

That almost hit Bai like a blow, because the poet Li lived in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

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"I study only Chinese literature, but I read a lot of foreign literary works. Obviously, foreign readers know nothing about Chinese literature. And I think it's time for us to change that situation," Bai says.

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The major purpose of the recent forum, hosted at Beijing Language and Culture University by China Culture Translation and Studies Support, a platform for cultural cooperation, was to discuss how to translate and introduce excellent contemporary Chinese literary works to overseas readers.

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In China, more than 7,000 writers have registered with the China Writers Association, creating more than 3,000 novels each year. But only some 200-plus Chinese writers have been introduced overseas.

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Mai Jia, author of *Decoded* and *In the Dark*, is the only contemporary Chinese writer whose works have been translated into 27 languages, says another participant at the forum, Xu Baofeng. Xu is executive director of the Chinese Culture Communication and Translation Center. Xu says there should have been more Chinese writers read by overseas readers, since "they create really great works".

??27??
"?????????????"

Bai says foreign readers now tend to read stories about modern urban life in China rather than tales set in rural areas in old times, such as Mo Yan's *Red Sorghum*.

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Abrahamsen is the founder of Paper Republic, a company devoted to translating Chinese literature and introducing it to the West.

?????Paper Republic????????????????????????

Bai says that writers now being introduced to readers abroad are mainly from generations born before 1970.

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