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International Dateline-Another View of the Harbour

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Adventures in Librarianship
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As an alternate approach, the Task Force recommends that all current committees and task forces be replaced by a single Standing Committee for Affirmation, designed to respond to the Vice-Director's proposals quickly and "objectively." Anticipating high staff turnover on this committee, the Task Force suggests that the Standing Committee for Affirmation be staffed with paid library consultants who are already familiar with the basic purpose of the committee and for whom "objectivity" will cause little stress.

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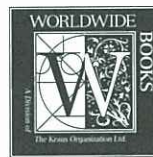
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International Dateline —

Another View of the Harbour City

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Zhang Yan, writing under the pen name Xi Xi, is Hong Kong's most distinguished fiction writer. The haunting, often morbid lyricism that marks her writing has won her many awards, a devoted following in Hong Kong and Taiwan and a growing audience in China.

My City: a Hong Kong Story

Translated by **Eva Hung**

Hong Kong in the 1970s—a time of rapid economic growth, and more significantly, of growth in self-confidence and the forging of a local identity. In a disarming style that is uniquely her own, Xi Xi weaves a deceptively child-like narrative against the background of the political and social problems of this complex society. Seldom has a writer captured the spirit of a generation with such apparent simplicity and ease. "The very first to depict Hong Kong from a fresh... human and emotional point of view... a place to live, to work, and to have fun; and for some, there are not many places in the world that can replace Hong Kong."

— *World Literature Today Renditions Press 1993*, 180 pages, ISBN 962-7255-11-4.

Hong Kong Stories: Old Themes New Voices

Edited by **Eva Hung**

In telling the Hong Kong story, young local writers face up to such issues as rapid economic and political changes as well as the continuous impact of Western

ideas and mores. They make a conscious effort to explore their own identity from a Hong Kong perspective and to describe Hong Kong's special way of life and the trials and tribulations of a populace caught between two cultures.

— *Renditions Press 1999*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

Marvels of a Floating City

Edited by **Eva Hung**

Xi Xi eloquently conveys the mood of the city during the 1980s in this collection of stories. In the first half of the decade, the Chinese and British governments negotiated Hong Kong's fate, occasioning intense soul-searching and close scrutiny of their society among the general population. The old and the new, the real and the fantastic, Western culture and local perception are skillfully woven together here to create narratives of the hopes, anger and fears which gripped the people of Hong Kong in this crucial period of their history.

— *Renditions Press 1997*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

A Girl Like Me & Other Stories

Translated by **Eva Hung**

This anthology presents samples from the author's entire writing career, ranging from the 1960s to the 1990s. It in-

cludes excerpts from Xi Xi's *Elegy for a Breast*, an intensely personal account of her own battle with cancer. Xi Xi's fascinating rendering of the fusion of East and West, tradition and modernity that is Hong Kong assures her place in the literary annals of this unique society.

"A writer who deserves a place in the international library."

— *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

"Her stories blend sophistication with an unflinching, childlike wonder."

— *Islands Renditions Press 1999*, 160 pages, ISBN 962-7255-20-3.

Flying Carpet—A Tale of Fertillia

Translated by **Diana Yue**

A small island sits south of Dragonland. This tiny speck, "smaller than a sesame seed" has a world-famous harbour rimmed with skyscrapers, an elite district on a mountain top, steep, narrow alleys, hawkers, street-sleepers, noisy markets, garish signs and borders. Back and forward in history, we accompany the Ips, master furniture makers, the Fas, aerated water suppliers, as well as Falibaba, secret possessor of a flying carpet on an up-and-down journey of the history of a city very much like Hong Kong.

— *Hong Kong University Press 2000*, 449 pages, ISBN 962-2094-708. 🐼

