

## Florence Chia-ying Yeh 葉嘉瑩

FLORENCE CHIA-YING YEH is Professor Emerita of Chinese Literature at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Born 1924 in Beijing, China, she graduated from Furen University at Beijing in 1945, taught Chinese classical poetry at the National Taiwan University, the University of Danjiang and Furen University in Taiwan in the 1950's, and at Michigan State University and Harvard University in the United States in the 1960's, before coming to teach at the University of British Columbia from 1969 to 1989. Now, having retired since 1989, she has donated half of her pension fund towards the establishment of a scholarship program at Nankai University in Tienjin, China, where she teaches in fulfilment of her dream to pass on the torch to the next generation and to rekindle the love and appreciation of classical poetry in the young people of China. Every summer, however, she returns to Vancouver, where she never fails to continue her research at the UBC Asian Studies Library, and to give at least one lecture series in the local community.



Professor Yeh is well-known for her numerous scholarly publications<sup>1</sup> and her captivating lectures on classical Chinese poetry. She has written poetry in the classical styles of shi, ci and qu from a very young age. The 540 poems in her *Jialing Poetry Manuscript* (Taipei: Guiguan, 2000) date from 1939 (when she was fifteen) to 1995.

## Jan W. Walls 王健

Dr. Jan Walls is Professor Emeritus at Simon Fraser University, where he was founding Director of the David Lam Centre for International Communication and founding Director of the Asia-Canada Program in the Faculty of Arts. He has taught Chinese language and culture courses at UBC (1970-78), UVic (1978-85) and SFU (1987-2006). Since retirement he has been a member of the Multicultural Advisory Council to the BC Government, President of the Canadian Society for Asian Arts, Co-President of the Asian Heritage Month Society, Director of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC, Member of the Canadian Red Cross Chinese Advisory Group, and Honorary Advisor to the Chinese Canadian Writers' Federation, Chinese Canadian Artists' Association, the Goh Ballet Academy, and the Chuen Ying Arts Centre.



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<sup>1</sup> Professor Yeh's works are almost entirely written in Chinese. Her only work published in English was co-written with Professor James Hightower: *Studies in Chinese Poetry*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998.