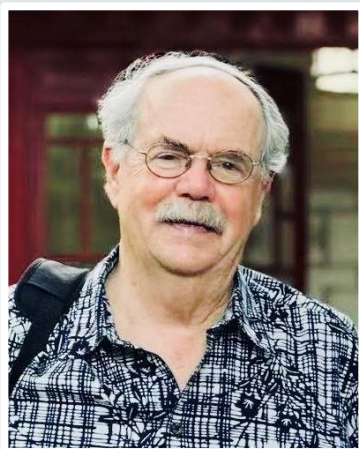


The Long Journey of *Renditions*

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When *Renditions* was founded fifty years ago, it was perhaps not the most propitious time for such a venture: The Cultural Revolution had been going on for some seven years, and while the worst days were over, there were few hints that a stable social, economic, and cultural order was in the offing for China. Nevertheless, George Kao and Stephen Song persisted, creating a journal that was meant to broadcast the best parts of Chinese literary culture, ancient and modern, to the Anglophone world. Never able to pay those who submitted their translations, the journal from the beginning relied on, in the best sense, amateur efforts to fill its pages. And we have over the years certainly attracted the most outstanding translators of our time to our pages. So the journal published things from a wide variety of genres: fiction, poetry, drama, prose essays, and literary and cultural criticism, as well as work from various parts of the Chinese speaking world: initially primarily from mainland China and Hong Kong, then including Taiwan, and more recently making an effort to publish the translated writings of Sinophone writers from Southeast Asia. As the first and still the only journal of its type, we have exerted our efforts to maintaining our position as an important bridge between the Chinese cultural world and the broader West.

About the Speaker :



Theodore Hutters is Chief Editor at *Renditions* and Professor Emeritus of Chinese in the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures at UCLA. He has written extensively on late Qing and twentieth-century Chinese literature and literary history, including an early study of Qian Zhongshu's writings. His books include *Bringing the World Home: Appropriating the West in Late Qing and Early Republican China*, and most recently, *Taking China to the World: The Cultural Production of Modernity*. His

particular focus of interest is how various key cultural institutions, practices, and ideas of the late imperial period transitioned into the modern period. His translations include the prose of Bei Dao and the academic writing of Wang Guowei, Wang Hui, and Wang Xiaoming.