

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned Chinese Translator of *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Shipping News* Comes to Ryerson to Study Canadian Literature

Toronto, March 2010. Chinese literary translator Ainong Ma joins the research team at Ryerson University's Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre (MLCRC). The recipient of a prestigious stipend awarded by the Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program (CCSEP), she will undertake a nine-month residency at the university and contribute to the MLCRC's advancement of modernist literary scholarship in a global and intercultural context.

Known for her translations of several major literary works – including Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, Frank Abagnale's *Catch Me If You Can*, and Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News* – Ma is also a translator of children's literature. Her 1987 translation of Lucy Maud Montgomery's iconic Canadian novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, was the first Chinese version produced. Published by three different companies in seven different editions since, the translation remains popular and highly regarded by readers and critics alike, notes Huifeng Hu, an associate professor of English at the School of Foreign Languages at Guangdong University of Technology in Guangzhou, China. "Ainong Ma's smooth switch between the source language system and the target language system is impressive, as is her competent handling of the differences between Canadian and Chinese cultures," she says. Ma has also translated L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Avonlea*.

As the MLCRC at Ryerson is dedicated, in part, to exploring the work of L. M. Montgomery, Ma's arrival marks an exciting occasion for the centre's researchers. At Ryerson, she will be supervised in her research by Dr. Irene Gammel, Canada Research Chair in Modern Literature and Culture and Professor of English, who produced a study on L. M. Montgomery, *Looking for Anne*, in 2008, forthcoming in paperback in April 2010. A collaborative study on international portraits of *Anne of Green Gables* is due out next year. Given the extensive reach and reception of the Canadian classic around the world, Ma's presence paves the way for a substantial, cross-cultural research exchange.

"It is a golden opportunity for me to come to Ryerson to continue my research on L. M. Montgomery and her *Anne of Green Gables*," Ma said. "Since 1987, when I first published my Chinese translation of *Anne of Green Gables*, it has been my biggest dream to be able to visit this enchanting country where Anne lived. Now, my long-cherished dream has finally come true."

"We are delighted that Ainong Ma has chosen to come to our Center at Ryerson University," says Irene Gammel. She continues: "Ma is an important cultural force in China. By translating classic Canadian texts into Chinese, she has brought Canada closer to Chinese people and vice versa. We look forward to being part of that cross-cultural process."

Ma has translated over thirty-five books from English into Chinese, including more than twenty children's books. Most recently, she translated J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series for the People's Literature Publishing House in Beijing, where she is currently the director of the Foreign Literature Editorial Department. During her tenure in Toronto, Ma aims to research the works of L. M. Montgomery as well as those of contemporary Canadian writers like Margaret Atwood, David Adams Richards, Tim Wynne-Jones, Alice Munro, and Gordon Korman. She hopes to introduce such Canadian writers to a broader Chinese audience through her translations.

Funded by the Government of Canada, the Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program grants a scholarship covering the costs of tuition, accommodation, research materials, and travel to Canadian and Chinese scholars who wish to study and conduct research in their respective host countries. It was established by former Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1973. More than nine-hundred scholars have participated in the program over the past thirty-five years.

For more information, please contact:

The Modern Literature and Culture Research Center
Ryerson University
416-979-5000 ext. 7668
<http://www.ryerson.ca/mlc>

