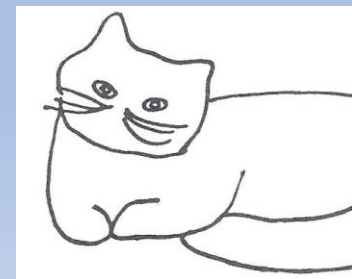


Hong Kong Literature as World Literature: Possibilities and Challenges in Translating Xi Xi's Fiction

Jennifer Feeley 費正華

For the Workshop “Translating New Writing from Hong Kong”

(City University of Hong Kong, September 29, 2018)



General challenges in the global reception of
translated Hong Kong literature

General challenges in the global reception of translated Hong Kong literature

- Hong Kong on the “periphery ” of Chineseness
 - Dominance of mainland China
 - Notion of HK as a financial center
 - Small size/small readership
 - Cantonese

General challenges in the global reception of translated Hong Kong literature

- Ethnographic approaches to translation and world literature
 - HK's cosmopolitanism
 - Beyond postcard images
 - Intertextuality with world literature
 - “Deceptively accessible” (Andrea Lingenfelter's term)

General challenges in the global reception of translated Hong Kong literature

- Asymmetrical exchanges between Hong Kong literature and world literature
 - Translation mostly a one-way street
 - Only small percentage of HK literature is translated
 - Among translations of Chinese-language literature, HK representation is low
 - HK readers more familiar with foreign literature than vice-versa

General challenges in the global reception of translated Hong Kong literature

- Limited distribution of these works outside of Hong Kong
 - Journals and presses that mainly circulate within HK
 - Difficulties buying these works outside of HK for teaching and libraries
 - Often expensive

General challenges in the global reception of translated Hong Kong literature

- Money!
 - Need \$\$ to pay translators and editors and cover the costs of producing the books
 - Need funding sources that extend beyond Hong Kong

