

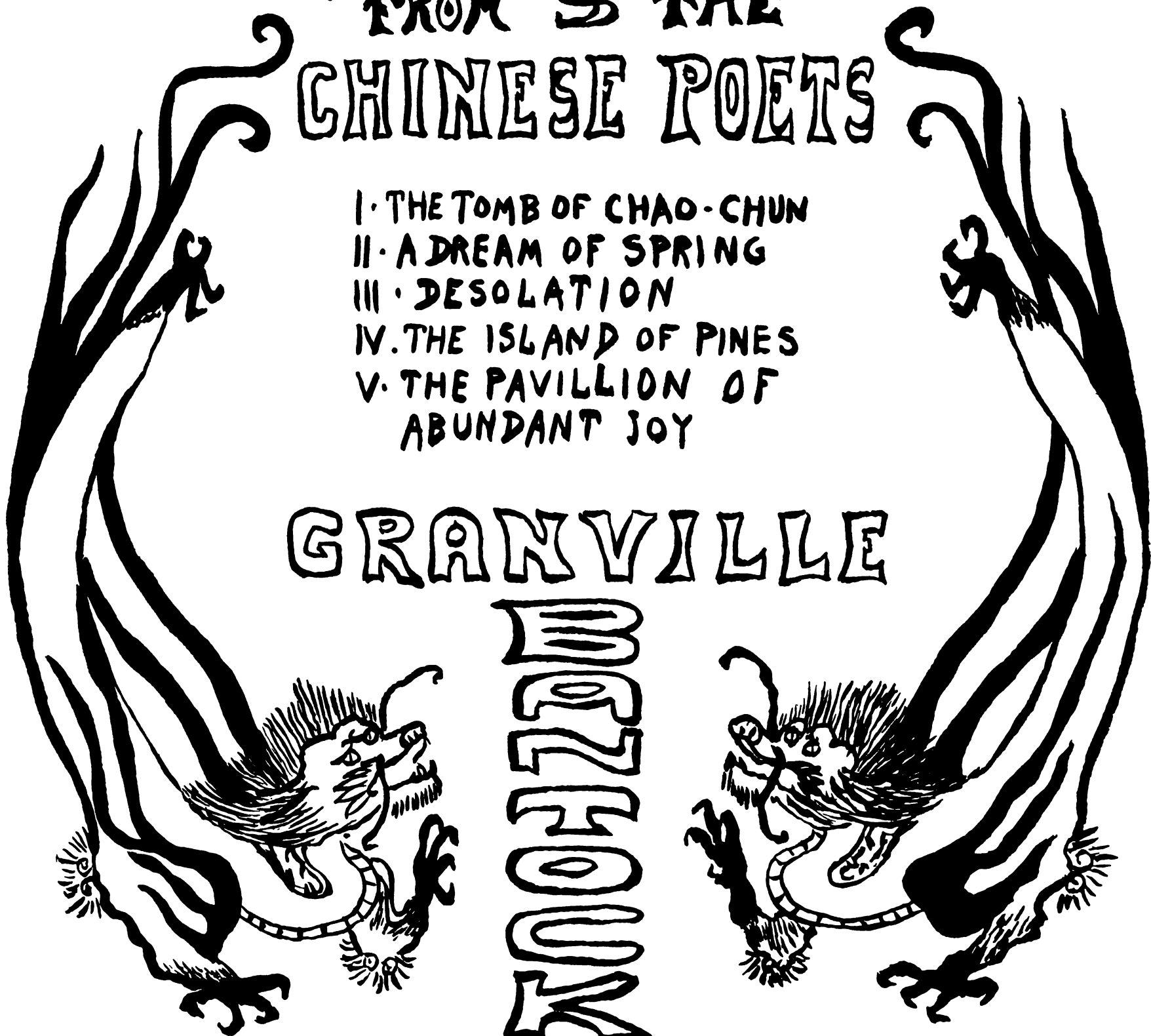


FIVE
NOTES
FROM THE
CHINESE POETS

- I. THE TOMB OF CHAO-CHUN
- II. A DREAM OF SPRING
- III. DESOLATION
- IV. THE ISLAND OF PINES
- V. THE PAVILLION OF
ABUNDANT JOY

GRANVILLE

MOZEHOM



To Eleanor M. V. Finegan.

