

HELMUT MARTIN (MA HANMAO) (1940–1999)

With the untimely passing of Helmut Martin on June 8, 1999, German sinology has lost one of its most dedicated and internationally respected authorities, an outstandingly productive scholar who had the rare ability to acknowledge the qualities of his colleagues without envy. Always deeply committed to nurturing the younger generation of sinologists, he was also an innovative and inspiring teacher who was revered by his students.

Helmut Martin had held the chair of Chinese Language and Literature at Ruhr University Bochum since 1979 when he succeeded Alfred Hoffmann. He became known not only to the scholarly readership but also to a wider section of the nonacademic public both through his diverse editorial and translation activities, which spanned a vast range of subjects—from the works of the late-Ming theater critic and playwright Li Yu to the writings of Mao Zedong and contemporary literature from the People's Republic of China and Taiwan—and, through his regular contributions in the media as reviewer, commentator, and much sought-after analyst of sociopolitical and cultural developments in the Chinese-speaking area.

Born in Kassel on March 5, 1940, Helmut Martin studied Sinology and Slavistics in Munich, Belgrade, Paris, and Heidelberg and gained his Ph.D. under Wolfgang Bauer with a thesis on Li Yu's poetics (*Li Li-weng über das Theater*, 1966). With a postdoctoral grant he continued his education at the National Taiwan University in Taipei where he edited, among other books, the complete works of Li Yu (*Li Yu quanji*, 1970, 15 vols.). Following a subsequent research sojourn in Kyoto, his growing interest in contemporary China took him in the early 1970s to the Institut für Asienkunde (IfA) in Hamburg to work on the journal *China aktuell*. It was while in Hamburg that Helmut Martin compiled the Langenscheidt dictionary *Chinesisch-deutscher Wortschatz. Politik und Wirtschaft der VR China* (1977, in collaboration with Tienchi Martin-Liao) and gained his "venia legendi" under Wolfgang Franke with a thesis on language reform in the People's Republic of China (*Chinesische Sprachplanung*, 1977, publ. 1982). After several publications on state Maoism, he edited and co-translated a German-Chinese bilingual edition of Mao Zedong's so-called *wansui* texts (*Mao Zedong Texte*, 1979–82, 7 vols., funded by the Volkswagen Foundation), which has proven to be the standard collection of Mao's works in the German language.

In 1980 Professor Martin was the founder and first director of the Landesspracheninstitut Nordrhein-Westfalen LSI (Language Institute of the State of North Rhine Westphalia) in Bochum with the three departments for Chinese ("Sinicum"), Japanese, and Arabic. In 1993 he established the Richard Wilhelm Translation Centre at Ruhr University Bochum, one of only three translation centers for Chinese literature worldwide. The translations produced on a scholarly basis by the Centre since then (14 volumes in the series *Arcus Chinatexte*) have helped to bring classical and modern literature and philosophy from China and Taiwan to a German-speaking readership. Helmut Martin was also the editor of two other series of publications for theses and China-related studies, *Chinathemen* (1980–1997, 101 volumes) and *edition cathay* (1993–, 45 volumes).

Numerous research sojourns in Asia and visiting professorships at universities in the PRC, the U.S.A. (Carl-Schurz Memorial Professor in 1985), Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and Taiwan followed during the 1980s and 1990s, as well as many further book publications, most recently *Chinabilder. Gesammelte Schriften* (1996, six volumes) and *Hongkong. Strategien des Übergangs* (1997). Elected in 1995 as president of the

Deutsche Vereinigung für Chinastudien (DVCS) (German Association for Chinese Studies), which had been founded five years previously in East Berlin, Helmut Martin sparked off the publication of the Association's annual conference papers. Of the three volumes hitherto published, the most recent and most significant is an abundant collection of articles on the history of German sinology (*Chinawissenschaften—Deutschsprachige Entwicklungen: Geschichte, Personen, Perspektiven*, 1999, in collaboration with Christiane Hammer).

After the Tiananmen events in 1989 Helmut Martin initiated a long-term interdisciplinary study of the economic and cultural transformation processes in Chinese society. This *European Project on China's Modernization* was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and resulted in a great many publications in German, English, and Chinese (articles and monographs, overview in *Vernetzungen. Wirtschaftlicher und kultureller Wandel in China*, 1998). In recent years Helmut Martin had increasingly focused his attention on sociopolitical and cultural developments in Taiwan and on its transition to democracy, thus becoming one of only a very few German-speaking China scholars to specialize in this marginalized research area. A number of contributions for conferences and lengthy essays as well as an unfinished *History of Taiwan Literature* attest to his dedication in this field. Being regarded as not politically correct, these activities provoked harassment time and again from the PRC authorities over the last decade, most overtly in their refusal to grant Professor Martin entry visas in 1999. However, among his colleagues and friends in the Chinese-speaking world and among the advocates of the democracy movement on both sides of the Taiwan Strait which he actively supported, Helmut Martin was widely known as Ma Hanmao.

Professor Martin will be remembered as a remarkable China scholar and a unique and charismatic personality.

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ANN LEIGH MINTURN (1928–1999)

While visiting Boulder, I learned today, that among the victims killed in the crash of Egyptair 990 was Ann Leigh Minturn, a well-known scholar of women's and children's issues in cross-cultural perspective, including several important publications on India.

Dr. Minturn was born in Chicago. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1949 and proceeded to Radcliffe College where she earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in the field of social psychology. In 1954 she began her career at Cornell University as a research associate. In 1958 she joined the faculty of the University of Illinois, where she remained until 1967. That year she went to the University of Colorado at Boulder where she was a professor until her retirement in 1997.

Her research work in India produced *Rajputs of Khalapur*, *Mothers of Six Cultures: Antecedents of Child Rearing*, and *Sita's Daughters: Coming Out of Purdah*. Leigh Minturn was past president of the Society of Cross-Cultural Research and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. Since retirement she had traveled extensively.