Translating Xi Xi's 西西 (b. 1937) Fiction

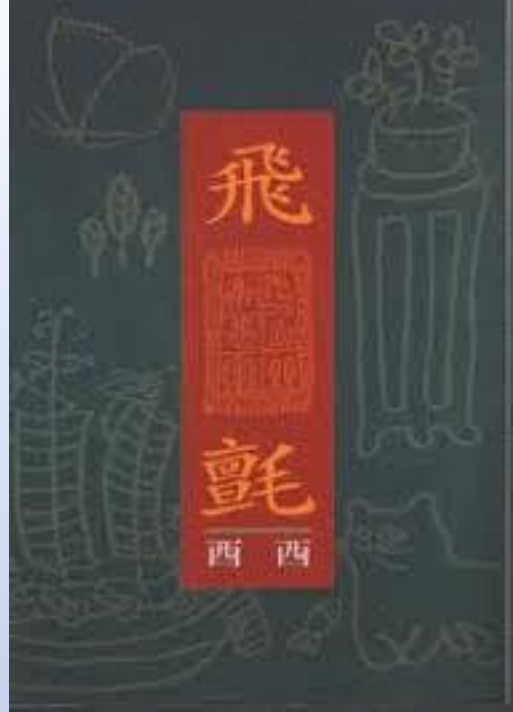


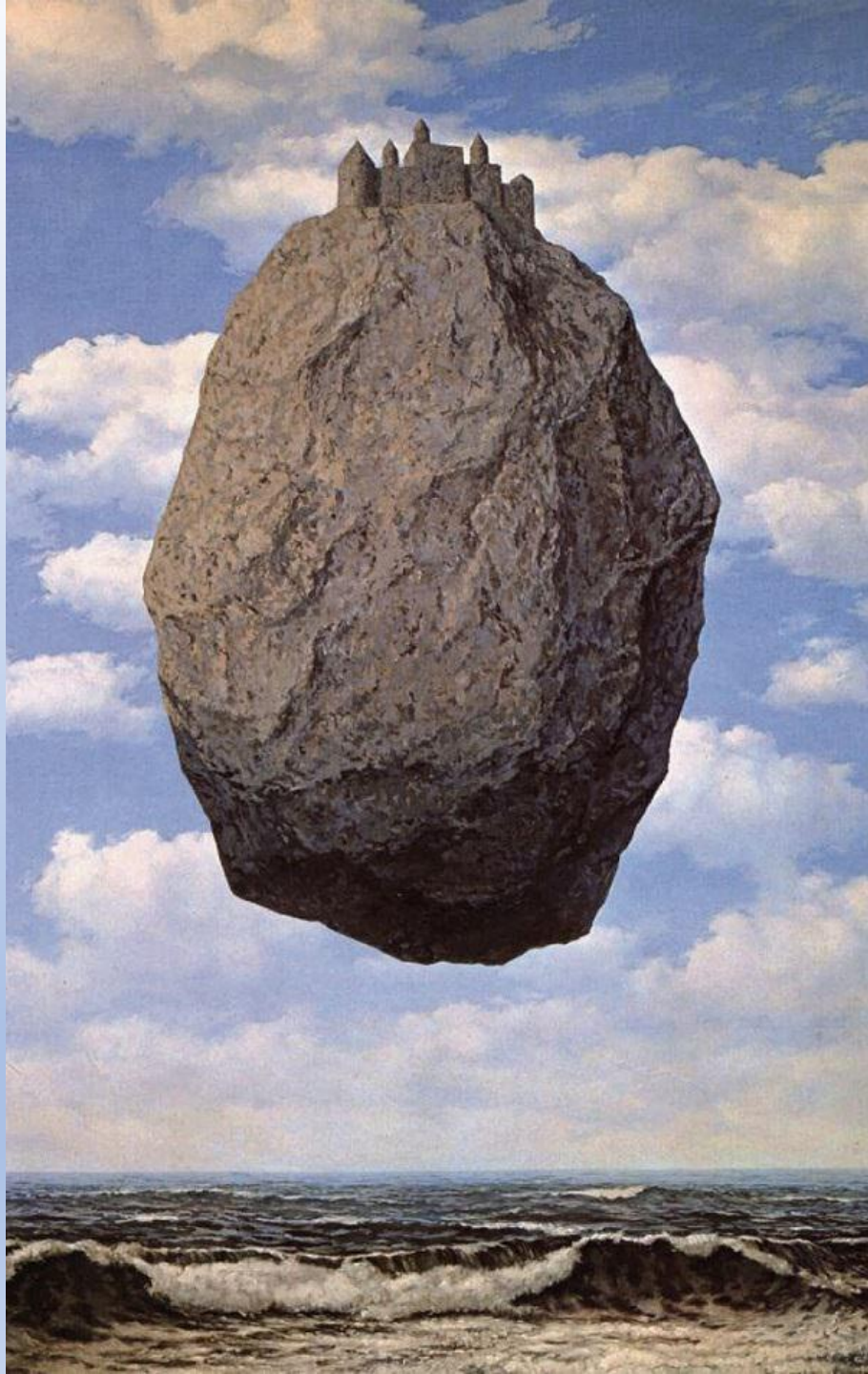
Translating Xi Xi's 西西 (b. 1937) Fiction

- Numerous challenges
 - Intertextuality
 - Wordplay
 - Fusion of the fantastic and the mundane

Fertile Soil Town 肥土鎮

- Works in her “Fertile Soil Town” and related series
 - “The Story of Fertile Soil Town” 「肥土鎮的故事」 (1982)
 - “Apple” 「蘋果」 (1984)
 - “Town Curse” 「鎮咒」 (1985)
 - “The Fertile Soil Town Chalk Circle” 「肥土鎮灰闌記」 (1986)
 - “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*” 「宇宙奇趣補遺」 (1988)
 - “Marvels of a Floating City” 「浮城誌異」 (1986)
