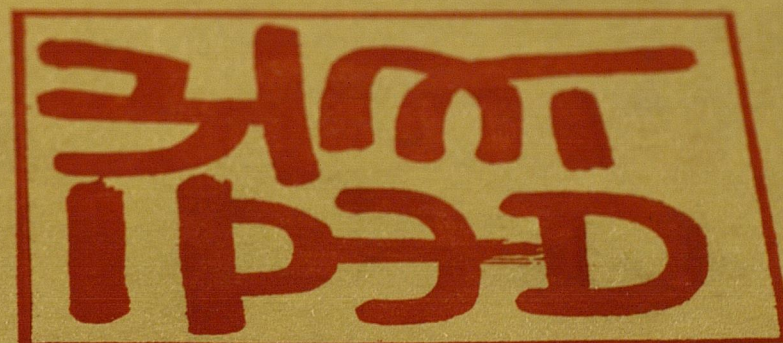


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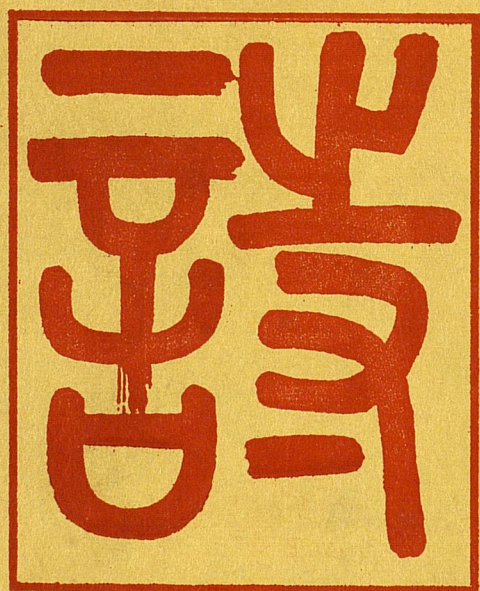
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**Ezra
Pound**

The Classic Anthology defined by Confucius

translated by
EZRA POUND

With an Introduction by Achilles Fang

A clever young man once asked Po-yu, Confucius's son, if his father had ever favoured him with anything he did not impart to his disciples. Po-yu answered:

'No, he was standing alone one day as I was going by the courtyard, he said: "Studied the Odes?"

'I replied: "No."

' "Not study the Odes, won't be able to use words."

With his disciples, some of whom must have been rather recalcitrant, Confucius remonstrated in these words: 'Why don't you study the Odes? The Odes will arouse you, give you food for thought, teach you how to make friends . . . bring you near to being useful to your parents and sovereign, and help you remember the names of many birds, animals, plants and trees.'

* * *

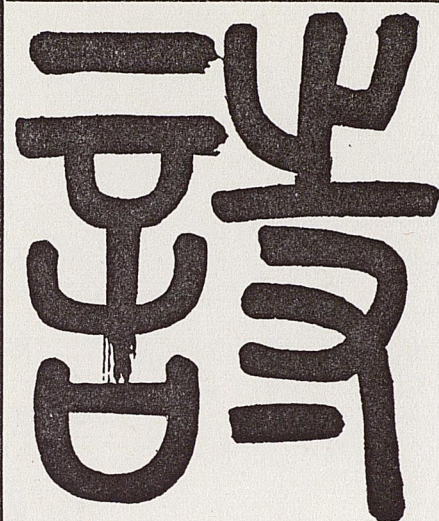
Throughout the centuries this great collection of 305 Odes was for the Chinese a canonical text. Though it is no longer thought probable that Confucius was himself the anthologist, he sang the Odes constantly to his lute and it seems very likely that he was their musical editor.

They are essentially ballads; written to be sung and some of them probably to be danced to. And in this translation—a superb virtuoso performance—Mr. Pound has attempted to stress above all the fusion of words and music.

The book enhances Mr. Pound's claim to be considered the first translator of our age; and it confirms Mr. T. S. Eliot's description of him as 'the inventor of Chinese poetry for our time'.

A key to pronunciation is included; and there is a lively and informative introduction by Dr. Achilles Fang.

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