

Editor-reader
interaction

Legends of the Condor Heroes

By Michelle Shi

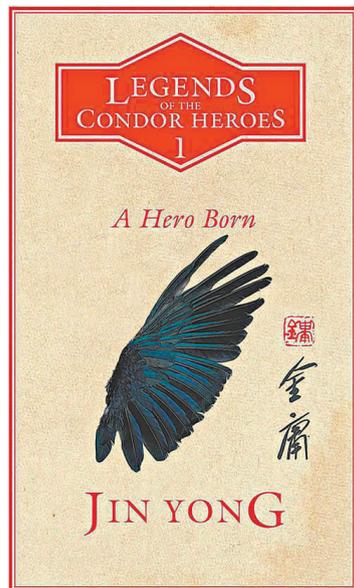
TV series *A Hero Born*

One of Jin Yong's martial arts novels has been translated into English. Fans of his are excited that his work, *Legends of the Condor Heroes*, is now available in Britain.

Jin Yong is the pen name of Louis Cha, one of the best-selling Hong Kong authors alive with over 300 million copies sold.

This latest translation project is the most ambitious of Cha's works. It is a trilogy, written in the 1950s and 1960s, featuring hundreds of characters living during the late Song (960–1279) and early Ming dynasty (1368–1644) time period. The trilogy covers the loyalty and betrayal in martial arts schools during the rise and fall of dynasties.

The publisher, MacLehose Press, said the translated work will come in several volumes. Anna Holmwood is the translator of volume one, *A Hero Born*. She was born to a British father and a Swedish



mother, grew up in Britain and studied history at Oxford. Speaking of the project, which she took up in 2012, Holmwood, a self-employed translator focusing on Chinese-English literary translations, said: "I chose modern Chinese studies as my concentration for my masters at Oxford, and went to Taiwan Normal University for a year of language training in 2009."

The meaning of the title of the series, *Legends of the Condor Heroes*, refers to stories of heroes who could shoot down a condor with an arrow. In the description of the book on the



Translator Anna Holmwood

website of the MacLehose Press, it was called the "Chinese Lord of the Rings."

The translations of many of the characters and kung fu moves strive to retain much of the original Chinese meaning while accommodating English readers. For example, the female protagonist is Lotus Huang (黄蓉 *huang rong*), the male protagonist is Guo Jing (郭靖 *guo jing*), other central characters are translated as Mercy Mu (穆念慈 *mu nian ci*), Ironheart Yang (杨铁心 *yang tie xin*), and Cyclone Mei (梅超风 *mei chao feng*). One of the kung fu moves, 18 Palm Attacks to Defeat Dragons (降龙十八掌 *xiang long shi ba zhang*), is in fact derived from a Taoist classic ascribed to Lao Tzu dating 2,500 years ago and has a strong philosophical element in addition attached to it. Another main move, 九阴白骨爪 (*jiu yin bai gu zhua*) is translated as Nine Yin Skeleton Claw.

One step
at a time

1. Wuhan dialect

bǎn shā

板沙

Meaning: doing something in a desultory way; messing around

Chinese:

ān jìng yī xià hǎo bù
安 静 一 下 好 不
hǎo, bǎ le yī shàng wǔ de shā le
好, 板 了 一 上 午 的 沙 了。

English:

Can you be quiet for a moment? You have been messing around the whole morning.

2. Chinese characters

fú

福

Development:

Meaning: [n] happiness, good fortune; [adj.] blessed, happy

Chinese:

tā de shēng huó hěn xìng fú
他 的 生 活 很 幸 福。

English: He lives a happy life.

3. Buzzwords

shí lè zhì

石乐志

Meaning: Used originally by live webcast viewers, this phrase is a subtle and often joking way to say that someone has "lost his or her mind."

Chinese:

mǎi yī tiáo qún zi zhè me guì
买 一 条 裙 子 这 么 贵,
nǐ shì bù shì shí lè zhì?
你 是 不 是 石 乐 志?

English:

The dress you bought is too expensive. Did you lose your mind?

4. Sentence of the week

English: Gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy.

—Jacques Maritain

Chinese:

gǎn ēn shì zuì yōu yǎ de lǐ jié
感 恩 是 最 优 雅 的 礼 节。
—雅克·马利坦

Translation
appreciation

How does the language of headlines work?

《“标题党”是怎样炼成的?》

Written by Chi Luu (刘池 著)

Translated by Tian Ye (田野 译)

What we've seen is that headlines, whether they cover the news or just pretend to, have evolved in their language use to engage readers in increasingly complex ways (even if they are sometimes frustrating). Clickbait, though much hated because it wastes readers' time, is yet another development in the

evolution of headlines. From breathlessly truncated descriptions of news events, to clever, memorable wordplay to a much more connotation-rich emotional language that teases out our human curiosities, headlines, far from just being a mere introduction to the news of the world, are a story in themselves.

新闻标题, 无论标题之下有无真材实料的内容, 一直在不断进化, 使用不同的语言模式, 用越来越复杂的方式吸引读者(即使它们有时令人懊恼)。虽然标题党因浪费读者时间而遭憎恨, 但它只是新闻标题进化过程中的一个发展阶段而已。从惊人的寥寥几字描述新闻事件, 到狡黠、令人印象深刻的文字游戏, 再到更寓意深长、更煽情的语言以激起人们的好奇心, 这一路走来, 新闻标题已远非介绍世界新鲜之闻那么简单; 它本身就足以构成一部跌宕起伏的小说。