 - *Flying Carpet* (1996) 《飛氈》





Puns in “Apple” 「蘋果」

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- 肥土鎮 Feitu zhen [feitou zan] fat/fertile/rich

Puns in “Apple” 「蘋果」

- 肥土鎮 Feitu zhen [feitou zan] fat/fertile/rich “Fertile Soil Town”

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- 否土鎮 Foutu zhen [fautou zan] to negate/no/not

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- 否土鎮 Foutu zhen [fautou zan] to negate/no/not “Futile Soil Town”

Ceci n'est pas une pomme

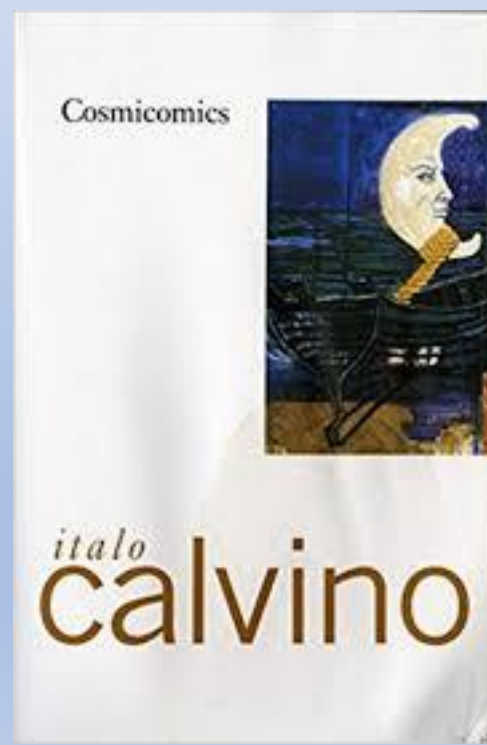
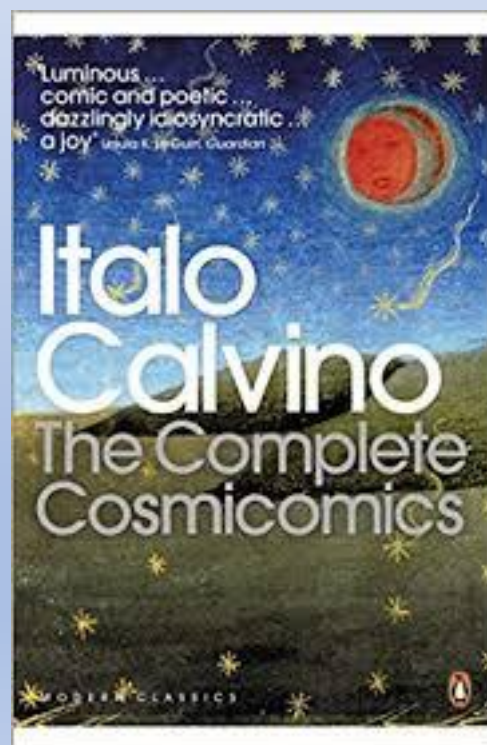
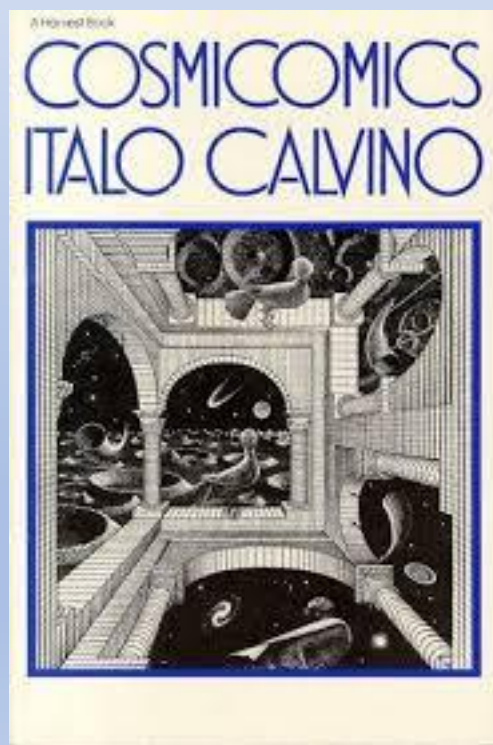


