



How to Read Chinese Poetry Podcast

Topic 14 Short Song Lyrics (*xiaoling*) in the Song Dynasty

Guest Host: Maija Bell Samei

Episode 45 Feeling and Scene: Early Literati Song Lyrics

I. Text

To the Tune “Audience at Golden Gate”

(Wei Zhuang) 韋莊 謁金門

Vain to remember him,

No way to get news through.

Chang’e in the heavens doesn’t recognize me.

Where shall I seek him, to send him a letter?

Waking, languid, from new sleep,

Can’t bear to take up the remains of his letter.

A courtyard full of fallen blossoms—spring is lonely, lonely

—Heartbreaking, the fragrant grasses green.

kōng xiāng yì
空 相 憶

wú jì dé chuán xiāo xī
無 計 得 傳 消 息

tiān shàng cháng é rén bù shí
天 上 嫦 娥 人 不 識

jì shū hé chù mì
寄 書 何 處 覓

xīn shuì jué lái wú lì
新 睡 覺 來 無 力

bù rěn bǎ yī shū jì
不 忍 把 伊 書 跡

mǎn yuàn luò huā chūn jì jì
滿 院 落 花 春 寂 寂

duàn cháng fāng cǎo bì
斷 腸 芳 草 碧

To the Tune “On the Water Clock at Night”
(Wen Tingyun) 菩薩蠻

Incense in the jade burner,

Red wax tears

Unbidden, reflect an autumn mood in the painted hall.

Blackened brows fade,

Cloud locks are tousled,

The night is long, quilt and pillow cold.

Wutong trees and

Third-watch rain are

Unaware of separation throes.

Leaf after leaf,

Sound by sound

Drips on the empty steps 'til dawn.

yù lú xiāng

玉鑪香

hóng là lèi

紅蠟淚

piān zhào huà táng qiū sī

偏照畫堂秋思

méi cuì báo

眉翠薄

bìn yún cán

鬢雲殘

yè cháng qīn zhěn hán

夜長衾枕寒

wú tóng shù

梧桐樹

sān gēng yǔ

三更雨

bú dào lí qíng zhèng kǔ

不道離情正苦

yí yè yè

一葉葉

yì shēng shēng

一聲聲

kōng jiē dī dào míng

空階滴到明

[Translated by Maija Bell Samei]

English poems recited by Dr. Andrew Merritt and Mrs. Deborah Merritt

Chinese poems recited by Zhan Aifan and Zhao Sikun

II. Episode Notes

- *Huajian ji* 花間集 (Among the Flowers Collection)
- Wei Zhuang 偉莊 (ca. 836-910)
- Huang Chao Rebellion 黃巢起義 (878-884)
- Chang'e 嫦娥 (Goddess of the moon)
- xuzi 虛字 (empty words)
- shi 詩 (lyric poem)
- Wen Tingyun 溫庭筠 (813?-870)
- qing jing jiao rong 情景交融 (fusion of feeling and scene)

III. Textual Source

Samei, Maija Bell. "Ci Poetry: Short Song Lyrics." In Cai Zong-qi, ed., *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 245-261.

