

Dictionary of the Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen

The publication of a *Dictionary of the Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen* by U.C.Press earlier this year follows the publication of an introductory volume to the *Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen* series, that appeared under the title *Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen. Nature, Knowledge, Imagery in an Ancient Chinese Medical Text* in 2003 and has already been reprinted in 2006. Three more volumes are to appear in 2010, offering a first and densely annotated philological translation of the Huang Di Nei Jing Su Wen. It is the resolve to meet highest philological standards that distinguishes this entire project from all previous attempts at rendering this ancient Chinese medical text into Western languages, notably English. This presentation will focus on some of the principles underlying the annotated translation. It will discuss the discrepancy that has emerged between the usage of English versions of Chinese terms in current English TCM clinical literature and the results of a philological analysis of these terms. The neglect and destruction of meaningful metaphors in current English renderings of Chinese texts is supported by Westerners incapable of applying philological principles and also by Chinese administrators aiming at a speedy integration of TCM into modern biomedicine. For Westerners interested in Chinese medicine as an alternative to biomedicine this approach blocks an understanding of these texts in their original cultural embeddedness. The Dictionary is introduced as a tool permitting readers to appreciate the complex nature of ancient Chinese medical terminology.