Learn Chinese from Modern Writers
An Interactive Multimedia Language Program
Compiled by C.W. Shih
This cutting-edge interactive program teaches intermediate and advanced Chinese language skills through exposure to Chinese literature and culture. The CD introduces students to five leading modern Chinese writers—Ba Jin, Mao Dun, Ding Ling, Cao Yu, and Ai Qing—through video interview footage. The companion workbook, sold separately, is a guide to the CD that provides additional writing practice for each activity, along with Chinese-Pinyin-English vocabulary lists and glossary, and transcripts of CD text in both English and Chinese.
System Requirements: Pentium-based PC or compatible; Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0, 2000, or XP; Quick Time 3.0 or higher; 32 MB RAM; 640 x 480 256 color display; CD-ROM drive; Sound card and speakers; Microphone (no need to install a Chinese language system).
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Message from the Program Chair

On behalf of the Program Committee, I am happy to report on our progress toward the 2004 CLTA Annual Conference in Chicago. This year's Program Committee of four CLTA members represents diverse backgrounds in linguistics, literature, and second language acquisition. Prior to rating the proposals, we discussed guidelines, refined criteria, and developed a rating system that includes both a numerical scale and verbal comments.

We received the highest number of proposals since 1997, with 35 panel and 60 individual paper proposals. The on-line submission system established at Hamilton College worked very smoothly and made it possible for our conference assistant to sort the proposals and assign them numbers before forwarding them to the committee for anonymous review.

CLTA has been allotted 24 session blocks by ACTFL Headquarters. We will try to negotiate for more, but can realistically expect to accept a maximum of 50% of the proposals. We are now in the final stage of the review process, and have some very difficult choices to make. We plan to make final decisions by the end of March, and notify all those who made submissions by e-mail.

Once again I would like to thank the members of Program Review Committee for their hard work and their dedication in bringing to CLTA a successful program for 2004. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago in November. Hong Gang Jin

Message from the Finance Committee

Due to increasing activities and rising prices, CLTA has run a budget deficit for several years in spite of every effort to cut costs. Your Finance Committee thus reluctantly recommended a dues increase. Mindful of the hardship this may entail for some, we proposed to raise the dues by $5.00 for the lower three income categories, $15 for the rest. The Board of Directors has approved the new rates as follows:

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<tr>
<th>INCOME CATEGORY</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>$20,000 or Under</td>
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<td>Lifetime membership:</td>
<td>$750</td>
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Institutional subscription rates for JCLTA will go from $100 to $120 for domestic subscribers and from $120 to $140 for international (to cover postage). Joint membership is available to individuals who share a single mailing address. Joint members receive one set of the journal and newsletter. Dues are based on the higher income, plus $30 for the second member.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2004, you may still do so at the old rates until April 16.

In order to further increase revenues, we ask your help:

• The best way for us to raise revenues is to increase membership. We urge you to encourage any qualified friends or colleagues who are not yet members to join us.
• Journal subscriptions from institutions are important to us. Please check to see if your institution is a subscriber, and if not, please recommend the JCLTA to your serials or acquisition librarian.
• Endowment income—CLTA has a small endowment and we will be looking at ways to increase returns on it. We ask that you contribute to the endowment. CLTA is registered with the IRS as a 501© (3) organization so that your contribution is fully deductible as a charitable donation. Beginning with the next issue, the CLTA will acknowledge and thank donors to the Association.

We welcome any suggestions you may have, and will continue to work energetically for the Association.

CLTA Finance Committee—Gloria Bien, Chair; Stephen Tschudi, Secretary; Members: Hong Gang Jin, Cyndy Ning
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