A DREAM OF RED MANSIONS

Author: Hsueh-Chin and Ngo Kao
Translators: Hsien-Yi Yang and Gladys Yang
Categories: Literature, Classic

Also known as The Story of the Stone, and Dream of the Red Chamber, this translation is an abridged version of the original, making it a unique single volume translation of the Chinese classic. Written during the rule of the Ching dynasty, Tsao was living in adverse conditions as the Ching throne was under constant upheaval. The semiautobiographical work was completed after Tsao’s death by Ngo Kao, adding his own artistic talent and voice to the novel.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Hsueh-chin Tsao was a Chinese novelist from the period 1715-1763. His father managed to avoid the imperial purge in 1728 and the family resettled in Beijing. Although hundreds of years old, his works are still highly esteemed for his witty narrative, rich naturalistic detail, and an emphasis on metaphysical themes of transience as well as the risks of passionate desire.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS: Hsien-Yi Yang has translated many Chinese originals into English, ranging from ancient to modern. Both he and his wife, Gladys Yang, worked for the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing upon their return from University to China. He is known for several translated works beyond A Dream of Red Mansions such as the first Chinese rendering of the Odyssey and Virgil’s Georgics as well as translating some of Lu Xun’s stories into English. His autobiography is named White Tiger (2003).