Puns in “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*”

「宇宙奇趣補遺」

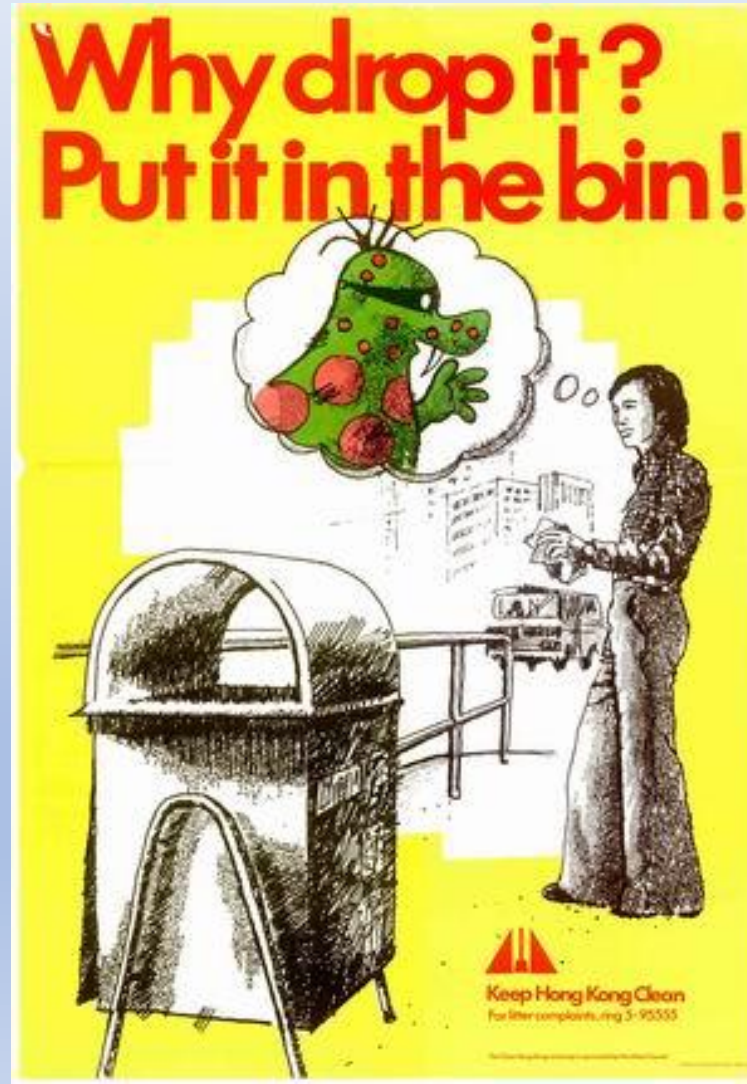
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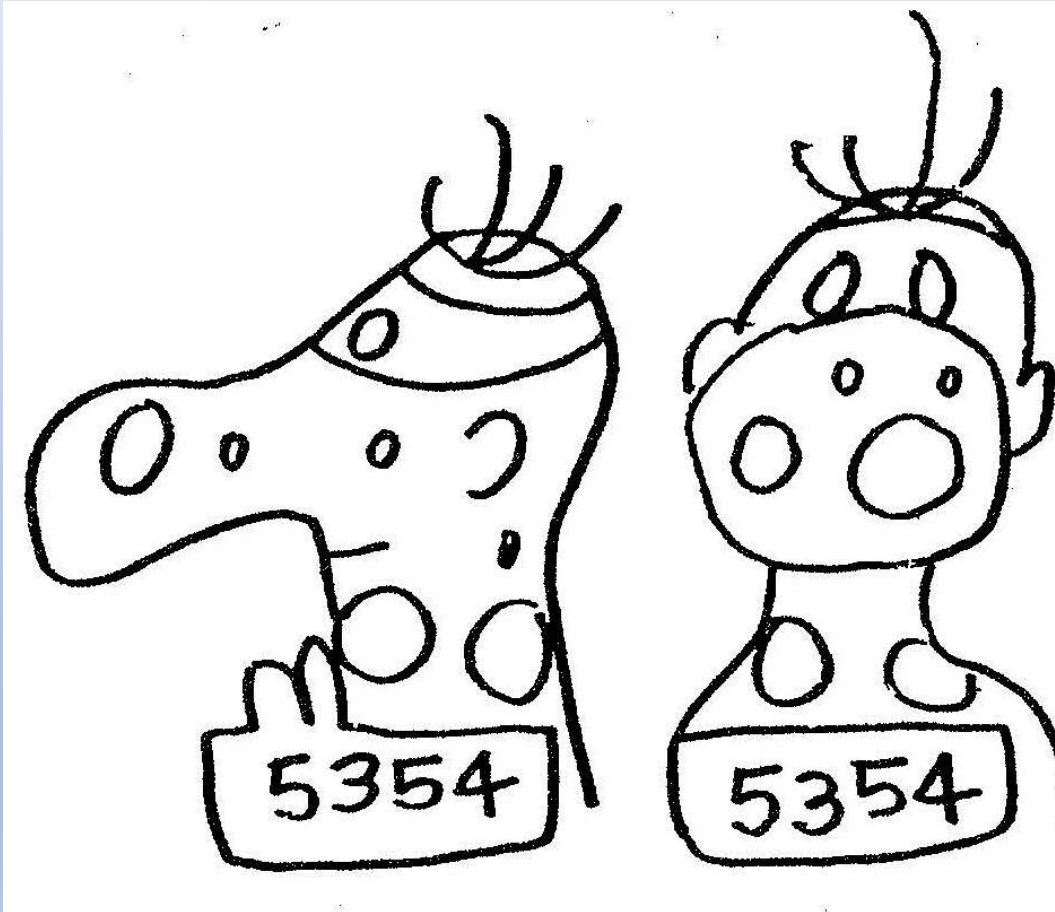
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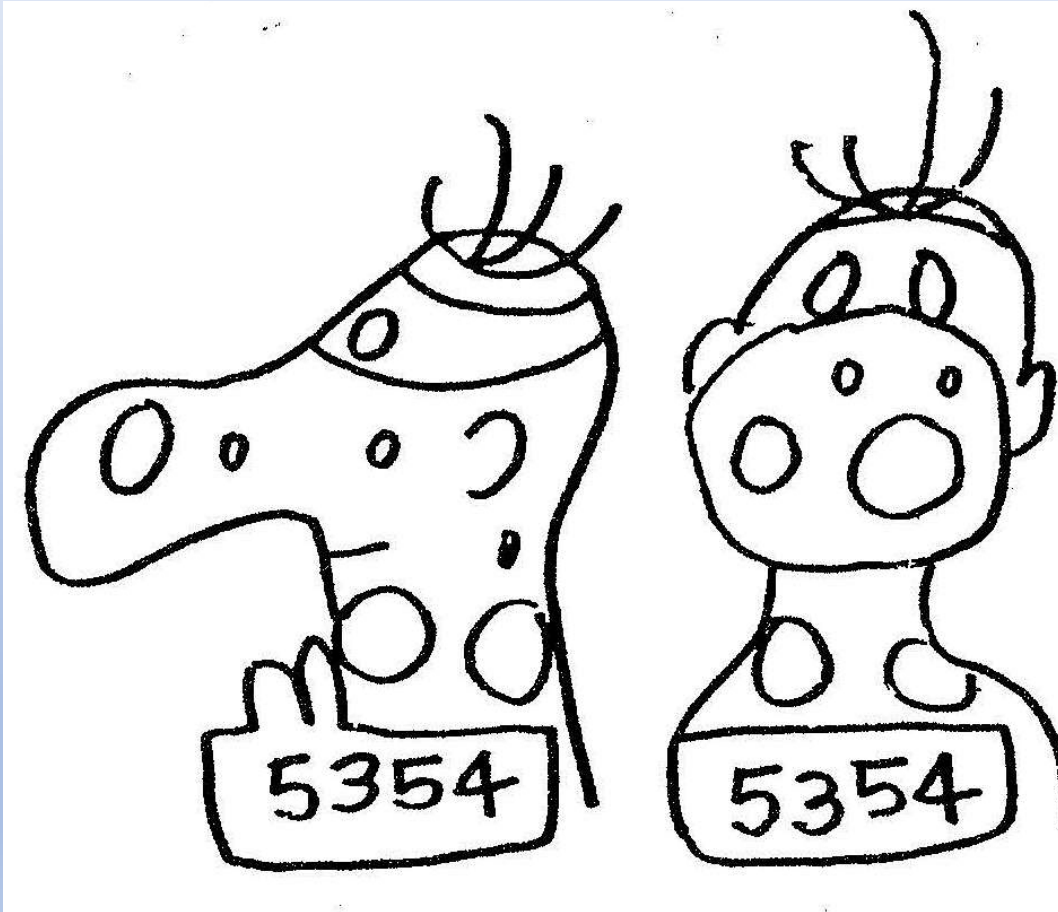
「宇宙奇趣補遺」



