

FOREWORD TO “LADY IN THE PAINTING”

Mr. Fred Wang, a teacher at Yale University and a well-known compiler of Chinese language teaching texts, has here taken a famous Chinese folktale and retold it within the rather tight limitations of 300 basic Chinese characters. His purpose is to provide a piece of reading material to be used after completion of his elementary level reading text, **READ CHINESE, BOOK ONE**. Students often feel the need of extensive reading material that provides frequent recurrence of familiar characters, thereby promoting further assimilation. It may be further claimed that students enjoy the feeling of being able to read something through from beginning to end without referring constantly to a glossary. Such experience tends to develop confidence.

The reader will also note that Mr. Wang provides a “Preface” in Chinese. This short introduction to the book is an effective review of the 300 basic Chinese characters. Like **LADY**, it is also fun to read.

I recall vividly when I first read **LADY IN THE PAINTING**. It was my “first book” in Chinese. I was delighted with the experience as I’m sure you will be.

In this edition, Claudia Ross, herself a compiler of Chinese language teaching materials, has expanded the vocabulary, provided a version of the text in simplified characters (available separately from the publisher), and, most importantly, has made **LADY IN THE PAINTING** part of multi-media courseware package available from the publisher, Far Eastern Publications of Yale University.

Audio materials in cassette or CD format to accompany the text are also available for listening practice. See the publisher’s website (address below).

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yalebooks.com/fep