FIVE SONGS

FROM

THE CHINESE POETS

SECOND SERIES

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 1. | THE TOMB OF CHAO-CHÜN | - | - | - | Ch'ang Ch'ien,
<i>Circa A.D. 720.</i> |
| 2. | A DREAM OF SPRING | - | - | - | Ts'en Ts'an,
<i>Circa A.D. 750.</i> |
| 3. | DESOLATION | - | - | - | Kao-Shih,
<i>Circa A.D. 700.</i> |
| 4. | THE ISLAND OF PINES | - | - | - | Po Chu-I,
<i>A.D. 772-846.</i> |
| 5. | THE PAVILION OF ABOUNDING JOY | - | - | - | Ou-Yang Hsiu,
<i>A.D. 1007-1072.</i> |

English Text from "A Lute of Jade" and "A Feast of Lanterns."

BY

L. CRANMER-BYNG

SET TO MUSIC BY

GRANVILLE BANTOCK.

Cover design by ALVIN LANGDON COBURN.

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THE TOMB OF CHAO-CHÜN.

DEATH would have ravished her some hapless day
Even among the palaces of Han,
But she was never born to taste
The bitterness of fate so far away—
This pearl of beauty for whose sake did haste
The camels' golden-gleaming caravan.
To-day but dust and bones remain
Of her whose ransom threaded the cold steppes in vain.

Night fell on chariots to the frontier ranged,
But horses champed, for none were fain to part.
Each cursed the lying hand, the traitor's heart.
The moon surprised us scattered round the tomb,
And all our tears were changed
To little piteous lights that ringed the gloom.

CH'ANG CH'IEN.

Circa A.D. 720.

THE story of the beautiful Chao-Chün is a favourite theme of Chinese poets and ballad-mongers. The Emperor Kaotsu, the founder of the glorious Han dynasty, made a treaty with a certain Prince of the Huns, who as a pledge of its fulfilment demanded the hand of 'a flower from the palace of the Hans.' Kaotsu sent a messenger to the capital with orders that all the girls in the palace apartments awaiting a summons from the Emperor should have their portraits painted. When this was done he chose from the number the dullest and most insipid, and commanded the original to be brought into his presence before sending her to the Prince. The astonished Court then beheld a girl whose beauty enchanted all eyes, a vision of loveliness unsurpassed. But the Emperor's word was final, and Chao-Chün crossed the border to her lifelong exile. The Emperor wreaked his vengeance on the faithless painter, whose lying portrait was the cause of her sacrifice; but her lost charms obsessed him, and he could never forget. Vainly the caravan of a hundred camels, laden with gold, the ransom for an Empress, set out for the country of the Huns. Their Prince refused all offers for her while she lived, and when she died even the last honour of burial in her native land was rejected.

(From "A Feast of Lanterns," by L. CRANMER-BYNG.)

THE TOMB OF CHAO-CHÜN.

From the Chinese poet, Ch'ang Ch'ien, circa A. D. 720.

Rendered into English by
L. Cranmer-Byng.

Music by
Granville Bantock.

VOICE. *Maestoso e Grave.* *mp con dolore ma liberamente*

Death would have ravish'd her some

PIANO. *f pesante* *p poco marc.*

R.H. *sf* (Bell)

L.H. *sost.* (Bell)

hap-less day— Ev-en a-mong the pa-la-ces of Han,—

p But she was ne-ver born— *espress.* to taste The bit-ter-ness of

1 *espress.*

fate_ so far a - way_ This pearl of beau - ty for whose

cresc. *sost.* *più p*

sake did haste The cam-els' gold-en gleam - ing ca - ra - van._ To day but

cresc. *espress.* **Tempo I?**
Maestoso e Grave.

dust and bones remain Of her_ whose ransom thread-ed the cold steppes in vain._

dim. *f pesante.* *sost.*

R.H. L.H.

2 Più lento. *p*

Night fell on

cresc. 3 *marziale* *quasi ad lib.*

cha-ri-ots to the fron-tier ranged, But hor-ses champ-ed, for none were fain to part.

mf irato *sost.*

Each cursed the ly-ing hand, the trai-tor's heart.

Meno mosso.
con molto espress.

p 3 *mf*

The moon surprised us scat-tered round the tomb, And all our tears were changed to

dim. *più p*

lit-tle pi-teous lights that ringed the gloom, that ringed

dim.

Allargando.

pp sost. 4

the gloom.

R.H.
p pesante *dim.* *pp* *sost.*

L.H.
f *p* *tén.* *tén.* *tén.* *tén.*

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