Abstracts

»So Free from Care! Here’s Real Idyllic Happiness» 無思無慮, 這是田家樂啊: Notes on Nostalgia

Amira Katz-Goer

This essay follows a few Chinese terms which might approach »our« blurry notion of Nostalgia. It looks at these terms' early appearances in a variety of classical Chinese poems so as to discern their meaning and clarify their authors' feeling, not necessarily equivocal, for this kind of undefinable longing. The article concludes with a very brief reference to the way »nostalgia« is taken up in modern Chinese writing (Lu Xun), and with some comments on the problematic interlocking of what is personal and what public in such revived reminiscing.

Keywords  Chinese poetry · nostalgia · Tao Qian 陶潜 (365–427) · Du Fu 杜甫 (712–770) · Ban Gu 班固 (32–92) · »Western Capital Rhapsody« (Xi du fu 西都賦) · 19 Old Poems (Gushi shijiu shou 古詩十九首) · Li Bai 李白 (701–762) · modern Chinese literature, Lu Xun 魯迅 (1881–1936) · »In the Wineshop« (Zai jiulou shang 在酒楼上)

Qoheleth in Chinese Dress: Early Versions of the Chinese Bible

Libi Yariv-Laor

The paper deals with early Chinese translations of the book of Qoheleth, traditionally considered one of the most enigmatic writings of the Hebrew Bible. Five early Chinese versions are examined, Morrison and Milne's 1823's pioneering work; the 1854 Delegates' Version; two different translations by Samuel Isac Joseph Schereschewsky (1875 and 1899); and the well known 1919. Chinese versions of the book are known to the present-day reader as Chuandao shu 傳道書.
Lost in Recollection: Gao Fenghan's (1683-1749) Reflections on Langya Terrace

Ylva Monschein

The article will focus on album pages by the painter, calligrapher, and poet Gao Fenghan, a native of the coastal district of Jiaozhou in Shandong province who lived during the Pax Sinica of the early Qing dynasty. The paper analyses Gao's creative obsession with the highly symbolic historical place of Langya terrace and his vision of the corroded remnant of a Qin dynasty stone tablet set against the contemporary socio-political background.

Liang Qichao (1873–1927): On New Literature, Political Novel and Buddhism

Jana Benická

Liang Qichao was a prominent Chinese political reformer, man of letters and translator. Much is known about his contribution to the formation of the concept of »new literature«, yet, his deep belief in Buddhism and the influence of this fact on his writings on literature is often omitted in the scholarly works.

Irony, Political Philosophy, and Historiography: Cai Ze’s Anecdote in Zhanguo ce Revisited

Yuri Pines

This study explores a single anecdote from the Stratagems of the Warring States (Zhanguo ce), named »Cai Ze was expelled from Zhao«. I analyze its philosophical, historical, and literary content and argue that the anecdote was in all likelihood composed during the Han...
It presents highly original views on the nature of the sage’s political achievements, and on the relations between the quest for fame and the dictum to preserve one’s body. Moreover, the anecdote can be read as an ironic take on the common Zhanguo ce trope of an omniscient successful persuader. My study calls for a deeper engagement with Zhanguo ce as a source for the Warring States-period history, literature, and thought.

Keywords body, irony, historiography · Qin 秦 (221–207 BC), reputation, sages · Warring States 戰國 (453–221 BC), Zhanguo ce 戰國策

Reception and Promotion of the Great Leap Forward in Czechoslovakia: The East Wind Prevails? ......................................................... 115

Martin Slobodník

The paper discusses the promotion of the Great Leap Forward in Czechoslovakia as an example of a socialist globalization, i.e. an attempt of the PRC to propagate in the socialist bloc the economic policy of the Great Leap Forward as an alternative path towards communism as opposed to the strategy of the Soviet five-year plans. The author deals with the presentation of the Great Leap Forwards in various works written in 1958 and 1959 by Michal Fal’čan, Slovak politician and economist, who visited the PRC in autumn 1958. Other means of promotion of the Great Leap Forward (e.g. Chinese exhibitions in Prague, newspaper articles about people’s communes, special issue of the journal Světová literatúra with the translations of the Chinese folk poetry of this period) are also mentioned.

