

random checking yielded only one mistake in Romanization (a tone mark on p. 234), something of a triumph in such a large body of material.

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Revelations that Move the Earth to Tears: A Collection of Post-Cultural Revolution Poems and Essays By Chinese Youths (Kan-yu Ko-yin Tung-ti Ai). [Hong Kong: The Seventies, 1974. 317 pp. Hardback HK \$20.00. Paperback HK \$15.00.]

This collection of 15 poems, 12 letters and essays, and five short stories, some of them written in Hong Kong and some of them smuggled out from China, was put together in Hong Kong by a group of former Red Guards. As might be expected, the style and content of the book's contributions differ markedly from the post-Cultural Revolution literature that fills official Chinese publications. The staunch revolutionary *élan* and the sacrifice of self to the people that are so rigidly and unbelievably depicted in the latter are nowhere to be found in the present work. Instead, the collection is imbued with sentiments of disillusionment, narcissism and romance that in China would be struggled against as the most dangerously bourgeois of "poisonous weeds."

The editor, himself a young veteran of the Cultural Revolution, claims that the volume represents a new school of writing, which he names "the literature of awakening" (*chueh-hsing wen-hsueh*). "Awakening" implies two clear-cut stages in the authors' consciousness: their "unawareness" during the pre-Cultural Revolution era, when the authors allegedly held blind belief in Mao, the Party and the revolution, as opposed to the present post-Cultural Revolution period when, having decided that their past beliefs were all false illusion, they drew back into a search into their own feelings. Precipitating their awakening were the traumatic experiences of the Cultural Revolution, when the young people witnessed the deaths of relatives and close friends. Even more importantly, they acquired, in the Cultural Revolution's finale and perhaps in their own dispatchment to the countryside, the feeling that they had been betrayed by the system and by their own naïveté.

Yet in the entire volume there is not one word against Mao Tse-tung, as we might well have expected from such young people, nor any conscious effort to dig out the causes of their alleged "agony and disappointment." Indeed, the authors scarcely allude to the world of politics at all.

The poems, short essays, letters and excerpts from diaries instead turn repeatedly to simple and often sophomoric themes on the meaning of love and life. A majority of the correspondence written in China is, indeed, no more than banal teenage love-letters, each writer praising

the other's angelic character and fortitude. The short stories, if only because they must follow story-lines, do permit us glimpses of present-day Chinese society. But with the exception of two of these stories, the entire collection, with only minor alterations, might well have been written about any place and time. The book's major and unintentional message is no more than that young people who have grown up under Mao can be as emotionally romantic as the youths of any other country.

To what extent are the contributors to *Revelations that Move the Earth to Tears* representative of China's younger urban-bred generation? Certainly, amongst the millions of young people who have been sent to labour amongst the peasantry, a fair number probably share at least a little of the authors' disillusionment. But some of my own acquaintances amongst the "freedom swimmers" in Hong Kong have criticized the volume in private conversations, complaining that not many Chinese youths today are so totally disheartened nor so completely or self-pityingly romantic.

A separate word must be said about the volume's last short story, for many of its readers agree that it stands apart from the book both in style and substance. It is excerpted from a novel, reportedly being prepared for publication, which will carry the title *Years and Poetry* (*Sui-yueh yu shih-pian*). This promises to be a novel worth reading, with an intricate plot revolving around the relationships and feelings of a group of youngsters in the years immediately after the Cultural Revolution. The author is skilled with words, and his descriptions of incidents and characters are often illuminating. At long last we may be on the verge of having a piece of literature that actually gives a feel for daily life today in China.

The people who compiled the present volume are also preparing for publication a second compilation of writings by former Red Guards. Despite the disappointing quality of the first anthology, we can look forward hopefully to the next, since there are indications that the second volume will not only be a more worthwhile literary quality than the first, but will also contain pieces of direct interest to China specialists.

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A Bibliography of Studies and Translations of Modern Chinese Literature, 1918-1942. By DONALD A. GIBBS and YUN-CHEN LI. [Cambridge, Mass., and London: Harvard University Press, 1975. Harvard East Asian Monographs 61. 239 pp. \$15.00. £10-20.]

The authors of this volume aim at compiling a "complete" bibliography of western studies and translations of modern Chinese literature. To a large extent they have succeeded in this remarkable task. The present book is by far the most exhaustive guide to the English translations and