**REDISCOVERING WEN TINGYUN**

A Historical Key to a Poetic Labyrinth

**HUAI CHUAN MOU**

*A new look at the life, times, and work of the great Tang dynasty poet, Wen Tingyun, that rebuts the negative aspects of his reputation. Translations of a number of his works are included.*

In this book, Huai Chuan Mou takes a fresh look at the life, times, and work of the great Tang dynasty poet, Wen Tingyun, whose reputation has been overshadowed by notoriety and misunderstanding for more than a thousand years. In probing the political intricacies of the major events of Wen’s life and the complex contexts in which these events took place, Mou presents a historical key to Wen’s artistic labyrinth, unraveling many of Wen’s poetic puzzles and rediscovering a historical past which vividly represents his unyielding pursuit of ideal government and true love. This reconstruction of the poet’s life results in not only a new understanding of his literary work but also of late Tang history as well. Translations and close readings of a number of poems and prose essays are included.

“I admire the author’s breadth of reference and familiarity with the history of the late Tang period and his impressive erudition and literary sensitivity which enable him to decipher the complex allusions used in Wen’s literary work. The reader will walk away with an enriched understanding of the Chinese literary tradition. A major contribution to the field.” — Shuen-fu Lin, cotranslator of *The Tower of Myriad Mirrors* by Tung Yüeh

**Huaichuan Mou** is Lecturer in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia.

A volume in the SUNY series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture

Roger T. Ames, editor

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**POVERTY AND CHARITY IN MIDDLE EASTERN CONTEXTS**

**MICHAEL BONNER, MINE ENER, AND AMY SINGER, EDITORS**

*Addresses the ideals and institutions through which Middle Eastern societies have confronted poverty and the poor.*

Offering insights and analysis in a field that has only recently come into existence, this book explores the ideals and institutions through which Middle Eastern societies—from the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E. to the present day—have confronted poverty and the poor. By introducing new sources and presenting familiar ones with new questions, the contributors examine ideas about poverty and the poor, ideals and practices of charity, and state and private initiatives of poor relief over this extensive time span. They avoid easy generalizations about Islam and the Middle East as they seek to set the ideals and practices in comparative perspective.

“A well-thought-out analysis with the very specific aim of addressing a gap in the historiography of the Middle East.” — Virginia H. Aksan, author of *An Ottoman Statesman in War and Peace: Ahmed Resmi Efendi, 1700–1783*

**Michael Bonner** is Associate Professor of Medieval Islamic History and the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He is the author of *Aristocratic Violence and Holy War: Studies in the Jihad and the Arab-Byzantine Frontier.*

**Mine Ener** is Assistant Professor of History at Villanova University. **Amy Singer** is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University. She is the author of *Palestinian Peasants and Ottoman Officials: Rural Administration around Sixteenth-Century Jerusalem* and *Constructing Ottoman Beneficence: An Imperial Soup Kitchen in Jerusalem,* published by SUNY Press.

A volume in the SUNY series in the Social and Economic History of the Middle East

Donald Quataert, editor

For a list of contributors, see page 59.
A TALE OF TWO FACTIONS
Myth, Memory, and Identity in Ottoman Egypt and Yemen
JANE HATHAWAY

Reevaluates the foundation myths of two rival factions in Egypt during the Ottoman era.

This revisionist study reevaluates the origins and foundation myths of the Faqaris and Qasimis, two rival factions that divided Egyptian society during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when Egypt was the largest province in the Ottoman Empire. In answer to the enduring mystery surrounding the factions’ origins, Jane Hathaway places their emergence within the generalized crisis that the Ottoman Empire—like much of the rest of the world—suffered during the early modern period, while uncovering a symbiosis between Ottoman Egypt and Yemen that was critical to their formation. In addition, she scrutinizes the factions’ foundation myths, deconstructing their tropes and symbols to reveal their connections to much older popular narratives. Drawing on parallels from a wide array of cultures, she demonstrates with striking originality how rituals such as storytelling and public processions, as well as identifying colors and emblems, could serve to reinforce factional identity.

“Hathaway addresses a number of important questions: How do we understand the formation of political identities in the early modern period? In what ways do public rituals, folklore, and myths of origin factor into the formation of these identities? She elegantly draws us into the cultural world of an era that is gone and opens up new avenues for research on political culture in the early modern period.”

— Dina Rizk Khoury, author of State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul, 1540–1834

Jane Hathaway is Associate Professor of History at Ohio State University, the author of The Politics of Households in Ottoman Egypt: The Rise of the Qazdaglis, and editor of Rebellion, Repression, Reinvention: Mutiny in Comparative Perspective.

A volume in the SUNY series in the Social and Economic History of the Middle East Donald Quataert, editor

LET SHEPHERDING ENDURE
Applied Anthropology and the Preservation of a Cultural Tradition in Israel and the Middle East
GIDEON M. KRESSEL

Addresses how shepherding communities in Israel and the Middle East might be preserved.

Examining the crucial problems confronting present-day livestock breeders, principally Bedouin and Jews in Israel, but also pastoral nomads in neighboring Middle Eastern countries, Let Shepherding Endure proposes new ways for these governments to enhance and sustain the long-term future development of shepherding communities. Adopting a broad historical and anthropological perspective on the topic, and assessing various pastoral relief programs, Kressel proposes an alternative program whereby the region’s states would promote a brand of pastoralism that preserves rangeland herding while keeping in step with the contemporary cultural and political context. This truly visionary set of recommendations would have several dividends, especially for the Bedouin: their cultural legacy, in danger of obsolescence, would be preserved while at the same time enhancing both their pastoral skills and ability to secure a livelihood from herding.

“This is a significant contribution, not just isolated to managing the ‘Bedouin problem,’ but also as a kind of model for applied research in similar fields.”

— Trond Thuen, author of Quest for Equity: Norway and the Saami Challenge

Gideon M. Kressel is Professor of Anthropology and Oriental Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. He is the author of several books, including Ascendancy Through Aggression: The Anatomy of a Blood Feud Among Urbanized Bedouins and coeditor (with A. Paul Hare) of Israel as Center Stage: A Setting for Social and Religious Enactments.

A volume in the SUNY series in Anthropology and Judaic Studies Walter P. Zenner, editor