

"American Dream." Those teaching American Literature in Taiwan or in countries where there are a number of Overseas Chinese should consider this book.

REFERENCE CITED:

LAI, Him Mark et al.

1980 *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island*. San Francisco. Hoc Doi.

David R. Mayer
Nanzan University
Nagoya / Japan

LIU, MAU-TSAI. *Der Tiger mit dem Rosenkranz: Rätsel aus China* [The tiger with the rosary. Chinese riddles]. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1986. viii+87 pages. Notes, riddle answers, list of Chinese characters, short bibliography. Paper DM 19.80; ISBN 3-11-010595-0. (In German)

This collection of nearly five hundred Chinese riddles ranges in type from "Volksrätsel" to literary riddles. The analysis is primarily a linguistic one, rather than a folkloristic attempt. Nevertheless, it will be of limited interest to folklorists, literary critics, and students of Chinese studies. The collection is outfitted with an introduction to the riddle and to the essential features of various kinds of riddle. The collection is indexed by the Chinese characters used and closes with a short bibliography and answers to all the riddles.

The collection is a sound one. The riddles represent a broad spectrum of types and forms, from nature riddles (some well known in Western languages: e.g., "In winter it grows, in summer it doesn't grow, it grows long and its roots are at the top." Answer: an icicle), a category that Liu calls "material things" which includes riddles on the abacus, beds, chopsticks, and the like. (The riddles in this section are listed alphabetically *by solution* in German!). The 490 riddles are discussed by category (e.g. "nature," "edibles," "animals," and the like) as well as by type ("literary riddles," "folk riddles" [*miyu* 謎語] and "riddling verses" ("Rätselsprüche" [xiehouyu 歇後語]) And there is one final category that runs all through the text: those that depend upon some feature of a Chinese character or group of characters, generally relying upon a pun for its effect.

The book is rather lean on the scholarly end, it is certainly not "up to date" with current scholarship. One might have wished for a more thorough discussion of Chinese riddles and riddling processes: something about the *Volksrätsel* in context, for example, which Liu does give us in outline for the literary riddle. Mathilde Hain, for instance, is cited in the bibliography, but little of her theoretical apparatus is to be found. Still, Liu's intent as expressed in the introduction is to give German readers a sample of Chinese proverbs, especially the "Volksratsel," and in that limited way, this book succeeds. The one thing this little book does indeed have is a good selection of Chinese riddles.

Pack Carnes
Lake Forest College,
Lake Forest, Illinois