The most notable event on the avant-garde poetry scene in China during 2005 was the great increase in the use of Internet web logs (blogs) by poets. While Internet forums are still heavily used – and the year saw a steady increase in their number – a growing proportion of poets turned to blogs to publish poetry and engage in relatively private conversation with readers. These new bloggers include several poets who had previously seldom been seen online, such as Beijing’s Da Xian 大仙 and Shanghai’s Wang Yin 王寅. Many bloggers are also active on forums and websites, and apparently use the blogs to obtain more thoughtful responses from readers, as opposed to the ready partisan support easily received on the forums with which they are associated. The woman poets Yin Lichuan 尹丽川 and Wu Ang 吴 昂 are cases in point, both still being active members of Poetry Vagabonds 诗江湖.

This phenomenon may also be recognition on the part of some poets that Internet forums – in particular those of the avant-garde – can be intimidating places for ‘readers’ as opposed to participating poets and their friends. In this sense, this development can be seen as positive and part of a ‘natural’ maturation process for Internet poets and poetry, as they learn and adapt to an environment that is still relatively new. (For more on this subject, see relevant current pages here on DACHS and a forthcoming paper on Internet Poetry in China: 1996-2006, due to appear on DACHS later this year.)

**Notable New Participants:**
This year’s review is something of a group of lists, this one featuring new journals – both official and unofficial – and new poetry websites or forums. So, it’s a list of newcomers to the avant-garde and old timers re-entering the fray in new guises.

2. *<Play>* 《玩》 (January, unofficial journal).
5. <New Poetry Generation> 《新诗代》 bimonthly journal, Beijing (March).
8. <Independent * Zero Point> 《独立*零点》 website, combination of two pre-existing unofficial paper journals  www.dulipoem.com (May).
12. The Third Road Poetry Big Market 第三条道路诗歌大市场, bringing to four the number of Third Road sites (September).
14. <Poetry Blueprints>《诗歌蓝本》, in Longhai, Fujian province, edited by Lao Pi 老皮 (September, unofficial).
15. <Culture Addicts> 《潜行者》, in Beijing, with work by Xichuan 西川, Shucai 树才, Wang Jiaxin 王家新, and others. (September, unofficial journal).
16. <A Blade Literature Paper> 《一刀文学报》, published by the Blade Literature Network as a supplement to the Open-Air Bar Forum 露天吧论坛 (October 1).
18. A new Low Poetry Forum 低诗歌论坛  http://www.dpoem.com , combining the old site of the same name (http://tw.netsh.com/eden/bbs/713330/) with the
China Low Poetry Tide Forum 中国低诗潮论坛

Two editions of the paper form of <Not-Not Critiques> were published in 1986 and 1987, and featured articles by members of Sichuan’s Not-Not group and outside critics of the group’s poetry. The forum retains that tie and is part of the reorganized One Line poetry web一行网, under the management of editor-in-chief Yan Li 严力 (December).

20. Han Poetry Commune Forum 汉诗公社论坛

http://www.sydao.net/fourm/bbs.asp?id=nf (December 6).

22. ‘White’ Poetry>《‘白’诗歌》, from the Guangdong Poets Club 广东诗人俱乐部, edited by Song Xiaoxian 宋晓贤 and Dacao 大草 (December, unofficial journal).

Publications of Note:
This list is a highly selective snapshot of the thousands of publications that emerged onto the poetry scene in 2005. I take upon myself all blame for leaving out the worthy and including the unworthy. This brief list includes both book and established journal publications. There are a couple of lists within the list here, which make for fascinating reading to those in the know… as I hope people who have the time to read the other material here on DACHS are now becoming. In any case, the names of China’s poets are getting out there, which is entirely the point of the publications in this list and here on DACHS.


2. <Poetry And People>《诗歌与人》, the latest edition of the unofficial journal edited by Huang Lihai 黄礼孩, featuring a 18,000-character essay on Holistic
Writing 完整性写作 by the chief adherent of this trend and the associated group, Shi Bin 世宾. There are also essays on the subject by Xie Youshun 谢有顺, Geng Zhan Chun 耿占春, and Xia Ke Jun 夏可君 (January).

3. Duoduo Poetry Selections 多多诗选 and Wang Yin Poetry Selections 王寅诗选 published by Flower City Publishing House 花城出版社 in Guangzhou. These are the first books in the Flowers Enduring Winter poetry series 忍冬花诗丛, with Lin Xian Zhi 林贤治 as editor-in-chief. This is the first such series to be produced by Flower City in over 10 years (January).

4. <Poetry Monthly> 《诗歌月刊》 produces its annual issue devoted to poetry published in unofficial poetry journals 民刊专号, featuring the work of 39 poets (April).

