稱，同時也是自許與自勵。前後六十多年來，劉教授寫作不倦，作品集共積存三十餘種，主要包括雜文、論文、隨筆等等；雜文風格舒徐有致，往往風趣幽默。在台灣大學期間，劉教授曾與白先勇、陳若曦、歐陽子、葉維廉、李歐梵等同學創辦了《現代文學》雜誌；除此以外，他再沒有參加任何文學團體。這是其獨立思考、寫作和生活的其中一面。

自從在美國擔任教職後，劉教授亦努力從事翻譯工作。從一九六零年代末開始，他曾在十餘年間先後將伯納德·馬拉末、叟爾·貝羅、以撒·辛格、喬治·奧維爾等名家的作品翻譯成中文。這段期間他也從事學術翻譯，將夏志清教授的英文版《中國現代小說史》編譯成中文(1978)。

多年來，劉教授的學術研究和文化傳播工作得到不同機構的嘉許，包括美國的社會科學研究委員會、美國學術協會理事會、洛克菲勒基金，以及台灣的太平洋文化基金會、行政院文化規劃及發展局、蔣經國基金會等。他是英語《中國文學》學刊(*CLEAR*)的編輯委員會成員，亦是《現代中文文學學報》和《譯叢》的顧問委員會成員。此外，劉教授亦曾為美國學術協會理事會及華盛頓市之中國時報基金會擔任青年學者獎遴選委員會委員，以及美國的福布萊特計劃的顧問委員會委員、香港的研究資助局成員等。

在中華曆法中一個甲子循環的時間裏，劉教授一直貫徹著學者、教育工作者、翻譯家，乃至作家的職任，致力於文化交流的學術工作。校監閣下，為表揚劉教授的學術成就以及他對翻譯界和跨文化傳播的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽文學博士學位予劉紹銘教授。

贊辭由鄺龔子教授撰寫及宣讀