04 August 2023

Translations by Yilin Wang of Qiu Jin’s poems, including A River of Crimson: A Brief Stay in the Glorious Capital, were originally used in the exhibition China’s hidden century without the permission of Yilin Wang, and without any credit acknowledging her work. The British Museum apologises to Yilin Wang for this oversight.

The British Museum takes copyright permission seriously and recognises the importance of the role of translators and the value of their work, which in many cases helps to further the Museum’s research and widen public access through display.

The Museum is reviewing the permissions process it has in place for temporary exhibitions, particularly with regard to translations, to ensure that there is a timely and robust methodology underpinning our clearance work and our crediting of contributors going forward.

The Museum will complete its review by the end of this year and will implement appropriate policies and procedures to address any gaps identified in its review.

The Museum currently does not have a policy specifically addressing the clearance of translations and, as part of its review, will ensure that translations are specifically addressed in its clearances policies and that translators are appropriately credited in future.

Yilin Wang’s translation of A River of Crimson: A Brief Stay in the Glorious Capital will shortly appear in the exhibition, and on the Museum website, with the translator's full permission.

Further information
Please contact the communications team: communications@britishmuseum.org