5. Contemporary Chinese New Poetry History 中国当代新诗史 by Hong Zhicheng 洪子诚 & Liu Deng Han 刘登翰; “New Poetry Collections” and the Happening of China’s New Poetry 新诗集与中国新诗的发生 by Jiang Tao 蒋涛; and The Poetical Space of the Modern Chinese Language 现代汉语的诗性空间 by Zhang Tao Zhou 张桃洲 are the first books in the New Poetry Studies 新诗研究 series put out by the Beijing University Publishing House 北京大学出版社 (May).


11. *The Rose of Time 时间的玫瑰* by Bei Dao 北岛 is a collection of essays previously published in the periodical <Harvest> 《收获》in his column Gold Chain of the Century 世纪金链, consisting of close readings of translated poetry by Lorca, Mandelstam, Rilke, etc, with a preface from Bai Hua 柏桦. The book was published in Beijing by the China Literature & History Publishing House 中国文史出版社 (August 24).

12. *Internet Poetry Research 网络诗歌研究* is one of the first book-length studies on the subject. It’s author is Prof. Zhang Deming 张德明 and the book is published by the China Literature and History Publishing House 中国文史出版社 in Beijing (September).

13. *Grassroots Poetry Special Collection 草根诗歌特辑,* the first in a planned annual series of poetry of anthologies under the title of *21 Century Poetry Choice Selections 21世纪诗歌精选* with Li Shaojun 李少君 as editor-in-chief, featuring the work of Wang Xiaoni 王小妮, Yang Jian 楊键, Huang Canran 黄灿然, Lei Pingyang 雷平阳, Ling Yue 凌越, Sang Ke 桑克, Pan Huai 潘淮, Lan Lan 蓝蓝, Chen Xianfa 陈先发, Hu Xudong 胡续冬, Jiang Fei 江非, Lu Weiping 卢卫平, Mo Mo 默默, and Tan Kexiu 谭克修. The series is published by the Changjiang Literature & Arts Publishing House 长江文艺出版社 (December).

14. “Great Exhibition of the Age Special Issue 年代大展特别专号” in *Poetry Selections Periodical* 《诗选刊》combined 11-12 issue, 192 pages in length,
with representative poems of 92 poets of New Poetry from each era, including pictures, brief introductions, views on poetry, criticism, and personal essays. (December).

15. The #6 2005 edition of the bi-monthly periodical <Flower City Literature> of Guangzhou features a collection of the work of the Post-Not-Not 后非非 group poets, the first time this journal has so featured a poetry group. The poets selected are Zhou Lunyou 周伦佑 (editor-in-chief of the paper journal since 1986), Chen Xiaofan 陈小繁, Yuan Yong 袁勇, Dong Ji 董辑, Gong Gaixiong 龚盖雄, Jiang Xiaoyun 蒋晓韵, Jiang Lan 蒋蓝, Yu Tian 雨田, and Chen Yaping 陈亚平 (December). Earlier in the year, the work of the reformulated Not-Not group has also featured in periodicals such as <Shanghai Literature> 《上海文学》, <Stars> 《星星》, <Poetry Monthly> 《诗歌月刊》, <October> 《十月》, <Plains> 《草原》, <Guandong Literature> 《关东文学》, <Red Beans> 《红豆》, and <New Continent> 《新大陆》.

Prizes & Happenings:
This is the killer list holding many more lists, all pregnant with meaning. I’ve included a couple just for curiosity’s sake, like the last of the entries here. This list also seems to demonstrate an increase in funding from both the private and government sectors for various avant-garde poetry activities.

1. The first <One Line> 《一行》Internet Prize for 2004 was awarded to Yu Huaiyu 于怀玉, creator of the Poetry Press Net 诗歌报网, and the Poetry Prize to Xiaolan 小兰 (February).

2. The Xi’an poet Yi Sha 伊沙 was banned from the Yangtse Crocodile Forum 扬子鳄论坛 for crude language and behaviour by the forum’s mediator Liu Chun 刘春 (February).
3. The <Poetry Selections Periodical> 《诗选刊》 2004 Poetry Prizes were awarded to Yan Li 严力, Su Qian 苏浅, and Wang Yin 王寅 (March).

4. The Rougang 柔刚 Prize 2004 was jointly awarded to Cao Wumu 曹五木 and Geshi 格式; the other short-listed poets were Yang Senjun 杨森君, Ma Yongbo 马永波, and Motou Beibei 魔头贝贝 (March).

