

A HISTORY OF SINO-MALAYSIAN INTERACTIONS

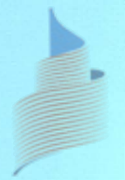
Zhou Weimin & Tang Lingling

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About the Authors

Zhou Weimin, born in Kaiping, Guangdong in 1933, is a recipient of the Government Special Allowance from the State Council of the People's Republic of China. He retired as a professor from the College of Liberal Arts, Hainan Univeristy, where he was a long-time advisor to master students in Chinese literary and criticism and served as the Dean from 1988 to 1992. Specializing in Chinese literary theory and criticism of the Ming and Qing period, he has authored *A Study on the History of Poetry in the Ming and Qing Period*, *An Annotated Translation of Lu Ji's Rhymed Prose on Literature*, and *A History of Fiction Theory in the Ming and Qing Period* (co-written with Wang Xianpei), among other books. He has also co-authored, with his wife Tang Lingling, *A Study of Su Shi's Thoughts*, "On Poetic Stream-of-consciousness Fiction by Eastern Writers", and "A Comparative Study of the Poetry of Usman Awang and Wu An". With over 100 papers to his name, he has received a Second-class Award for Research Achievements in the Humanities and Social Sciences from the State Education Commission, a Third-class Award for Research Achievements from the National Social Sciences Foundation, and many other awards from academic institutions of Hainan Province.

Tang Lingling, born in Chaozhou, Guangdong in 1935, is also a recipient of the Government Special Allowance from the State Council of the People's Republic of China. She retired as a professor from the College of Liberal Arts, Hainan Univeristy, where she was an advisor to master students in *ci* poetry of the Song Dynasty from 1985. A specialist of *ci* poetry, she has written and edited several books on the great Song poet Su Shi, including *Selected Essays of Su Shi*, *An Annotated Chronological Collection of Yuefu Poems of Su Shi*, and *A Study of Yuefu Poems by Su Shi*. With her husband Zhou Weimin, she has also co-authored *A Study of Su Shi's Thoughts*, "On Poetic Stream-of-consciousness Fiction by Eastern Writers", and "A Comparative Study of the Poetry of Usman Awang and Wu An". A recipient of several awards for research achievements in social sciences from academic institutions of Hainan Province, she has more than 80 papers published to her name.



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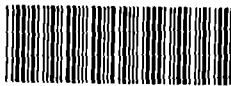
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Zhou Weimin & Tang Lingling

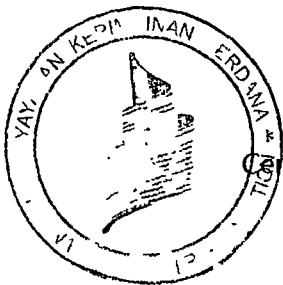
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Message

The year 2004 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-Malaysia diplomatic relations. In Malaysia, a conference to commemorate Zheng He's visit to Melaka and many other commemorative activities had been organized to celebrate the harmonious relationship between the two countries for the past three decades. In the spring of that significant year, I was honoured to be invited to Hainan to receive the title of Honorary Professor from Hainan University and to attend the launching of *Zhongguo yu Malaixiya Wenhua Jiaoliu Shi* (中国与马来西亚文化交流史, the original Chinese edition of the present book) co-authored by Prof. Zhou Weimin and his wife, Prof. Tang Lingling.

Prof. Zhou and Prof. Tang are renowned scholars in the studies of Chinese literary theory, literary criticism of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and literature of the Tang and Song dynasties. Although they have retired, they continue to serve at the Faculty of Arts, Hainan University. In the recent years, they expand their field of interest to include Malaysian literature, a result of which being *A Comparative Study of the Poetry of Usman Awang and Wu An*. With the opportunity to get hold of materials on the Li people on Hainan Island, the local history of Hainan and the history of Chinese migration from Guangdong

and Fujian to Southeast Asia, they decided to delve into the history of Chinese immigration on the Malay Peninsula and the historical interactions of China and Malaysia. With their passion for academic research, they made five visits to Malaysia in 1995-1999 for collection of research materials. They even went to several remote areas for fieldwork and interviews of senior villagers there. After several years of effort, they now present us with *A History of Sino-Malaysian Interactions*, a book of broad perspectives and based on substantial historical materials.

It was during their visits to Malaysia that I came to know Prof. Zhou and Prof. Tang as one of their interviewees. When at the launching in Hainan they invited me to write some words for their forthcoming Chinese edition of the book, I was more than willing to fulfil their request, although I am not a history scholar by training.

A History of Sino-Malaysian Interactions offers a general history of the interactions between China and Malaysia over the past two millennia. Written in chronological order, it gives a broad picture of how the people and governments of China and Malaysia had interacted from over 2,000 years ago up to 1974 when diplomatic relations were formally established between the two countries. A good part of the book is dedicated to the era when the Sultanate of Melaka ruled the Malay Peninsula while the Yongle Emperor of the Ming Dynasty ruled China. This prime time of Sino-Malaysian interactions witnessed Admiral Zheng He's five visits to Melaka in his seven grand voyages to the Western Seas. A transit point between East and West in the 15th century, Melaka was much-coveted by Western colonial powers, as it could serve as a window through which the Westerners would be able to take a close look of China. In the due course of time, the Sultanate of Melaka fell into the hands of Western powers. With the emergence of Singapore and the advent of aviation, however, Melaka—and the entire Malay