

DEAR READER,

TWO WINNERS OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2012

Professor Peter Englund, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, on 11 October 2012 announced that the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2012 was awarded to the Chinese writer Mo Yan (pen name for Guan Moye). Every reader of Mr. Guan's books, both Chinese and foreign, rejoices in this great award because his very unique way of writing and the power which emanates from his books makes his work unforgettable. Next to his books, his influence in popular culture through film adaptations has also been immense. The movie *Red Sorghum*, based on parts of his novel of the same title, marked the directorial debut of internationally acclaimed filmmaker Zhang Yimou in 1987; the movie catapulted Mr. Zhang to the front-rank of Chinese directors. *Red Sorghum* also marked the debut of actress Gong Li. It is also worth mentioning another adaptation of Mr. Guan's writing, the movie *Happy Times*, directed again by Zhang Yimou and based on the short story *Shifu: You'll Do Anything for a Laugh*.

The other winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2012, though unofficial, is the classical Chinese novel. Undoubtedly, the Nobel Prize in Literature has a tremendous impact on bringing writers to the attention of readers. It is highly probable that the world-wide readership of Mo Yan will increase substantially and more and more people will not only enjoy his books but will come to the realization that his oeuvre is very deeply rooted in the traditions of the classical Chinese novel. Hopefully more and more people will discover the jewels of the classical Chinese novel like *Three Kingdoms* and *Outlaws of the Marsh* by Luo Guanzhong, or *Journey to the West* or *Dream of the Red Chamber*, which are frequently mentioned by Mo Yan as formative influences. Indeed, if this discovery takes place, then the Nobel Prize for Mo Yan served his purpose manifold.

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Approaching the end of the year I wish to thank in the name of the Board of Editors all our authors who submitted valuable writing and made the Journal of Eurasian Studies possible. I also wish to thank the attention of our readers. And finally I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Flórián Farkas

Editor-in-Chief

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