5. The Third Chinese Language Literature Media Prize 华语文学传媒大奖 was awarded to Duoduo 多多 (April 18).

6. The Shanghai Coquettery Poetry Institute 上海撒娇诗院 organized a poetry reading and drinks party, “A Thousand Li in One Day” 千里一日, featuring readings by Li Yawei 李亚伟, Zhao Ye 赵野, and Zhang Xiaobo 张小波 (April 29).

7. Wang Xiaoni 王小妮 and Xu Jingya 徐敬亚 were both hired as professors at the Poetry Studies Center in the Literature Institute of Hainan University 海南大学文学院诗学中心 (April), following in the footsteps of Duoduo, who returned from Europe to take up a post in the same location in 2003. Similarly, further marking this new trend, other poets also took up academic posts during the year: Zhou Lunyou 周伦佑 at the Southwest Teachers’ University 西南师范大学 in Beipei, a suburb of Chongqing in Sichuan province; Xiao Kaiyu 肖开愚 returned from Germany to work at Henan University 河南大学; and the woman poet Lu Ye 路也 was taken on as poet-in-residence at Capital Teachers’ University 首都师大 in Beijing.

8. The Second Chinese Women’s Poetry Conference 中国第二届女性诗歌研讨会 was convened in Qingyuan in Guangdong province. The first conference was held in Beijing in 1993 and organized by The Woman’s Poetry Paper 女子诗报 and the China Poetry Association 中国诗歌协会. This time the organizers were The Woman’s Poetry Paper, the Guangdong May Poetry Society 广东五月诗社, and the Qingxin County Propaganda Department 清新县委宣传部, with added funding from Hongkong’s Mingyuan 铭源 Foundation. Among the conference’s 60-plus attendees were Shu Ting 舒婷, Tang Yaping 唐亚平, Shi Yu 施雨, Xiaoyin 晓音, Tang Guo 唐果, Zhao
Lihua 赵丽华, Xiye 西叶, An Qi 安琪, Wang Xiaoni 王小妮, Baidi 白地, Li Qingsong 李轻松, Qiyuede Hai 七月的海, Jin Xiaojing 靳晓静, Hanxin 寒馨, and Li Xiaoyu 李小雨, and the male critics Zhao Siyun 赵思运, Xu Jingya 徐敬亚, Wang Yuechuan 王岳川, Xie Mian 谢冕, Chen Zhongyi 陈仲义, and Geshi 格式 (May 20-23).

9. <Poetry Selections Periodical>《诗选刊》 and the Internet website Sohu 搜狐 released the results of a nationwide survey to elect the most influential poets of New Poetry. Conducted in late 2004, over 680,000 votes were collected. The editors of <Poetry Selections> felt moved to publicly disassociate the journal from the results: 1) Hu Shi 胡适, 2) Guo Moruo 郭沫若, 3) Ai Qing 艾青, 4) Zang Kejia 臧克家, 5) Mu Dan 穆旦, 6) Xu Zhimo 徐志摩, 7) Tian Jian 田间, 8) Niu Han 牛汉, 9) Shu Ting 舒婷, 10) Bei Dao 北岛 (May).

10. The Second <Or> 或者 Poetry Prizes were awarded to Fei Ya 非亚 of Guangxi as Poet of the Year and Xie Junrong 谢君荣 of Zhejiang as New Talent of the Year (May).

11. The Internet Love Poetry & Lyrics Conference 网络情歌研讨会 was held on Mount Huangshan and featured the first public attacks by avant-garde poets on the poor quality of popular poetry and lyrics. The conference was attended by the avant-garde poets Zhai Yongming 翟永明, Li Yawei 李亚伟, Zhang Xiaobo 张小波, Mo Mo 默默, Yin Lichuan 尹丽川, Ma Song 马松, Zhao Ye 赵野, and the poetry critics Zhu Dake 朱大可, Wang Xiaofeng 王小峰, and Bei Cun 北村 (May).

12. There was a radical restructuring of <Poetry Explorations>《诗探索》. There will now only be four issues per year, two devoted to theory and two to poetry – a first for the periodical that had previously been devoted to theory and criticism only. The editors-in-chief are Xie Mian 谢冕, Yang Kuang 杨匡, and Wu Sijing 吴思敬, with Wu Sijing as theory editor and Lin Mang 林莽 and Zhang Hongbo 张洪波 as poetry editors (July).
13. Local authorities cancelled the Chengdu International Poetry Festival, organized by Zhai Yongming 翟永明, three days prior to its scheduled start. Only four foreign poets were scheduled to attend (July).

14. The China-England Poets Big Internet Conversation took place between Yang Lian 杨炼, Xi Chuan 西川, Tang Xiaodu 唐晓渡, Zhang Wei 张炜, and Zhou Zan 周瓒, and Bill Herbert, Polly Clark, and Antony Dunn (September 29).