- 5 and 唔 homophones
- Play on 不三不四

Puns in “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*”

「宇宙奇趣補遺」



- 5 and 唔 homophones
- Play on 不三不四
- “Fie thee, fie foe”

Puns in “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*”

「宇宙奇趣補遺」

- Food puns based on dragon 龍 and dinosaur 恐龍:

Puns in “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*”

「宇宙奇趣補遺」

- Food puns based on dragon 龍 and dinosaur 恐龍:

- 鮮龍沙律拼盤
- 龍柳炒豆苗
- 百花釀龍角
- 麻鮑龍翅
- 清蒸龍腦
- 紅燒龍掌
- 油炸龍鬚
- 龍眼杏仁露

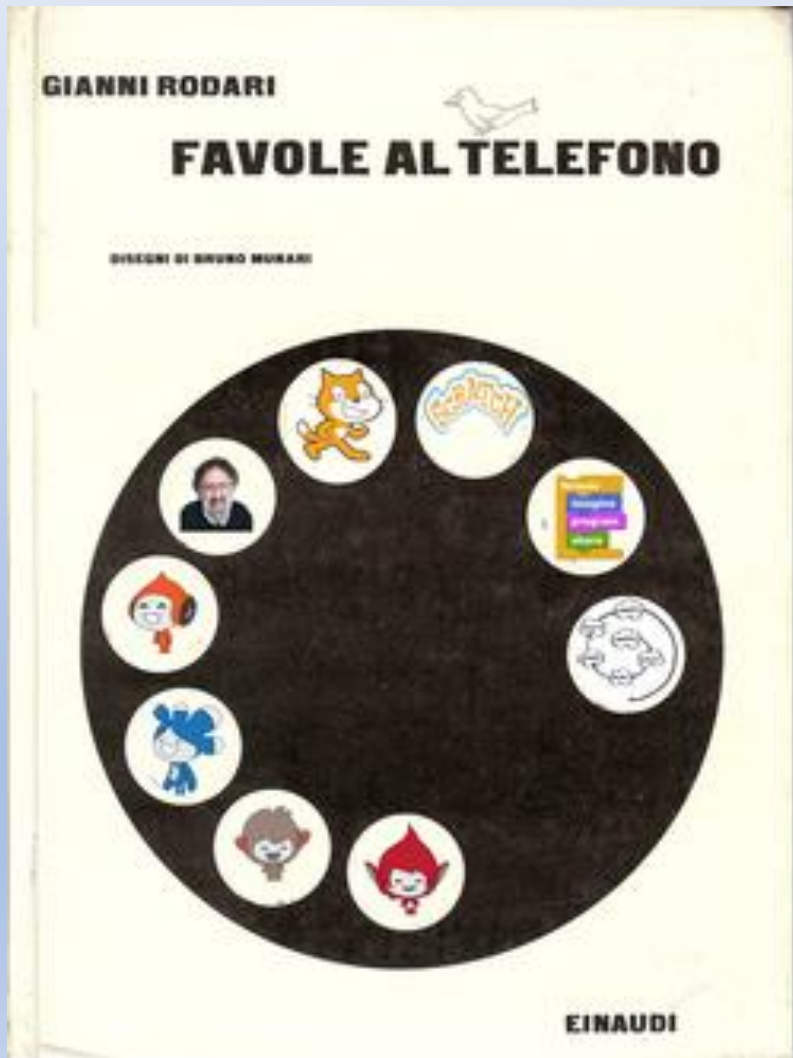
Puns in “An Addendum to *Cosmicomics*”

「宇宙奇趣補遺」

- Food puns based on dragon 龍 and dinosaur 恐龍:
 - 鮮龍沙律拼盤 fresh dinosaur salad hors d'oeuvres
 - 龍柳炒豆苗 T-rex T-bones sautéed with pea shoots
 - 百花釀龍角 stuffed dinosaur horns
 - 麻鮑龍翅 abalone with dinosaur fin
 - 清蒸龍腦 steamed dinosaur brains
 - 紅燒龍掌 Dino paws braised in soy saurus
 - 油炸龍鬚 deep-fried Tricerachops
 - 龍眼杏仁露 Dragon eye fruit Pteramisu

Puns in “Beard with a Face” 「鬍子有臉」
(1985)

Puns in “Beard with a Face” 「鬍子有臉」 (1985)



Fairy Tales Over the Phone by
Gianni Rodari (1962)

Puns in “Beard with a Face” 「鬍子有臉」 (1985)

