

# **An Anthology Of Chinese Literature Beginnings To 1911**

An Anthology Of Chinese Literature Beginnings To 1911 An Anthology of Chinese Literature Beginnings to 1911 This anthology offers a journey through the rich and varied tapestry of Chinese literature from its earliest beginnings to the eve of the Xinhai Revolution in 1911 Spanning millennia this collection encompasses diverse genres including poetry prose drama and philosophical treatises showcasing the evolution of Chinese literary expression and its profound impact on both Chinese culture and the world

**Part I The Foundations Ancient China 221 BCE The Oral Tradition** This section explores the origins of Chinese literature in the oral tradition We delve into the mythical tales and legends passed down through generations including excerpts from The Classic of Poetry Shijing Chinas oldest collection of poetry and examine the development of early forms of storytelling like the Yijing Book of Changes and the Huainanzi Master of Huainan The Five Classics We delve into the core texts of Confucianism considered essential for understanding ancient Chinese thought and society Excerpts from The Analects of Confucius The Book of Documents The Spring and Autumn Annals The Book of Rites and The Book of History are included offering insight into the ethical political and social values that shaped ancient China The Rise of the Hundred Schools of Thought This section delves into the flourishing of diverse philosophical and intellectual schools during the Warring States period Excerpts from prominent thinkers like Laozi Daoism Zhuangzi Daoism and Mozi Mohism provide a glimpse into the philosophical debates that defined this era

**Early Poetry and Prose** We explore the emergence of sophisticated poetic forms including the shi fourcharacter verse and the fu prose poetry Excerpts from the Chuci Songs of Chu and the works of Qu Yuan a renowned poet and statesman showcase the beauty and depth of early Chinese poetry

**Part II The Golden Age of Poetry and Prose 221 BCE 907 CE The Han Dynasty 206 BCE 220 CE** This period marks the golden age of Chinese poetry with the flourishing of the shi form and the emergence of ci lyric poetry Excerpts from 2 famous poets like Ban Gu Cao Zhi and Tao Yuanming are included showcasing the themes of love nature and personal reflections

**The Tang Dynasty 618 907 CE** This era is widely regarded as the pinnacle of Chinese poetry with the Tang poems renowned for their elegance and emotional depth We delve into the

works of renowned poets like Li Bai Du Fu Wang Wei and Bai Juyi highlighting the diverse themes and styles of this dynamic period

**The Emergence of Prose Narratives** This section explores the development of prose fiction from the chuanqi legendary tales to the xiaoshuo novels Excerpts from the Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio by Pu Songling and other early stories provide insight into the themes of fantasy folklore and social commentary

**Buddhism and its Influence** This section examines the influence of Buddhism on Chinese literature exploring the development of Buddhist poetry prose and drama Excerpts from the Lotus Sutra and the works of prominent Buddhist writers like Xuanzang showcase the integration of Buddhist philosophy and aesthetics into Chinese literary tradition

**Part III The Song Dynasty and the Flourishing of Drama 960 1279 CE**

**Song Dynasty Poetry** The Song Dynasty saw the flourishing of ci poetry with renowned poets like Li Qingzhao and Su Shi contributing significantly to the development of this lyrical form Excerpts from their works showcase the beauty and sophistication of this era's poetry

**The Birth of Zaju Drama** This section explores the emergence of zaju a popular form of Chinese drama which involved singing dancing and elaborate sets Excerpts from plays by Guan Hanqing and Ma Zhiyuan offer a glimpse into the humor satire and romance of this genre

**The Rise of Prose Fiction** The Song Dynasty witnessed a significant development of prose fiction including the emergence of the huaben storybooks Excerpts from the Water Margin and the Romance of the Three Kingdoms two iconic huaben stories demonstrate the themes of adventure heroism and social commentary that characterized this period

**Part IV The Yuan Dynasty and the Development of Opera 1271 1368 CE**

**The Yuan Zaju** This section focuses on the development of the yuan zaju form a highly sophisticated and influential form of Chinese drama Excerpts from plays by Wang Shifu Ma Zhiyuan and Zheng Guangzu showcase the intricate plots colorful characters and philosophical themes of this genre

**The Emergence of Kunqu Opera** This section explores the origins of kunqu a form of opera that became immensely popular in the Ming Dynasty Excerpts from early kunqu plays provide insight into the music dance and storytelling that characterized this genre

**The Four Great Classical Novels** This section delves into the Four Great Classical Novels 3 foundational works of Chinese literature that emerged during the Ming and Qing Dynasties Excerpts from Journey to the West Romance of the Three Kingdoms Water Margin and Dream of the Red Chamber showcase the diverse themes and stylistic mastery of these literary giants

**Part V The Ming and Qing Dynasties 1368 1911 CE**

**The Ming Dynasty Novel** This section examines the evolution of the Chinese novel during the Ming Dynasty exploring the emergence of new genres and styles Excerpts from novels like