15. The First China Internet Poetry Conference was held in Shanghai. It was attended by over 40 poets, including Yan Li 严力, Xiaohai 小海, Liang Xiaoming 梁晓明, Mu Ye 牧野, and Lin Xi 林溪 (October 2-4)

16. The Second Contemporary Chinese Language Poetry Conference was convened in Changshou, Jiangsu province. It was attended by Duoduo 多多, Li Yawei 李亚伟, Yang Jian 杨健, Mo Mo 默默, Zhao Ye 赵野, Che Qianzi 车前子, Chen Dongdong 陈东东, Pang Pei 庞培, Xiao hai 小海, Shen Wei 沈苇, Zhu Zhu 朱朱, Jiang Hao 蒋浩, and any others (October).

17. <People’s Literature> 《人民文学》 in Beijing awarded the 2004-2005 poetry prizes to Lei Pingyang 雷平阳 and Liu Chuan 刘川 (November 15).

18. Huang Nubo 黄怒波, Chairman of the Board of Beijing’s Zhongkun Investment Group 中坤投资集团, announced that the corporation will give 30 million Yuan to poetry activities: 10 million Yuan to the Beijing University New Poetry Research Institute 北大新诗研究所; 10 million Yuan to the China Poetry Studies Association 中国诗歌协会; and 10 million Yuan to establish a China Poetry Foundation 中国诗歌基金会 (November 17).

19. Yang Lian 杨炼 went live online for three hours for a poetry criticism session on the Wansong Pu Library Website’s poetry forum (万松浦 * 青末了) (November 30).

20. Chongqing’s <World Poets> 《世界诗人》, <Literature & Arts Paper> 《文艺报》, and <The Poetry Press> 《诗歌报》 selected China’s 10 Exceptional Contemporary Young Poets 中国当代十大杰出青年诗人 as Zhang Zao 张枣, Zang Di 臧棣, Li Yawei 李亚伟, Shen Wei 沈苇, Yang Li 杨黎, Xidu 西渡, Tang Shi 唐诗, Lu Yimin 陆忆敏, Xu Jiang 徐江, and Mo Mo 默默; and then also selected China’s 10 Outstanding Contemporary Young Poets 中国当代十
大优秀青年诗人 as Huang Lihai 黄礼孩, Hai Nan 海男, Li Qingsong 李轻松, Liang Xiaoming 梁晓明, Shucai 树才, Zhu Wen 朱文, Cai Lishuang 蔡丽双, Zhong Dao 中岛, Zhu Likun 朱立坤, and Ma Fei 马非 (November).

21. <Moruo * The Goddesses> 《沫若 * 女神》, a series of poems written by Guo Moruo 郭沫若 in 1921 was set to music, song and dance, and was broadcast as part of the Sichuan Television Festival 四川电视节 (December).

22. The First Bogger Chinese Language Poetry Contest 博客汉语诗歌大奖 revealed its prize winners: First Prize to Zhou Sese 周瑟瑟, Second to Zheng Xiaqiong 郑小琼 and Xie Ying 谢颖, and Third to An Qi 安琪, Afei 阿斐, and He Buyan 何不言 (December 22).

23. On Indissoluble Poetry Forum 不解诗歌论坛 the poet Yu Nu 余怒 offered lifetime publication rights for 300,000 Yuan to his <A Man Keeping Watch Over The Night> 《守夜人》 or <Yu Nu Poetry Selections> 《余怒诗选集》(December 29).


Deaths:

1) Tang Shi 唐湜 on 28 January, age 86. A member of the Nine Leaves Grouping 九叶派, a graduate of the Zhejiang University Foreign Languages Department in 1948, and during the 1940s worked as an editor of Poetry Creation 诗创作 and China New Poetry 中国新诗. Wrote and published more poetry than other members of the grouping – especially during the 1980s, and was well known as a critic, writing on other members of the grouping and Feng Zhi 冯至.

2) Yang Chunguang 杨春光 on 19 September, age 49. Yang was active as a poet and critic since the 1980s. In recent years he was also very active on the Internet, taking part in the Low Poetry Movement 低诗歌运动 until incapacitated by illness. Yang was one of the few active avant-garde poets to take an active interest in politics and current affairs, and make an effort to include such issues among the subjects of
his poetry. The portion of the avant-garde, who consider themselves “serious” poets, signally ignored Yang’s death.

3) Chen Suoju 陈所巨 on 24 September, age 59. Chen was much published during 1979-1984 and his poetry describing and praising economic reform in the countryside acquired a certain popularity.