

Asian Literature

Asian literature, like that of most older cultures, had its beginnings in oral epics, legends, and ritual songs. Later on, the value of the poetry, folktales, novels, and early drama was recognized and translated into English. This list contains many important works from Israel, Arabia, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Turkey, Egypt, Armenia, and Vietnam, as well as writings in English by Asian Americans.

Most of this Asian literature is nonfiction and best suited for older readers. (See also the six Fiction from Around the World lists [shown by decade in Section VIII] for titles and authors of Asian novels.)

- Against the Storm*—Gaye Hicyilmaz (life in Turkish city)
- Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers*—Frank Chin et al. (Eds.) (collection of writings by Asian Americans)
- Al-Ayyam*—Taha Hussein (three-part autobiography by Egyptian author)
- America Is in the Heart: A Personal History*—Carlos Bulosan (autobiography of Filipino immigrant)
- The Analects*—Confucius (translation by Arthur Waley of this work written B.C.)
- Another Birth: Selected Poems*—Forugh Farroukhzad (letters, interviews, and poetry of Persian poet translated by Hasan Javadi and Susan Sallee)
- An Anthology of Modern Arabic Poetry*—Mounah A. Khouri and Hamid Algar (Eds. and trans.)
- An Anthology of Modern Hebrew Poetry*—Abraham Birman (Ed.)
- Anthology of Japanese Literature*—Donald Keene (Ed.)
- Anthology of Korean Literature: From Early Times to the Nineteenth Century*—Peter H. Lee (Ed.)
- An Anthology of Modern Persian Poetry*—Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (trans.)
- Arabic Short Stories*—Denys Johnson-Davies (Ed.)
- Armenian Village Life Before 1914*—Susie Googasian-Villa
- Asian Americans: The Emerging Minorities*—Harry Kitano (Asian-Pacific American survey)
- Asians in America: Filipinos, Koreans, and East Indians*—H. Brett Melendy (adjustments of immigrants to life in America)
- Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*—Mohandas Gandhi (Indian spiritual leader)
- Bhagavad-Gita*—P. Lal (translator) (major Hindu religious document)
- Bride of Acacias: Selected Poems*—Forugh Farroukhzad (poetry of Persian writer translated by Jascha Kessler and Amin Banan)
- The Chauvinist and Other Stories*—Toshio Mori (stories of Japanese American life)
- Chinese-American Portraits: Personal Histories, 1828–1988*—Ruthanne Lum McCunn (history of individual Chinese American experiences)
- Contemporary Indonesian Poetry: Poems in Bahasa Indonesian and English*—Harry Aveling (Ed. and trans.)
- Contemporary Israeli Literature*—Elliott Anderson (Ed.)

