

# *Nanyang Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*

## Introductory Remarks

Stephen Owen

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I want to congratulate the founders of the *Nanyang Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* and thank Nanyang Technological University for its support in the establishment of the journal. A new journal is always a new possibility, and the *Nanyang Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* has been designed to promote dialogue between so-called “*Haiwai hanxue*” and 國學 within China itself. Singapore, situated between many cultures, is an ideal site for such a venture.

The journal is a space where people can come together, a “venue”; in this case, it may simply mean where articles in English and Chinese can come together. A venue is not the same thing as a dialogue; it simply opens up the possibility of dialogue. The imagined audiences for articles in English and those in Chinese are different. Chinese articles are written in the context of an academic community with a long history and its own values and customs. The English-speaking community of Hanxue in Chinese literature is far smaller, but more diverse. Our colleagues can include scholars in other literatures along with historians, scholars of religion, social scientists. We must write in ways that can be understood and appreciated by those fields. We write for our students, as well, who must not only learn the basics of the Zhongwenxi but must be able to work with those diverse other fields. Any applicant for a teaching position in Chinese literature will be judged by a committee made up of scholars of other literatures, or of history, or of some other field in East Asian humanities that will be represented. One further difference from the Chinese academic community is that we must translate, which requires a different level of attention to the original Chinese text.

The Hanxue world writing in English and languages other than Chinese is neither the opponent nor the shadow of the Zhongwenxi in China; it is the complement. The study of Chinese literature will survive in China; its importance is taken for granted. We represent Chinese literature out in the larger world; and unless we can show why and how it matters, those university positions will disappear one by one.

So with Professor Yuan, my colleague from afar, let me express the hope that the *Nanyang Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* will be a place where there the complementary sides of our fields can meet and, perhaps talk to one another in amity and mutual respect.

## 《南洋中华文学与文化学报》发布会上的致辞

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祝贺《南洋中华文学与文化学报》的创办，感谢南洋理工大学对《学报》的支持。一个新刊物代表一个新的可能性，《学报》创建的目的，是促进海外汉学 and 中国的国学研究之间的对话和交流。新加坡处于多种文化的汇聚点，对这个目的来说，是一个理想的基地。

一个刊物是一个供人们相聚的空间，一个“场地”。对《学报》来说，它意味着英语论文和汉语论文可以相聚的地方。场地和对话是不一样的：场地不过是打开了对话的可能性而已。英语论文的想象读者和汉语论文的想象读者有所不同。汉语论文的产生语境，是一个有很长历史的学术社区，它有它自己的价值观念和风俗习惯。说英语的汉学社区要小得多，但是更多样化。对一个研究中国文学的海外汉学家来说，在我们的工作环境里，有一些同事是研究其他国家文学的，也有历史学家，宗教学者，社会学家。我们的学术写作必须能够得到其他那些研究领域的学者们的理解和赞赏。我们也为我们的学生写作，这些学生不仅必须要学习掌握中文系的基本功，还必须能够和其他那些多种多样的领域并肩合作。在海外大学里，任何一个申请中国文学教职的博士生，都要被一个由不同领域的学者组成的委员会评判，这些不同领域可能是其他国家的文学，可能是历史学，也可能是东亚人文研究的其他领域。和中国学术界另外一个不同点是，我们必须翻译，这要求学者对原文作出一种不同等级的关注。

用英语和其他非汉语语言进行写作的汉学世界，既不是中国大学中文系的敌手，也不是它的影子。它可以说是一个补充。中国文学的研究将在中国继续存在下去，它的重要性是被视为理所当然的。我们则在外面的也是一个更大的世界里代表中国文学。除非我们能够明白地显示中国文学为什么重要以及如何重要，我们所在的大学里的中国文学教授就会一个一个地消失。

因此，和我远方的同事袁行霈教授一起，让我表示对《南洋中华文学与文化学报》的祝愿：希望它成为相辅相成的双方相遇和共处的地点，而且，也许会以友好的、互相尊重的精神进行交谈。