The Plum in the Golden Vase and Jin Ping Mei showcase the themes of social critique eroticism and realism The Qing Dynasty and the Rise of Ci Poetry This section focuses on the flourishing of ci poetry during the Qing Dynasty with poets like Nalan Xingde and Cao Xueqin creating works that blended traditional forms with new themes and techniques The Development of Vernacular Literature This section explores the rise of vernacular literature including the pinghua storytelling and the xiaoshuo novels written in the common language Excerpts from The Scholars by Wu Jingzi and other novels demonstrate the social commentary humor and human drama that characterized this genre The New Literary Movement and the Dawn of Modern Chinese Literature This concluding section provides a brief overview of the New Literary Movement that emerged in the early 20th century foreshadowing the significant changes in Chinese literature in the years to come Conclusion This anthology provides a glimpse into the vast and vibrant world of Chinese literature showcasing its rich history diverse genres and enduring impact on Chinese culture By exploring the works of prominent writers and thinkers across different historical periods readers gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of Chinese literary expression the societal values that shaped it and the enduring relevance of this rich literary heritage

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this unique collection of articles on literature in northern nigeria is in three parts part one presents an overview of the running theme in which na allah explores the theoretical relationship between literature history and identity in northern nigeria using the proverbial story of the blind man who holds a lamp while walking alone in the night similarly tsiga undertakes in a long bibliographical essay a notable survey of the relationship between literature history and identity in northern nigeria chronicling the development of life

writing in the region dating back three hundred years part two focuses on the relationship between literature and history in northern nigeria and begins with the article in which illah investigates the theme he uses the image of the bus to underscore the point he makes concerning the uniqueness of northern nigerian literature which continues its journey even without a spare tyre equally in this part balogun discusses yerima s attahiru ameh oboni the great as theatres of colonial resistance just as methuselah also examines the heroism celebrated in ahmed yerima s attahiru adamu revisits the trans fictional use of the grimm brothers tale in the early published hausa written narratives while yunusa and malumfashi examine similar historical concerns in abubakar imam and sa adu zungur respectively this part concludes with garba assessing the transformation of the written hausa prose narratives into radio broadcasts while abiodun examines in a historiographic survey the various forms and composition of ilorin music in what might have been the scholar s last conference article before his sudden death nasidi in part three opens the debate on literature and identity in northern nigeria eloquently theorising on the relationship with foucault his favourite philosopher abdulraheem illustrates how the literature of the people of ilorin is their identity marker while kazaure investigates the split character in labo yari s man of the moment ibrahim explores identity in marriage between migrants and natives in kanchana ugbabe s soul mates while aondofa investigates globalisation and indigenous television using tiv film typology like aondofa sulaiman examines the use of diction in characterisation in the film industry the third of the contributors on the film industry Abdulbaqi uses films shown on dstv s african magic channels to investigate matrimonial harmony in north central nigeria jaji revisits the antecedents and prospects in the relationship between prose and identity in northern nigeria giwa offers a detailed investigation of zaynab alkali s the initiates on gender politics similarly muhammad and muhammad are concerned with identity and the gender politics in bilkisu abubakar s to live again and the woman in me the last article in the book jointly written by yusuf anwonmeh and agulonye offers the only viewpoint on children s literature in northern nigeria

a comparative history of the practices technologies institutions and people that created distinct literary traditions around the world from ancient to modern times literature is such a familiar and widespread form of imaginative expression today that its existence can seem inevitable but in fact very few languages ever developed the full fledged literary cultures we take for granted challenging basic assumptions about literatures by uncovering both the distinct and common factors that led to their

improbable invention how literatures begin is a global comparative history of literary origins that spans the ancient and modern world and stretches from asia and europe to africa and the americas the book brings together a group of leading literary historians to examine the practices technologies institutions and individuals that created seventeen literary traditions chinese japanese korean indian greek latin hebrew syriac arabic english romance languages german russian latin american african african american and world literature in these accessible accounts which are framed by general and section introductions and a conclusion by the editors literatures emerge as complex weaves of phenomena unique and deeply rooted in particular times and places but also displaying surprising similarities again and again new literatures arise out of old come into being through interactions across national and linguistic borders take inspiration from translation and cultural cross fertilization and provide new ways for groups to imagine themselves in relation to their moment in history renewing our sense of wonder for the unlikely and strange thing we call literature how literatures begin offers fresh opportunities for comparison between the individual traditions that make up the rich mosaic of the world s literatures the book is organized in four sections with seventeen literatures covered by individual contributors part i east and south asia chinese martin kern japanese wiebke denecke korean ksenia chizhova and indian sheldon pollock part ii the mediterranean greek deborah steiner latin joseph farrell hebrew jacqueline vayntrub syriac alberto rigolio and arabic gregor schoeler part iii european vernaculars english ingrid nelson romance languages simon gaunt german joel lande and russian michael wachtel part iv modern geographies latin american rolana adorno african simon gikandi african american douglas jones and world literature jane o newman

honoré de balzac references on p 26 and 303

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