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Cathay



Synopsis

Cathay is a collection of classical Chinese poems translated by the American poet Ezra Pound. Though Pound didn't speak Chinese, he based his translations on notes by Ernest Fenellosa, in the process setting a benchmark for modernist translations. The interpretative nature of Pound's work broke new ground in the treatment of poetry, and his status as an outsider allowed him a creative space not available to more literal translators. Cathay stands today as a seminal work strongly influential both on the poetry of his day and the succeeding generation.

Book Information

File Size: 149 KB

Print Length: 35 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Planbridge Editions (June 26, 2014)

Publication Date: June 26, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00LBQI7GG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #554,140 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15

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Customer Reviews

Historically important, intellectually impressive, emotionally moving -- this little book changed so much about how American poetry was written for whole groups of future poets. The centennial edition gives us the text again in its original attractive cover design, but someone felt compelled to overload the text with way too much extra material. I'm a scholar of modern American poetry, so I found nothing new here. I suppose it is no longer economically feasible to publish small volumes.

Thank you, it's lovely

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