- Rodari *Luodali* 羅大裡

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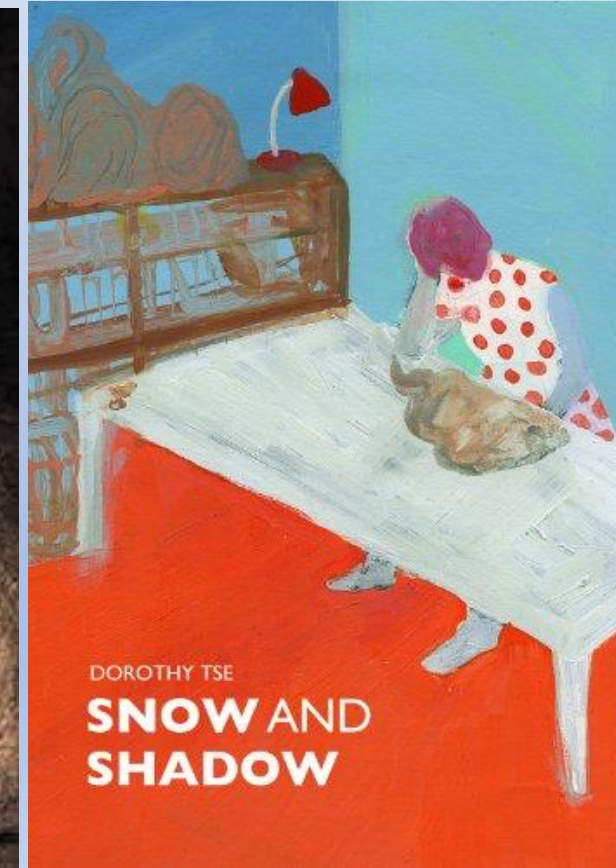
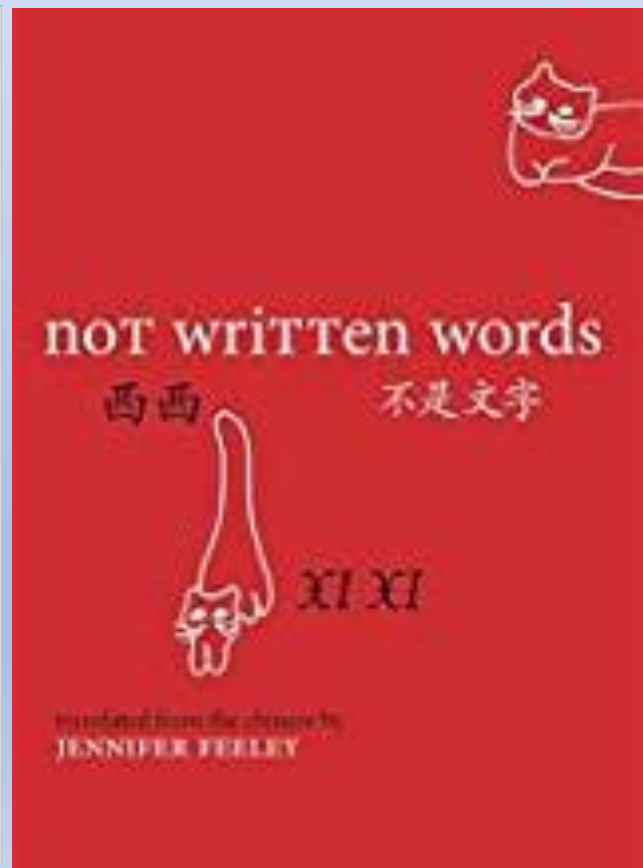
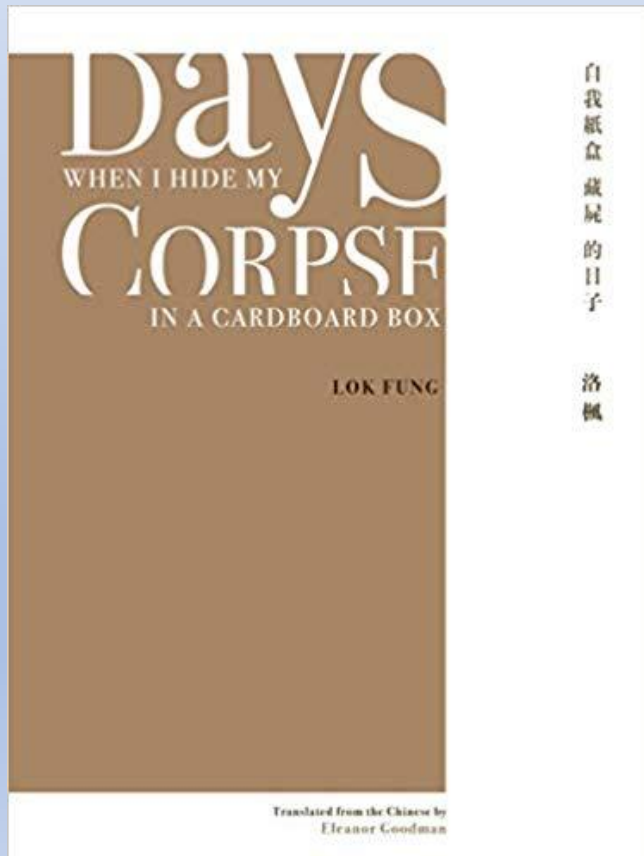
Puns in “Beard with a Face” 「鬍子有臉」 (1985)

