

Foreword

By the Governor of Hong Kong

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Chinese University and the 15th anniversary of this publication. The special issue on Hong Kong, as the first anthology of its kind, is a marvellous celebration of local writing. It is a credit to artistic achievement in both literature and translation.

Since its first publication in the autumn of 1973, *Renditions* has made accessible to Western readers a wide spectrum of Chinese literary works. With each edition covering a wide range of art, history, essays, fiction, poetry or special features on topics related to Chinese literature and translation, *Renditions* has achieved a character of its own: a character which is Chinese in essence despite the clothing of a Western language.

This special issue has particular significance to those of us who live in Hong Kong. In concentrating on Hong Kong writing it also demonstrates the universality of human endeavour and creativity. At a time when inter-cultural communication is increasing both in volume and importance, the works reproduced here give us a feeling for the emotional and intellectual reactions of a variety of Hong Kong writers to a changing world and of transient men of letters to a changing Hong Kong. We see something of the impact of art on Hong Kong and Hong Kong on art.

This issue of *Renditions* can be seen as a gift of writers, both old and new, to the people of Hong Kong. I hope it will serve to build a consciousness of Hong Kong's unique cultural heritage, and unique cultural role, as a fusion of Chinese and Western traditions and experiences. I congratulate all those who have been involved in this special issue on Hong Kong. They deserve our thanks and praise.

DAVID WILSON
Governor