

Preface

A Kaleidoscope of China follows after *Anything Goes* (Princeton University Press, 2006) as an advanced Chinese textbook compiled by Chinese language teachers in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University. This text is aimed towards students who have already studied two to three years or more of modern Chinese. If four classes meet each week, it contains enough material to fill a complete academic year.

As enrollment has surged in recent years, advanced Chinese textbooks now more than ever need to present diverse genres and pieces of writing, while at the same time ensuring that all pieces are a reflection of contemporary China. Moreover, today's students view "contemporary China" as "China as it is in this instant" or "China at its most current." Textbooks, of course, are not today's newspapers or news programs: they must be able to stand the test of time. When compiling *A Kaleidoscope of China*, we tried to ensure that the writings selected were varied, and that their content was current. The materials included encompass a multitude of topics, from affairs of state to daily life, from articles about pollution to essays on China's rise to global prominence. In recent years, China has truly been changing by the day, and textbooks have often lagged behind. This text also seeks to fill part of the gap that has been created between today's China and China as it is portrayed in teaching materials.

Years of teaching experience have taught us that students can't help but find focusing solely on a single genre or topic monotonous. When preparing this text, we took special care to include writings focused on many different facets of contemporary China.

The writings contained in this text were either written or compiled by Professor Chih-p'ing Chou. Jingyu Wang, Joanne Chiang and Huahui Wei worked together to create the vocabulary lists, grammar notes, and exercises for each lesson. We have included a note on the first page of each lesson detailing which teacher prepared it. Teng Kuan Ng, Noelle Lyle and Cara Healey looked over the English sections of each lesson, and offered valuable opinions during the editing process. All teachers in Princeton's Chinese Language Program also met together to proofread the final version of this textbook. We extend to them our sincere thanks. Of course, any remaining errors are ours.

A portion of this text has already been field-tested both at Princeton University and at Princeton in Beijing. It has been well-received by both students and teachers.

Chih-p'ing Chou
January 14, 2010