



AET2
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Friday 31 May 2019 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper C17

Modern Chinese literature

*Answer **all** questions in sections 1 and 2 and two questions from section 3.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

*20 page answer booklet
Rough Work Pad*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Xiandai Hanyu cidian dictionary

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

1. Answer both parts of the question (total of 20 marks):

a) Translate into English (15 marks):

很多人说过，他们有时第一次到了某个地方，却觉得那地方很眼熟，奇怪之余不知道是何原因。

现在，我也得到这种体会。我走着，看到土路一段段被洪水冲过，冲毁得很厉害，留下路面一道道深沟和一窝窝卵石，像剝去了皮肉，暴露出人体的筋骨和脏器。沟里有几根腐竹，一截烂牛绳，是村寨将要出现的预告。路边小水潭里冒出几团一动不动的黑影，不在意就以为是石头，细看才发现它们是小牛的头，鬼头鬼脑地盯着我。它们都有皱纹，有胡须，有眼光的疲惫，似乎生下来就苍老了，有苍老的遗传。前面的芭蕉林后冒出一座四四方方的炮楼，墙黑得像经过了烟熏火燎。我听说过这地方以前多土匪，还有“十年不剿 (suppress) 地无民”一类说法，怪不得村村有炮楼。民居房屋也决不分散，互相紧紧地挤靠和纠缠。石墙都厚实，上面的窗户开得又高又小，大概是防止盗匪翻爬，或者是防止瘴雾过多涌入。

这一切居然越看越眼熟。见鬼，我到底来过这里没有呢？让我来测试一下吧：踏上前面那石板路，绕过芭蕉林，在油榨房边往左一折，也许可以看见炮楼后面一棵老树，银杏或者是樟 (camphor) 树，已经被雷电劈死。

片刻之后，预测竟然被证实！连那空空的树心，还有树洞前两个烧草玩耍的小娃崽，似乎都依照我的想象各就各位。

我又怯怯地预测：老树后面可能有栋牛房，檐下有几堆牛粪，有一张锈了的犁或者耙。没想到我一旦走过去，它们果然清清楚楚地向我迎来！甚至那个歪歪的石臼 (mortar)，那白底的泥沙和落叶，也似曾相识。

Accessed at <https://read.douban.com/reader/ebook/13045345/>

b) Please identify the source text and comment briefly on the treatment of memory in this opening section (in English). (5 marks).

2. Translate into English (20 marks):

情愿

我情愿化成一片落叶，
让风吹雨打到处飘零；
或流云一朵，在澄蓝天，
和大地再没有些牵连。

但抱紧那伤心的标志，
去触遇没着落的怅惘；
在黄昏，夜半，蹑着脚走，
全是空虚，再莫有温柔；

忘掉曾有这世界；有你；
哀悼谁又曾有过爱恋；
落花似的落尽，忘了去
这些个泪点里的情绪。

到那天一切都不存留，
比一闪光，一息风更少
痕迹，你也要忘掉了我
曾经在这世界里活过。

LIN Huiyin, "Qingyuan."

Accessed at <http://www.shigeku.org/xlib/lingshidao/xinshi/linhuiyin.htm>

(TURN OVER)

3. Please answer **TWO** of the following essay questions in **English**, making sure to refer to specific literary texts and authors in your answers. **Each** question is worth **30 marks**.
- a) What accounts for the divergence between “art for art’s sake” and “art for life’s sake” in Republican era literature and how justifiable is this divide?
 - b) Choose one example of a Chinese-language literary phenomenon that has not been given the attention you think it deserves within modern Chinese literary history and make an argument for its critical re-evaluation.
 - c) Discuss some of the challenges faced by authors of modern Chinese poetry in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Why have they received a particular kind of reception from readers and critics?
 - d) To what extent does literature of the immediate post-Mao era reflect what Yomi Braester calls “the healing power of testimony”?
 - e) What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the term “Sinophone” rather than “Chinese” to label certain kinds of Chinese-language literature?
 - f) What parallels can you observe between Chinese literature in the age of the internet and earlier Chinese literary trends since the late nineteenth century?

END OF PAPER