Through Western Eyes
Images of Chinese Women in Anglo-American Literature
*Mimi Chan*

ISBN: 9789745241343
Publisher: Orchid Press
Territory: USA & Canada
Size: 5.5 in x 8.5 in
Pages: 350
Paperback, 32% professional discount

New Title

Price: $29.50

• An important monograph of relevance to several disciplines, including East-West (Asian) studies, gender studies and 20th century English literature
• Also of interest to and written in a manner readily accessible by the general reader

Since China and the West first came into contact centuries ago, descriptions of Chinese women of widely varying accuracy by travelers and writers have fueled the imagination of Western readers. By the early 20th century, two stereotypes predominated; that of the passive, fragile and vulnerable beauty, and that of the wicked, ruthless and scheming ‘dragon lady’. Many modern English language writers and filmmakers have seized on these easily duplicated stereotypes, extending them even to the end of the 20th century and beyond.

In a series of penetrating chapters, Mimi Chan explores the early origins and 20th century development of these images in popular fiction, the prejudices and misunderstandings that they perpetuate, and some of the works that have attempted to present a fairer, more nuanced, more ‘human’ view of Chinese womanhood.

An important study of value to all who seek a clearer understanding of those who hold up ‘half of the [Chinese] sky’.

Contents:
Chapter I Reality into Images: Wu Tsertien (624-705); Yang Kuei-fei (715-755); T’zu-hsi (1835-1908).
Chapter II Wives and Concubines: Pearl Buck's Fusion of Type and Individual
Chapter III Reactionaries and Revolutionaries: Agnes Smedley's Use of the Individual to Depict the Generic
Chapter IV A Highly Controversial Thing: The Writing of Han Suyin
Chapter V And Sometimes the Twain Shall Meet: The Mixed Liaison in Hong Kong Fiction Written in English
Chapter VI Chinese Women's Speech in English Fiction
Epilogue: Towards Seeing Face to Face

Born in Hong Kong during WWII of a south Chinese diplomatic family, Professor Mimi Chan began her schooling in New York when her father was posted to the USA. Subsequently completing her education in Hong Kong reading English language and literature, she holds an MA degree on Chaucer and lectured for many years in the Department of English at the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Chan has published articles and monographs on Shakespeare, Chaucer, English-Chinese translation, bilingualism and lexical borrowing, and is also the author of a historical novel, *All the King's Women* (Hong Kong 2000).