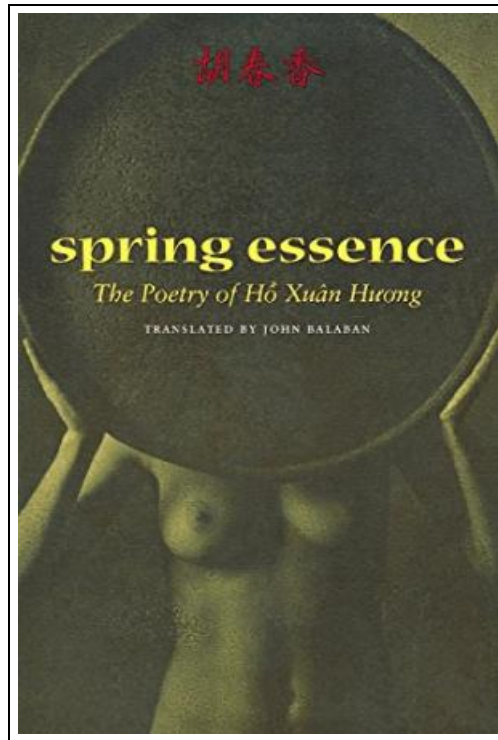


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SPRING ESSENCE: THE POETRY OF HO XUAN HUONG (PAPERBACK)



Copper Canyon Press, 2000. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Featured on NPR s Fresh Air Sometimes books really do change the world. This one will set in motion a project that may transform Vietnamese culture. --Utne Reader Ho Xuan Huong--whose name translates as Spring Essence --is one of the most important and popular poets in Vietnam. A concubine, she became renowned for her poetic skills, writing subtly risque poems which used double entendre and sexual innuendo as a vehicle for social, religious, and political commentary.The publication of Spring Essence is a major historical and cultural event. It features a tri-graphic presentation of English translations alongside both the modern Vietnamese alphabet and the nearly extinct calligraphic Nom writing system, the hand-drawn calligraphy in which Ho Xuan Huong originally wrote her poems. It represents the first time that this calligraphy--the carrier of Vietnamese culture for over a thousand years--will be printed using moveable type. From the technology demonstrated in this book scholars worldwide can begin to recover an important part of Vietnam s literary history. Meanwhile, readers of all interests will be fascinated by the poetry of Ho Xuan Huong, and the scholarship of John Balaban. It s not every day that a poet gets to save a language, although some might argue that is precisely the point of poetry. -- Publishers Weekly Move over, Sappho and Emily Dickinson. -- Providence Sunday Journal In the simple landscape of daily objects-jackfruit, river snails, a loom, a chess set, and perhaps most famously a paper fan--Ho found metaphors for sex, which turned into trenchant indictments of the plight of women and the arrogance, hypocrisy and corruption of men. Balaban s deft translations are a beautiful and significant contribution to the West s growing awareness of Vietnam s splendid literary heritage....



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