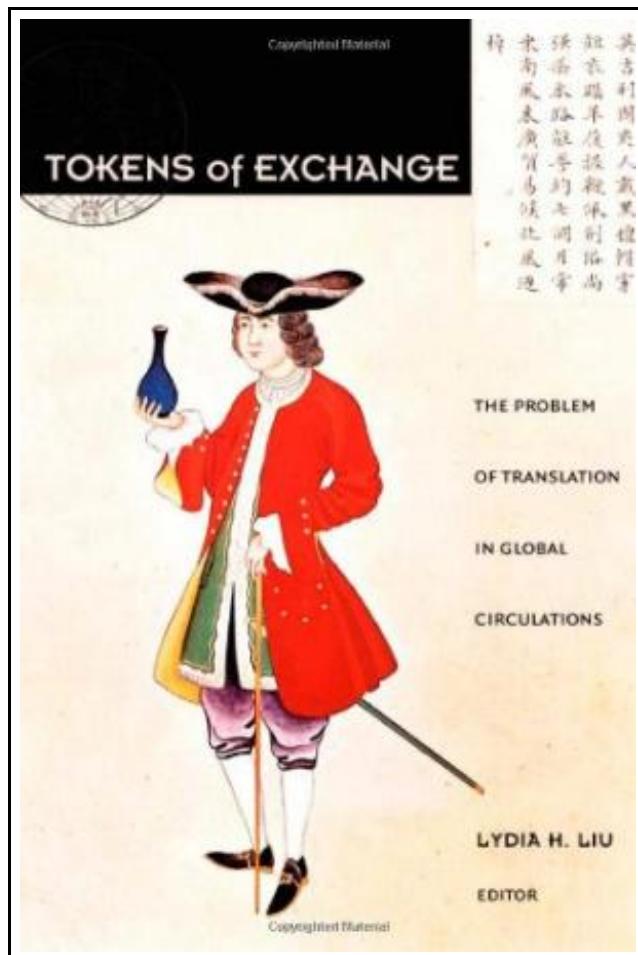# Tokens of Exchange: The Problem of Translation in Global Circulations

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TOKENS OF EXCHANGE: THE PROBLEM OF TRANSLATION IN GLOBAL CIRCULATIONS

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Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Tokens of Exchange: The Problem of Translation in Global Circulations, Lydia H. Liu, The problem of translation has become increasingly central to critical reflections on modernity and its universalising processes. Approaching translation as a symbolic or material exchange among peoples and civilisations - and not as a purely linguistic or literary matter, the essays in "Tokens of Exchange" focus on China and its interactions with the West to historicise an economy of translation. Rejecting the familiar regional approach to non-Western societies, contributors contend that 'national histories' and 'world history' must be read with absolute attention to the types of epistemological translatability that have been constructed among the various languages and cultures in modern times. By studying the production and circulation of meaning as value in areas including history, religion, language, law, visual art, music, and pedagogy, essays consider exchanges between Jesuit missionaries and the Chinese from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries and focus on the interchanges occasioned by the spread of capitalism and imperialism. Concentrating on ideological reciprocity in science, medicine, and cultural pathologies, contributors also posit that such exchanges often lead to racialised and essentialised ideas about culture, sexuality, and nationalism. The collection turns to the role of language itself as a site of the universalisation of knowledge in its contemplation of such processes as the invention of Basic English and the global teaching of the English language. By focusing on the moments wherein meaning-value is altered in the translation from one language to another, the essays highlight the circulation of the global in the local as they address the role played by historical translation in the universalising processes of modernity and globalisation. The collection will engage students and scholars of Chinese studies, history, literary studies, and anthropology, as well...

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