- Contemporary Turkish Literature: Fiction and Poetry*—Talat Sait Halman (trans.)
- Darkness*—Bharati Mukherjee (stories about Asian Indians and Pakistanis in North America)
- Dawn to the West: Japanese Literature in the Modern Era*—Donald Keene (two volumes containing fiction, poetry, drama, and criticism)
- The Death of Woman Wang*—Jonathan Spence (17th-Century China)
- Eat a Bowl of Tea*—Louis H. Chu (Chinatown interactions)
- The Essential Gandhi*—Louis Fischer (about Indian political and spiritual leader)
- Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*—William Hinton
- Fifty Poems of Hafiz*—Khaja Hafiz (translation by Arthur Arberry of important Persian lyric poet)
- Flowers of Fire: Twentieth Century Korean Stories*—Peter H. Lee (Ed.)
- From Surabaya to Armageddon: Indonesian Short Stories*—Harry Aveling (Ed. and trans.)
- From the Country of Eight Islands: An Anthology of Japanese Poetry*—Burton Watson and Hiroaki Sato (translators)
- God's World*—Nagib Mahfouz (short stories of Arabic Nobel Prize winner, translated by Akef Abadir and Roger Allen)
- Great Sanskrit Plays in Modern Translation*—P. Lal (trans.)
- Habibi*—Naomi Shihab Nye (Arab-American and her Jewish friend)
- Hand Full of Stars*—Rafik Schami (teenager in Syria)
- In the Heart of the Sea*—Samuel Agnon (Israeli story, translated by I. M. Lask)
- An Introduction to Haiku*—Harold Henderson (Japanese poetry)
- Istanbul Boy*—Azaz Nesin (autobiography of Turkish author, translated by Joseph S. Jacobson)
- Japanese Theatre*—Faubion Bowers
- Khubilai Khan*—Morris Rossabi (China in the 1200s)
- Memed, My Hawk*—Yashar Kemal (Turkish fiction, translated by Edouard Roditi)
- Midnight*—Mao Dun (about Chinese corruption in Shanghai)
- Modern Arabic Drama in Egypt*—M. M. Badawi
- Modern Israeli Drama: An Anthology*—Herbert Joseph (translator)
- Modern Persian Short Stories*—Minoo Southgate (Ed. and trans.)
- Modern Turkish Drama*—Talat Halman (Ed.)
- Morals Pointed and Tales Adorned: The Bustan of Sa'di*—Mosleh-Addin Sa'di (advice in verse by Persian writer, translated by G. M. Wickens)
- The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches*—Matsuo Bashō (written by famous Japanese haiku poet)
- Nesei Daughter*—Monica Sone (Japanese American woman's search for identity)
- The New Chinatown*—Peter Kwong (focus on New York's Chinatown)
- New Writing from the Middle East*—Leo Hamalian and John D. Yohannan (Eds.) (Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Israeli, Armenian collection)

- No-No Boy*—John Okada (Japanese American search for identity)
- The Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse*—T. Carmi (Ed. and trans.)
- The Penguin Book of Turkish Verse*—Nermin Menemencioglu (Ed.)
- Philippine Short Stories: 1941–1955*—L. Y. Yabes (Ed.)
- Samir and Yonatan*—Daniella Carmi (Palestinian boy in Israel)
- Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories*—Bienvenido Santos (hopes of Filipino people in exile)
- Selected Poems*—Fazil Daglarca (famous Turkish poet's work, translated by Talat Halman)
- Selected Stories*—Lu Xun (Chinese short stories)
- The Seven Odes: The First Chapter in Arabic Literature*—Arthur J. Arberry (translator) (pre-Islamic odes called the Muallakat)
- Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*—Suzanne Staples (Pakistani girl)
- Shenfan*—William Hinton (true story of Chinese village people)
- The Singing Mountain*—Sonia Levitin (boy in Israel)
- Sister Shako and Kolo the Goat: Memories of My Childhood in Turkey*—Vedat Dalokay (Turkish woman telling about childhood)
- Sojourners and Settlers: Chinese Migrants in Hawaii*—Clarence Glick (Chinese American experiences)
- Sunflower Splendor: Three Thousand Years of Chinese Poetry*—Liu Wu-chi and Irving Yucheng Lo (Eds.)
- A Tagore Reader*—Sir Rabindranath Tagore (collection of works of famous Indian writer, edited by Amiya Chakravarty)
- Tale of Kieu*—Nguyen Du (Vietnamese writing, translated by Huynh Sanh Thong)
- Teachings of Rumi: The Masnavi*—Jalal Rumi (poetry of famous 13th-Century Persian poet, translated and shortened by E. H. Whinfield)
- Thousand Pieces of Gold: A Biographical Novel*—Ruthanne Lum McCunn (Chinese woman in Idaho)
- A Thousand Years of Vietnamese Poetry*—Nguyen Bich (trans.)
- Through Harsh Winters: The Life of a Japanese Immigrant Woman*—Akemi Kikumura (Japanese mother and daughter relate their experiences)
- Twenty-One Stories*—Samuel Agnon (Hebrew collection; Nahum Glatzer, Ed.)
- Waiting for Surabiel*—Raja Proctor (fictional story of life in Sri Lanka)
- The Woman Warrior*—Maxine Hong Kingston (Chinese American author)
- Women of the Fertile Crescent: An Anthology of Arab Women's Poems*—Kamal Boullata (Ed. and trans.)
- Women Poets of Japan*—Kenneth Rexroth and Ikuko Atsumi (Eds. and trans.)