- Rodari *Luodali* 羅大裡
 - 羅小裡
- Signor Rodari
 - Junior Rodari

Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

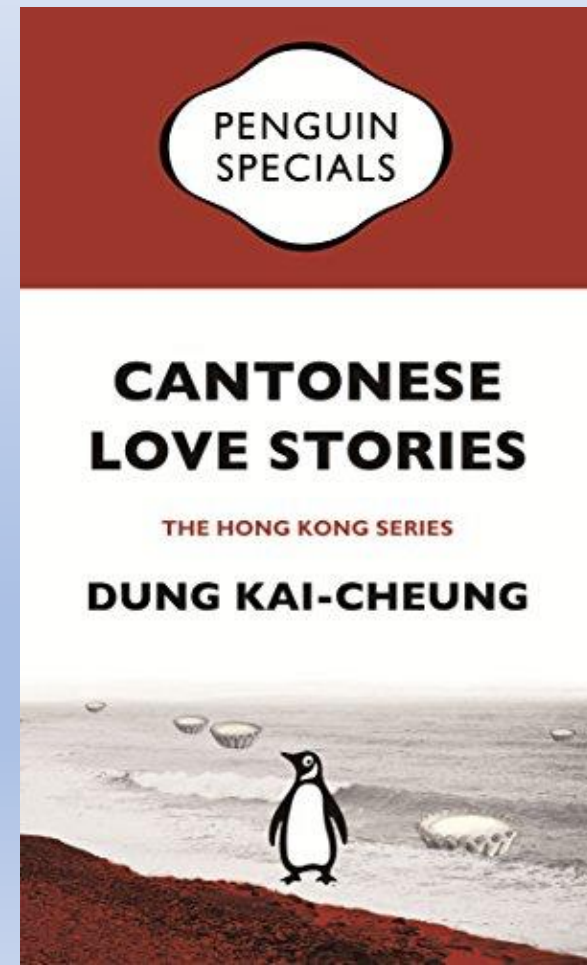
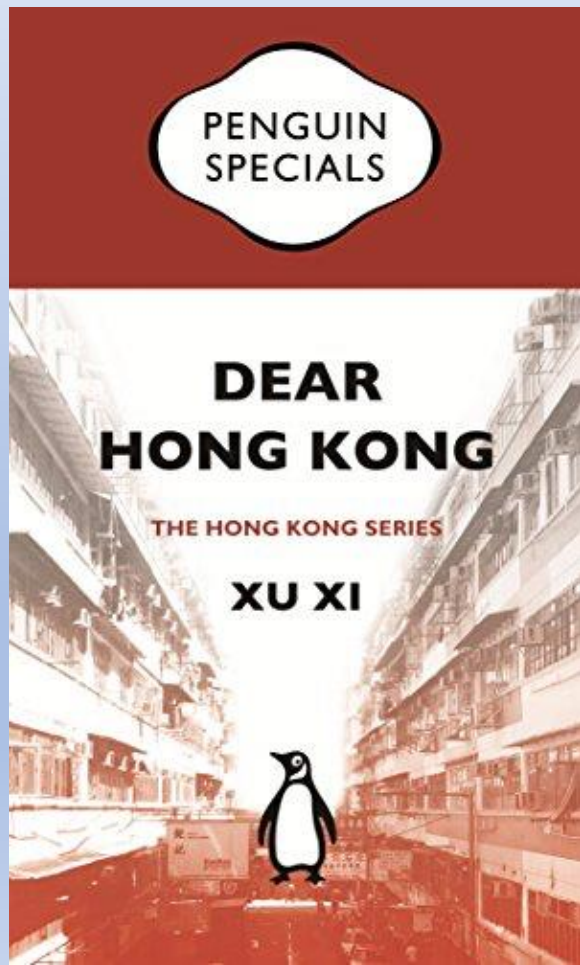
Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

- Hong Kong Atlas Project



Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

- Penguin Hong Kong specials



Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

- Hong Kong-themed special issues

feature

Fabulist Writing from Hong Kong

Nonfiction by Jennifer Feeley

Reimagined Cities: Fabulist Tales from Hong Kong

Hong Kong is situated at the convergence of multiple literary and linguistic traditions.

Fiction by Dorothy Tse

Chewing on Words

It wasn't their voices that they'd lost, it was all memory of their language.

Translated from Chinese by Natascha Bruce

Fiction by Xi Xi

Apple

In honor of the first Internationalization Campaign, they decided to put on an Apple Pageant.

