

Jin Yong Gallery

About Jin Yong

Louis Cha, better known by his pen name Jin Yong, is a world-famous Hong Kong journalist, community leader and literary giant. Jin Yong's martial arts novels have earned him a worldwide readership. "Wherever there are Chinese, you will find Jin Yong's novels". His novels have inspired producers of movies, TV series, radio dramas, stage dramas, video games and various cultural and creative products, deeply influencing the popular culture of mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao over the past decades.

Born in 1924 in Haining in Zhejiang Province, Cha began reading martial arts novels, such as *Lady of Steel* and *Legends of the Jianghu*, at the age of eight. As he grew up, he became absorbed by Chinese literature and history, devouring *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Zizhi Tongjian* for example, as well as novels such as *The Three Musketeers* by French literary giant Alexandre Dumas. Cha showed his outstanding writing talent at an early age, even in primary school, he co-edited his class magazine with his teacher. As a young author, he was a frequent contributor to *Bi Lei*, the supplement to *Southeast Daily*.

In 1948, Cha was posted from *Ta Kung Pao* in Shanghai to work in Hong Kong. To begin with, he used a series of pen names, including Le Yi, Yao Fulan, Yao Jiayi and Lin Huan, for his literary output as a translator, screenwriter, lyricist and film commentator. He also founded *Ming Pao Daily News* in 1959 and spent nearly half a century to lead the newspaper to greater success.

When Wu Kung-i, descendant of the founder of Wu style Tai Chi Chuan and Crane School master Chen Kefu held a martial arts contest in Macao in 1954, it indirectly provided the inspiration for Cha to write his novels. In 1955, as the then employee of *New Evening Post*, Cha was invited by his editor-in-chief Lo Fu to serialise his first martial arts novel, *The Book and the Sword*, in the newspaper. Written under the pen name Jin Yong, it was an instant hit, and a succession of works subsequently appeared, Cha wrote a total of 15 popular martial arts novels, until he declared *The Deer and the Cauldron* to be his last novel in 1972. He then returned to review and adapt his novels, a task that took 10 years to complete. The revised works were published as *The Jin Yong Novel Collection*. From 2000 to 2006, Jin Yong once again revised his novels.

Jin Yong is a talented writer with broad and profound knowledge and has successfully created many well-known characters in his novels with prominent

features and distinctive personalities. Showcasing a great wealth and variety of styles as well as thrilling plots providing roller-coaster rides for the readers, Jin Yong's novels remain extremely popular among Chinese readers worldwide and have been translated and published in many different languages. Since the 1980s, Jin Yong's martial arts novels have become a popular area of Chinese literary study for academics around the world, and international conferences on his works have been held in different countries. His works are well recognized by the education authorities of mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, where selected excerpts from his works are included as model essays for Chinese language textbooks.

The contributions Louis Cha has made in novel writing, journalism and social affairs are well recognised and have brought him many accolades, including the OBE in 1981, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1992, the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 2000, and Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the Ministry of Culture of France in 2004. He has also received honorary doctorates, honorary fellowships and honorary professorships from many renowned academic institutions. Aged over 80, Louis Cha began studying for his doctorate degree at the University of Cambridge in 2008. His thesis was highly praised and he received his PhD from the University in 2010.