Three Thousand Years of Chinese Poetry - 2

POETRY OF THE TANG DYNASTY
The Complete Anthology
- Commissioned in 1705 by the Kangxi emperor of Qing dynasty, and published under his name
- 49,000 lyric poems by more than 2200 poets

300 Tang Poems
- First compiled around 1763 by Sun Zhu (衡塘退士)
- Why 300, which is not an exact number? (Hint: remember #pieces in Book of Songs?)
FORMATS: REGULATED POEMS

- **Number of lines**
  - Eight-line Regulated Verse (*lushi*)
  - Curtailed form (*jueju*)
  - Expanded form (*pailu*)

- **Number of words per line**
  - Five
  - Seven
ELEMENTS OF REGULATED POEMS

- **Meter:** caesuras (or pause within line)
- **Line length**
- **Couplets**
- **Poem length**
- **Tone** & Tone Pattern
- **Rhythm**
- **Rhyme** & Rhyme table
TIME PERIODS & REPRESENTING POETS

- **Initial:** WANG Bo
- **Peak:**
  - WANG Wei: Poetry Buddha
  - LI Bai: Poetry Immortal
  - DU Fu: Poetry Sage
- **Middle:** BAI Juyi
- **Late:** LI Shangyin
FLOW OF THOUGHT

- General rule:
  - The first half: Describe the scenery & environment
  - The second half: Express one's mind & emotions

- Development of an 8-line verse
  - First (or head) couplet: start
  - Second (or jaw) couplet: carry on
  - Third (or neck) couplet: transition
  - Fourth (or tail) couplet: end
城阙辅三秦，风烟望五津。

与君离别意，同是宦游人。

海内存知己，天涯若比邻。

无为在歧路，儿女共沾巾。

Subtitle: See Mr. Du off upon his departure to the Shu province.

Poems can NOT be translated! Or can it?
WANG BO (王勃)

- A literati protégé who advocated a style rich in emotion
- Topped the “Four Paragons of the Early Tang” (初唐四傑, 618–712)
- Died at the age of 26, while going to Vietnam (then under Tang rule) to meet his father
- Also famous for the essay (駢文, rhymed prose with couples and ping-ze, but no fixed length restrictions) Tengwang Ge Xu
Allusion is a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance.

Three Qins? The area known as Qin (where Dukedom of Qin was) had been divided into three parts after the Qin dynasty ended.

Five Ports? There are five famous ports (or portal towns) in the Shu area. (Wei-Shu-Wu)
两个黄鹂鸣翠柳，
Two count yellow Oriole chirp green willow
一行白鹭上青天。
One line white Heron ascend blue sky
窗含西岭千秋雪，
window confine west ridge 1000 autumn snow
门泊东吴万里船。
Door anchor east Wu 10000 mile boat
床前明月光，
疑是地上霜。
举头望明月，
低头思故乡。

One of the best known verse to kids
LI BAI: PIONEER OF THE CI FORM

云想衣裳花想容，
Cloud think cloth skirt flower think face
春風拂槛露華濃。
Spring breeze touch threshold due flower dense
若非群玉山頭見，
if not QunYu Mount top see
會向瑶台月下逢。
Should at YaoTai ??? beneath meet

- Peking Opera by Master MEI LanFang (梅兰芳)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHBIIsuB1uY
- Pop song by Teresa DEND
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEii0_L3rS4
WANG WEI: POET & PAINTER

- One can read poem from his painting, and see picture from his poems.

ONE-HEARTED
When those red berries come in springtime, Flushing on your southland branches, Take home an armful, for my sake, As a symbol of our love.

Wang’s poem rendered by DONG QiChang, a Ming master calligrapher.
**BAI JUYI: PIPA XING**

- **Narrative**
  
  - English Translation by 杨宪益、戴乃迭 et al

- **Pipa performances**
  
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKrgBlfj8Mc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKrgBlfj8Mc)
  
  - 十面埋伏（surrounded on all sides）

- [http://www.en84.com/article-609-1.html](http://www.en84.com/article-609-1.html)