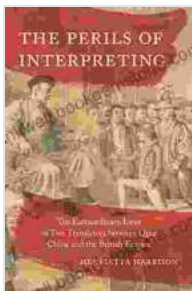


The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators Between Qing China and the British

In the annals of history, translators have often played a pivotal role in facilitating communication and understanding between different cultures and civilizations. During the 18th and 19th centuries, two extraordinary translators emerged who played a pivotal role in bridging the cultural and linguistic gap between Qing China and the British: John Francis Davis and Xu Jiyu.



The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire by Henrietta Harrison

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 38648 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 345 pages



John Francis Davis (1795-1890) was a British diplomat, scholar, and translator who served as the first British Superintendent of Trade at Canton from 1825 to 1834. He was a gifted linguist who mastered Chinese and became one of the first Westerners to produce a comprehensive Chinese-English dictionary.



Davis's diplomatic skills were put to the test during the tumultuous period leading up to the Opium Wars. He played a key role in mediating between the British and Chinese governments, and his efforts helped to prevent a full-scale conflict. In 1842, he negotiated the Treaty of Nanking, which ended the First Opium War and resulted in the cession of Hong Kong to the British.

Xu Jiyu (1795-1856) was a Chinese scholar and translator who served as an interpreter for the Chinese government during the Opium Wars. He was a brilliant linguist who mastered English and became one of the first Chinese to produce a comprehensive English-Chinese dictionary.



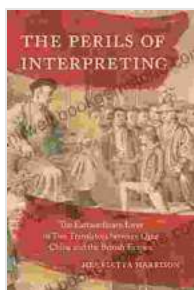
Xu Jiyu, a Chinese scholar and translator who served as an interpreter for the Chinese government during the Opium Wars

Xu's knowledge of English and Western culture made him an invaluable asset to the Chinese government during the Opium Wars. He helped to translate important documents and served as a liaison between the Chinese and British officials. He also played a role in negotiating the Treaty of Nanking.

The lives of John Francis Davis and Xu Jiyu were intertwined in many ways. They were both born in the same year and played a key role in the same historical events. They were also both pioneers in their respective fields, and their work helped to lay the foundation for future cultural exchange between China and the West.

The legacy of Davis and Xu is still felt today. Their work as translators and diplomats helped to bridge the cultural and linguistic gap between China and the West, and their contributions to the field of Sinology continue to be studied and appreciated by scholars around the world.

The stories of John Francis Davis and Xu Jiyu are inspiring examples of how individuals can make a difference in the world. Through their work as translators and diplomats, they helped to build bridges between two very different cultures and paved the way for future cooperation and understanding.



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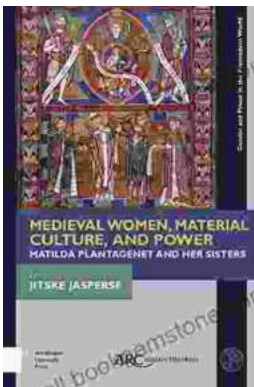
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