Translated from Chinese by Jennifer Feeley

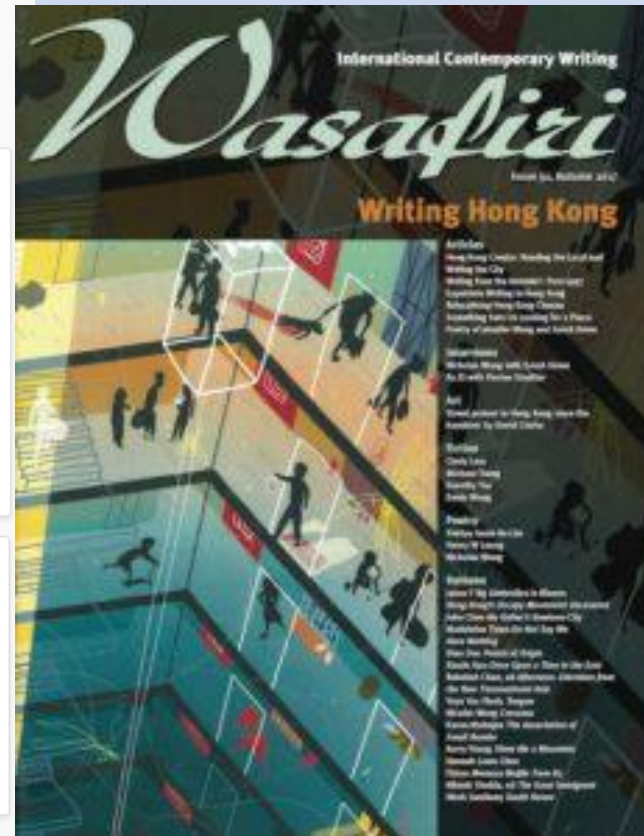
bilingual

Fiction by Hon Lai Chu

Puma

It was on that afternoon that the cat began talking to me.

Translated from Chinese by Andrea Lingenfelter



ASIAN AMERICAN WRITERS' WORKSHOP

CURATION THE MARGINS OPEN CITY CULTURESTR/KE PAGE TURNER

THE MARGINS

ESSAYS INTERVIEWS FICTION POETRY MARGINALIA SUBMIT ABC

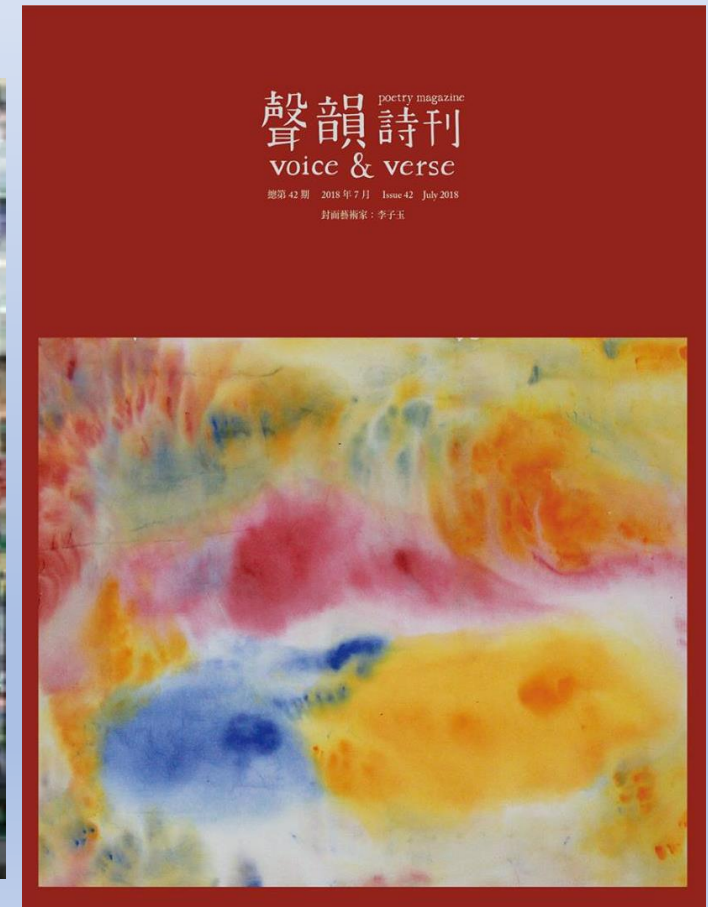
Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement: Four Poems

"In the smoke, they forget their bare feet / as they see their faces more clearly than ever... No trial can strike down / their small and fragile umbrellas."



Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

- Efforts within Hong Kong



Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature

- ALTA Emerging Translator Mentorships



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CONFERENCE

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Lucien Stryk Prize

Italian Prose in Translation Award

Becker Prize

ALTA Travel Fellowships

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

COMMUNITY

Emerging Translator Mentorships

The **ALTA Emerging Translator Mentorship Program** is designed to facilitate and establish a close working relationship between an experienced translator and an emerging translator on a project selected by the emerging translator. The mentorship duration is approximately one year. The emerging translator is expected to choose a project that can be completed in a year's time, and they will only be advised on that particular project.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The mentor and mentee meet at the beginning of their mentorship at the annual ALTA conference, and continue their work during the rest of the mentorship year, either in person, over Skype, or by phone. A minimum of six meetings is expected for the course of the year. The mentorship will conclude with a presentation of the mentee's work in a reading during National Translation Month (September) of the following year. A number of magazine editors have agreed to review submissions directly from mentees at the end of their mentorship year, and to work with them on potential future projects. The award covers travel to the ALTA conference at the beginning of the mentorship.

Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature



Opportunities in Translating Hong Kong Literature



- More funding sources
- Engaging presses and translators both within and beyond Hong Kong



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