



The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature

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More than fifty short essays centered on specific writers and literary trends create an engaging and easily digestible history of Chinese literature from the Qing period (1895–1911) to today. The essays in this volume can be read sequentially for a chronological account or separately in conjunction with reading the literary works in Chinese or English-language translation. Each entry features author names and titles, as well as key terms and references, in English and in Chinese characters for readers who know or are learning Chinese, and each concludes with a bibliography of relevant primary and secondary sources.

The volume opens with eight thematic essays addressing general issues in the study of Chinese literature: the ethics of writing a literary history, the formation of the canon, the relationship between language and form, the influence of literary institutions and communities, the effects of censorship, and the role of different media on the development of literature. Subsequent essays focus on authors, their works, and their schools, with entries on Wang Anyi, Eileen Chang, Shen Congwen, Yu Dafu, Mao Dun, Xiao Hong, Yang Jiang, Ba Jin, Yan Lianke, Ding Ling, Liang Qichao, Lao She, Wang Shuo, Zhu Tianwen, Zhu Tianxin, Xi Xi, Gao Xingjian, Lu Xun, Mo Yan, and Qian Zhongshu. Woven throughout are more general pieces on late Qing fiction, popular entertainment fiction, martial arts fiction, experimental theater, post-Mao avant-garde poetry in China, post-martial law fiction from Taiwan, contemporary genre fiction from China, and recent Internet literature, among other topics. Both a teaching tool and a go-to research companion, this volume is a one-of-a-kind resource for mastering modern literature in the Chinese-speaking world.

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- Rank: #164163 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-03-15
- Released on: 2016-03-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature addresses a range of issues crucial to our understanding of modern Chinese literary culture, from the birth of new fiction to the advent of Internet writing and from the vitality of cultural production to the vigor of political intervention. In this volume, Chinese literature appears to be a most powerful institution that inscribes, and sometimes even prescribes, the history of modern China. (David Der-wei Wang, Harvard University)

The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature is a dynamite collection of short, smart essays written by many of the leading scholars in the field. It is not only a useful source but also a good read that brings alive the cultural complexity behind the many passionate debates surrounding modern literature in China. (Wendy Larson, University of Oregon)

The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature is as close to an all-purpose work as we are likely to have. A broad-based introduction to the literary offerings and studies of modern Chinese literature for newcomers; a reference work for specialists; and a showcase for the best veteran and young scholars in the field. An indispensable tool. (Howard Goldblatt, coeditor of *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*)

The field of modern Chinese literature has grown immensely in recent decades. Only collaboration among many scholars can encompass it. *The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature* does this, but it is much more than a reference book. It is a kaleidoscope of deft and charming essays that provide insight as well as background for students at all levels. The book will be invaluable in teaching. (Perry Link, University of California, Riverside)

The Columbia Companion is a very stimulating guide to modern Chinese literature. More than that, it is a landmark work.... No other single volume has presented this range of literature and this level of critical introduction. Whether as teachers or as research scholars, we should not overlook this contribution to our field. (Edward Mansfield Gunn *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*)

About the Author

Kirk A. Denton is professor of Chinese literature at the Ohio State University. His edited books include *Modern Chinese Literary Thought: Writings on Literature, 1893–1945* (1996) and *Literary Societies of Republican China* (2008). He is author of *The Problematic of Self in Modern Chinese Literature: Hu Feng and Lu Ling* (1998) and *Exhibiting the Past: Historical Memory and the Politics of Museums in Postsocialist China* (2014). Denton is also editor of the journal *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* and manager of the MCLC Resource Center (u.osu.edu/mclc/).

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