

## 書寫文學史：中國古代遊記文學發展史的構思與撰寫

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我的演講與目前的主要研究方向有關，我現在正撰寫《中國古代遊記文學發展史》一書。本人認為，中國的遊記文學有個持續發展的進程，孕育於六朝，發軔起始於唐代，成熟於宋朝與元朝，興盛於晚明。

八十年代至今，討論中國古代、近代遊記文學的中文書籍和論文相當多，但在歐美漢學界，此方面的資料，尤其是有關二十世紀之前的遊記作家與作品，則相對少見。拙著算是以英文或其他歐洲語言撰寫的第一本書。

本次演講不僅分享我的研究現況，同時也將討論寫作文學史時面臨的幾個問題和挑戰。例如，何為「文學史」？該如何撰寫文學史？假如我們視遊記文學為獨特的文學體裁，那應如何定義並理解遊記？如何發掘遊記文學中屬於「文學」的一面？如何區別遊記文學的良窳？易言之，我們應該如何找出最好的遊記作品？

我用來評估中國遊記文學的主要指標是：遊記是一種以視覺為主要現象（比如山川景物、名勝古蹟等）的書寫媒體，據此我認為合適的研究方法是檢視作者如何呈現一個地方的圖景，讓讀者通過閱讀文本就能「看到」風景。依我看來，最成功的遊記作家都具備駕馭語言以實現各種敘事，描述和抒情效果的功力。

Writing Literary History: How Does One Write a Book on the  
*History of Travel Literature in Ancient China?*

This talk concerns my current research project, which is designed to produce a book-length study of the development of travel literature (youji wenxue 遊記文學) in

China. It is my view that the development of travel literature in ancient China is a continuous process, which has its roots in the Six Dynasties (220-589), beginnings in the Tang (618-907), maturation in the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1279-1368), and its peak of development in the late Ming (1368-1644).

Since the 1980s, a significant amount of research has been published in Chinese on travel literature dating from the traditional and modern periods. In Europe and North America, however, Chinese youji—especially authors and works that predate the twentieth century—is still a relatively new field. My book will be the first critical history of ancient Chinese travel literature published in English or any other European language.

My talk is designed not only to present a report on the status of my research project, but also to discuss several of the issues and challenges one faces when writing literary history (wenzue shi 文學史). For instance, what exactly is “literary history” and what are the ways one can (should?) write it? If we regard youji as a distinct, independent genre of literature (wenzue ticai 文學體裁), then how do we define it? How do we understand it? Where do we find the literary component in youji compositions? How do we distinguish travel writings that are “outstanding” from those that are just “mediocre?” In other words, how do we sort out the “best travel writing?”

The key approach I use to distinguish works that deserve exemplary ranking in the long history of Chinese travel literature is this: because youji is a written literary medium that deals mainly with description of visual phenomena (mountain vistas, historical monuments, river scenes, and so on), thus one critical way to evaluate travel writing is to isolate, analyze, and discuss how well an author uses language to create “word pictures” (tujing 圖景) of scenes or places. Writers who are most effective in this regard, I argue, create “word pictures” that—among other things—allow readers to vicariously accompany the author on his journey. The best travel authors successfully do this by manipulating language in order to achieve various narrative, descriptive, and lyrical effects.

### 主講人介紹：

何瞻（James M. Hargett），美國籍，何教授係美國印第安那大學東亞語言與文化博士，現任美國紐約州立大學奧本尼分校（Albany）東亞研究系教授。中國

古代遊記文學是何教授主要的研究領域，他目前正著手撰寫一部以英文評論中國古代遊記之專書。何教授本年獲得漢學研究中心獎助，來臺研究主題為「中國古代文學史」，希望能利用在臺研究期間完成書稿的撰寫。