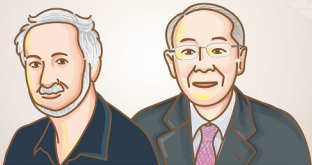


2018  
—Tang Prize—  
Sinology



◆◆ Stephen Owen ◆◆

◆◆ Yoshinobu Shiba ◆◆

Stephen Owen

# Why him?

01. He systematically compiled and translated an anthology of representative works that spans 3000 years of **Chinese literature**, often the first door by which many English readers find their way into Classical Chinese literature.

02. Owen greatly expanded the readership of Chinese Classical literature, particularly **Tang poetry**. His insights illuminate the content and core essence of Chinese literature for a wide readership.





03. His application of new theoretical frameworks and perspectives offers **new lenses** to understand Classical Chinese literature.



## Facts about Stephen Owen



- 1 When he was 14, he picked up a copy of *Bai ju ji* 白駒集 (*The White Colt*) at the local library and was mesmerized by the melancholic lyricism of the poem “The Tomb of Su Xiaoxiao” by Tang dynasty poet Li He 李賀.
- 2 He established the *Library of Chinese Humanities* series to present important works in the pre-modern Chinese cultural tradition in accurate and readable English translations. The series is published in print and available for free online.
 
- 3 As the inaugural publication of this series, *The Poetry of Du Fu* is the first complete English translation of Du Fu's oeuvre. Taking 8 years to complete, it consists of 3,000 pages, 1,400 poems, and weighs 9 pounds.
 

Library of Chinese Humanities

The Poetry of Du Fu

## Entering the World of Du Fu

- 1 Stephen Owen's side-by-side English translation of Du Fu's poetry expands the accessibility of Chinese poetry for the English-speaking world.

Beacon fires stretch  
through three months,

a letter from family  
worth ten thousand  
in silver.

+ Extracted from "Year in Spring",  
which was translated by Stephen Owen.

- 2 After spending eight years translating Du Fu's poetry, Stephen Owen remarked.

"If you've got to be stuck with someone for eight years, you want it to be someone you enjoy, who can sustain your interest."

--Stephen Owen



# Why him?

01. His scholarship innovatively synthesizes the distinctive fortes of these three academic traditions : Japanese textual research, Western social sciences, and Chinese historical sources.
02. His breakthrough insights in the study of Song history, Chinese economic history, urban development, and overseas Chinese had far-ranging impacts across academia.
03. Through a systemic exploration of source materials, he offers a solid and insightful portrayal of the full dimensions of Chinese history that looks at the overall economy as well as regional societies and urban development.



## Facts about Yoshinobu Shiba



- 1 He is the first Japanese scholar to obtain a **doctoral degree in Chinese history** after World War II and also one of the select 150 lifetime members of the Japan Academy.
- 2 Pioneering interdisciplinary approaches, he applied Western historiography to study the economic history of ancient China. He pinpointed Jiangnan, area south of the Yangtze River, as an integral regional economic center in his *Songdai Jiangnan jingji shi yanjiu* (A study of the economic history of Song-dynasty Jiangnan), a must read for students studying Song history.
- 3 He was only **32** when he obtained his **doctoral degree from the University of Tokyo**. Scholars at that time mostly acquired their degree at the age of 50 to 60.



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Yoshinobu Shiba

## The Song Dynasty - A Prosperous Empire

He considered **the Song Dynasty the world's first empire of the seas** and believed that the flourishing civilization was founded collectively through a series of revolutions: the commercial revolution, transportation revolution, agricultural revolution, and the urban revolution.



- ※ For example, the hydraulic textile machine was invented in China during the Song Dynasty. Similar machinery did not appear in the West until the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Italy.