Keywords People’s Republic of China · Czechoslovak-Chinese relations, 1950s · Great Leap Forward · Michal Fal’čan (1916–1960)

The Meaning of Wu 無 in Wang Bi’s Commentary on the Laozi........... 139

Dušan Vávra

This article explores the relation between the political and metaphysical thought in Wang Bi’s Commentary on the Laozi and argues for primacy of the former and derivative nature of the latter. The argument is based on analysis of inconsistencies in Wang Bi’s formulations of the wu—you dichotomy.

Keywords Chinese philosophy · Learning of the Mysterious · Wang Bi 王弼 (220–249) · political thought · metaphysics
An Analysis of the Correlation between Speech Tempo and Rhytmical Segmentation in Standard Chinese

Tereza Slaměnková

Relying on the methodological framework introduced by Czech sinologist Oldřich Švarný, this paper aims at identifying and describing prosodic features where statistically significant differences between slower and faster speech can be observed. By means of an analysis of two samples produced with different speech speeds, a comparison of the distribution of the rhythmic units and patterns will be performed.

Keywords Chinese language · Modern Standard Chinese · prosodic transcription · Oldřich Švarný · rhythmical features

Distribution of »Young Words« in the Chinese Web 2011 Corpus and the Hanku Corpus

Mateja Petrovčič

This study compares two recent large-scale corpora, i.e. The Chinese Web 2011 Corpus and The Hanku Corpus from the perspective of 'young words'. The term 'young words' refers to the expressions that were added to the standard Chinese dictionary Xiandai Hanyu Cidian in the 7th edition in 2016. The analysis reveals that in relative terms, the proportion of young words is larger in Hanku, and points out some differences and varieties of word queries in the discussed corpora.

Keywords Chinese corpora · Sketch Engine, Chinese Web 2011 (zhTenTen), Hanku corpus · young words

A Syntactic Object in Chinese—A Corpus Analysis

Ľuboš Gajdoš

The paper deals with corpus analysis of a sentence constituent (element), namely an object in Chinese. The aim is to improve the identification of an object in a corpus using regular expressions with part-of-speech (POS) annotation, however, unlike other methods, a purely linguistics approach is used in this article. Some of the examples given in the paper also demonstrate practical implications of this approach.

Keywords Chinese language · syntax, sentence constituents, object · corpus linguistics, regular expressions, CQL
Believe It or Not: Dōgen on the Question of Faith ......................... 193
Zuzana Kubovčáková

The founder of the Sōtō School of Japanese Zen Buddhism, Dōgen (1200-1253) was a fervent advocate of silent meditation, as well as a prolific writer. He authored a great number of essays and treatises, instructions and commentaries, poems and kōan interpretations. History remembers him, however, mostly as an ardent proponent of sitting meditation, the famed shikantaza of the Sōtō School. Yet despite his undeniable support to meditation practices, he was also a Buddhist monk and teacher, who transmitted to his disciples a more coherent notion of Zen Buddhism including aspects of faith and devotion. By means of surveying Dōgen’s own texts in the Shōbō genzō, Treasury of the True Dharma Eye, the aim of this paper is to shed light on Dōgen’s view on both sitting meditation, zazen, and the importance of devotional practices noted therein.

Keywords Dōgen 道元 (1200-1253) · Shōbō genzō · zazen, shikantaza · meditation · Buddhist practice · faith · devotion · Bendōwa

Monks and Magic: A Model for the Study of Thai Buddhism............. 217
Miloš Hubina

In this paper the author proposes a model for the study of Thai Buddhism radically de-emphasizing Buddhist soteriology in favor of magic. Magic is characterized by suppressing the symbolic value of objects and acts as well as superseding the standard causal expectations with «weak causation» based on perceptual features of similarity, contagion contiguity, force dynamics and essence. De-emphasis of soteriology undermines Tambiah’s explanation of Buddhist charisma as a product of regulated practice and explains the apparent paradox of monks of deriving ritual-empowering charisma from adherence to rules which prohibit monks performing these rituals.

Keywords Thai Buddhism · magic · soteriology · cognitive science of religion · charisma