

JUST PUBLISHED! FIRST WESTERN RENDITIONS BASED ON THE POEMS OF YIHUAN!



Remembered chiefly as the father and grandfather of the last rulers of Imperial China, Yihuan (1840-1891) was a gifted and prolific poet whose work represents the last glowing embers of the Confucian school. Working from the original Chinese, poet Vera Schwarcz captures the spirit and humanity of a philosopher-statesman cast aside by the landslide of history. In these wonderful poems by the last patriarch of the Qing Dynasty, Ms. Schwarcz probes with her own poetic artistry the consolation of memory, forging a profound link between old and new, east and west, history and poetry. Though her selection comprises but a small part of Yihuan's considerable output, there is a greatness here that merits serious attention. Thus we are honored to premiere the poet Yihuan in this, the first representative translation of his work in any western language!

Vera Schwarcz was born and raised in Cluj, Romania, where she began her explorations of poetry in several languages. Her mother tongues include Hungarian and Romanian, with Yiddish, German, Hebrew, Russian and French added along the way. After emigrating to the United States in 1962, she pursued degrees in East Asian studies and history at Vassar, Yale and Stanford. A member of the first group of exchange scholars to be sent to China in the spring of 1979, she has returned to Beijing repeatedly during the past three decades. All along, her corpus of scholarly writing has been accompanied by the publication of poems in several languages in the United States, Europe and Asia. The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Schwarcz has made the quest for remembrance a central theme in all her works. Her writing has been nominated for the National Jewish Book Award and has been accorded several major grants, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Currently, Vera Schwarcz is serving as Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at Wesleyan University and holds the Freeman Chair in East Asian Studies. She lives with her husband and children in West Hartford, Connecticut.

On Tuesday, March 31 at 8 p.m., Vera Schwarcz will read from and sign copies of *Chisel of Remembrance* at Russell House, 350 High St., Middletown, CT (Wesleyan University). the reading is free and a reception will follow.
Contact agreene@wesleyan.edu.

On Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m, a second reading: China Institute, 125 E. 65th St., New York, NY. Call 212.744.8181.

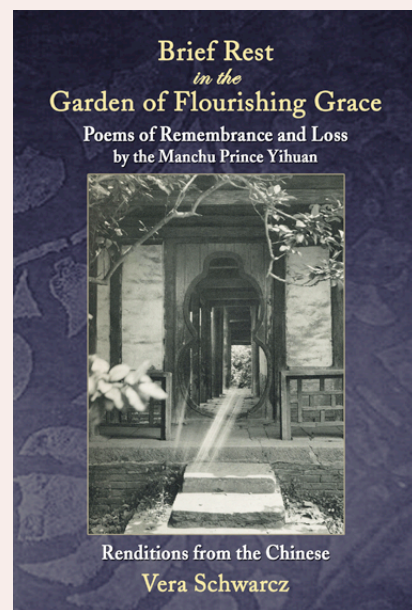
Red Heifer Press.
ISBN: 978-0-9631478-2-0.
Trade paper. 90 pages (including 7 historical illustrations) and 11 art photographs of Chinese gardens.
Price (US): \$18.00

WHERE AZURE REIGNED

Yet another feast
near the Mountain of Virtuous
Rule, cloaked in autumn blood.

Pure light no longer filters here, only
fading lotus, lace bark pine
cradle remnants
of heavy rain, on distant hills
some gold-flecked clouds,
frogs croak, cicadas join in
as if they share my grief.

The Hall of Clear Azure
lies empty, the marble bridge
shattered. Stay the oars,
reach for the wine, do not stifle
the cry in your throat.



Brief Rest in the Garden of Flourishing Grace. Poems of Remembrance & Loss by the Manchu Prince Yihuan: Renditions from the Chinese, by Vera Schwarcz.