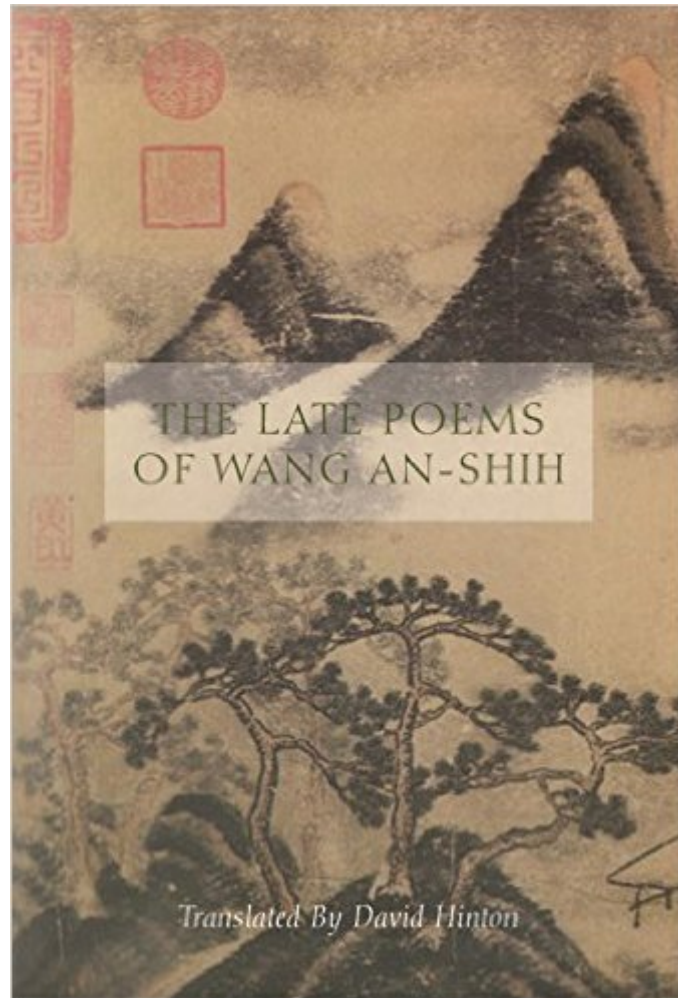


The book was found

The Late Poems Of Wang An-Shih



Synopsis

A selection of poems by the ancient Chinese poet and statesman Wang An-Shih, translated by David Hinton. Wang An-shih (1021-1086 C.E.) was a remarkable figure—•not only one of the great Sung Dynasty poets, but also the most influential and controversial statesman of his time. Although Wang had little interest in the grandeur of high office and political power, he took the responsibility of serving the people seriously. He rose to become prime minister, and in this position he instituted a controversial system of radically egalitarian social reforms to improve the lives of China's peasants. Once those reforms were securely in place, Wang retired to a reclusive life of artistic and spiritual self-cultivation. It was after his retirement, practicing Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism and wandering the mountains around his home, that Wang An-shih wrote the poems that made his reputation. Short and plainspoken, these late poems contain profound multitudes—the passing of time, rivers and mountains, silence and Buddhist emptiness. They won him wide acclaim in China and beyond across the centuries. And in Hinton's breathtaking translations, Wang feels like a major contemporary poet with deep ecological insight and a questioning spirit.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: New Directions; 1 edition (March 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0811222632

ISBN-13: 978-0811222631

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars—• See all reviews—• (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #383,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in—• Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Chinese #95 in—• Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Chinese #385 in—• Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Ancient, Classical & Medieval > Ancient & Classical

Customer Reviews

Wang An-shih was an eccentric politician from the Sung Dynasty. Known as a diligent political reformer who sought to help the underclasses, Wang An-shih's compassion for the peasant and farmer was only surpassed by his displeasure for court life. After establishing his reforms and securing successors to ensure their success, he retired to the mountains and wrote poems and

commentaries on classical Chinese and Buddhist texts, assuming the guise of a sagely hermit. The poems presented in this volume come from the last decade of his life. David Hinton's book includes an excellent Introduction to Wang An-shih and his poems, giving the reader an understanding of his philosophical perspective and his literary style. He also explains his interpretation of texts and choices in translation. Though brief, the Introduction is helpful in understanding Wang An-shih and his works. Hinton also includes several pages of helpful end notes. Most of the poems follow a four line structure attempting to capture a sight, feeling, relationship, or record thoughts surrounding mundane activities of daily life. The poems tend to be emotive but not emotional (the poem "The River" on page 28 is a notable exception) and are often tinged with melancholy. A Ch'an spirit fills the writing as well as Taoist influences. There are frequent references to darkness and shadow, stars and moonlight, clouds and water, that are not only descriptive but express as metaphors Wang An-shih's state of mind. Cosmological associations are important in Wang's An-shih's worldview and psychology. His poems seek to melt the metaphysical categories of Absence and Presence found in Chinese philosophy into an experience of unified mystery that sharpens awareness and the senses.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Late Poems of Wang An-Shih Cold Mountain Poems: Zen Poems of Han Shan, Shih Te, and Wang Fan-chih Paper Butterfly: A Mei Wang Mystery (Mei Wang Mysteries) Laughing Lost in the Mountains: Poems of Wang Wei Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different (Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, & Just Plain Different) Last Steps: The Late Writings of Leo Tolstoy: The Late Writings of Leo Tolstoy (Penguin Classics) The Year of the Baby (An Anna Wang novel Book 2) Reflection Haiku: Living Modern Lives the Simple Way - Lily Wang's English and Chinese Zen Shorts The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1953 (Hill and Wang Critical Issues) Ethics in the Confucian Tradition: The Thought of Mengzi and Wang Yangming Solutions Manual for: Calculus With Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry (Saxon Calculus) 1st (first) Edition by John Saxon, Frank Wang, John Young, Diana Harvey published by Saxon Publishers (1999) Poems of the Late T'ang (New York Review Books Classics) 70 Wonderful Word Family Poems: A Delightful Collection of Fun-to-Read Rhyming Poems With an Easy-to-Use Lesson Plan for Teaching the Top 35 Word Families Complete Sonnets and Poems: The Oxford Shakespeare The Complete Sonnets and Poems (Oxford World's Classics) A Life of Poems, Poems of a Life (English and French Edition) Love Poems by Pedro Salinas: My Voice Because of You and Letter Poems to Katherine Yevtushenko: Selected Poems: Selected Poems (Penguin

Classics) Zen Master Poems (New Wisdom Poems) Zen Master Poems (New Wisdom Poems Book
1) Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems (Sheep Meadow Poetry)

[Dmca](#)