

Zeitschrift: Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle
Band: 27 (1959)
Heft: 11

Artikel: On learning that his friend was returning from the wa
Autor: Chien, Wang
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-570438>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 30.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

On Learning that His Friend Was Returning from the Wa

by Wang Chien (circa 840 A.D.)

In the old days those who went to fight
Had one year's leave in three.
But the soldiers in this war are never changed;
They must go on fighting until they die on the battlefield.
I thought of you, my weak and awkward friend.
Hopelessly trying to learn to march and drill.
It seemed about as likely that the sky should fall
As that a young man should ever come home again.
Since the news reached me that you were coming back.
I have mounted twice to the high hall of your home.
I found your brother fixing your horse's stall;
I found your mother sewing new clothes for you.
I am half afraid. Perhaps it is not true . . .
But I never tire of watching for you on the road.
Each day I go out to the City Gate
With a flask of wine in hand, lest you should come thirsty.
Oh, that I might shrink the surface of the world,
So that suddenly I could find you standing at my side!

— Translated by Steward. from a French intermediary.

Short Book-Review

Paul Buckland, Chorus of Witches (W.H. Allen. London. 16 sh.)

Well, here is yet another excellent homosexual novel from the Wolfenden Report Country. Congratulations, Mr. Buckland, on a highly sensitively written and equally highly intelligent book! There is no slipshod writing in your description of your chorus of witches, an amusing bunch of female impersonators. Jay Little will turn pale when he sees how differently such a ticklish theme can be handled. But witches apart this new book contains three very interesting characters as the leads. Alan, 37 years' old travel-agency man; Jock, 27 years' old Scottish knife-thrower; and Colin, 20 years' old handsome Narciss. Add to these three the figure of Alan's aunt by marriage, Julia — the kind of aunt one would love to have for oneself — and you have the principals in a story which is as beautifully drawn and sincerely felt as it is full of life and love and of tragedy and comedy. The conversation between Alan and his aunt in the last third of the book alone would make it worth your money to buy it. Thank you, Mr. Buckland once again for the valuable contribution to our theme, and especially for that lovely satisfying happy end with which your story closes.

R.B.