Alkon – Great Works II

**Annotations: Conducting Your Research**

You are free to use any sources that provide useful information: books, encyclopedias, databases (through the library webpage)… However, I expect that internet searches will be your first and most straightforward research method. It is great to use the internet – but you must do so carefully and methodically. Your searches need to be specific. Look for words, phrases, historical events, people, etc., that appear in your story or poem. You may need to try a variety of related search phrases before you find something useful on your particular topic of inquiry.

If you find a webpage that seems useful, you must determine whether it is *trustworthy*. Figure out who is the author of the content, and make sure he or she is an established and reputable expert. If you are unsure about whether or not your source is trustworthy, you should ask me.

Wikipedia can be a useful site to visit as you begin to explore a topic. However, you should *not* rely on or cite Wikipedia entries. Instead, use Wikipedia entries to find links to credible and professional sources.

Dictionaries will be an important resource for everyone. If you are working on Keats, you should try using the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which you can access online from Baruch computers (www.oed.com). This dictionary gives you past definitions of words, with examples of how they were used, so you can get a sense of what a word specifically meant in Keats’ time. Note: the Oxford English Dictionary is less important for Pu Song-Ling and Mahfouz, because these texts were not originally written in English.

**Some Initial Source Recommendations**

Below I have listed a few potentially useful sources concerning each of the three texts. There are many other sources – I am just making some initial suggestions.

I do *not* recommend that you try to read large chunks of books. Instead, examine the indexes and/or tables of contents in books and see if you can find information about the specific topics that you are researching.

**On Pu Song-Ling’s “The Wise Neighbor”**

Chang, Chun-shu and Shelley Hsueh-lun Chang. *Redefining History: Ghosts, Spirits, and Human Society in P'u Sung-ling's World, 1640-1715*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999.

Huntington, Rania. *Alien Kind: Foxes and Late Imperial Chinese Narrative* (Harvard East Asian Monographs). Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004.

Owen, Stephen. “Introduction” to Pu Song-ling in *An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911.* Ed. and tr. Stephen Owen. New York: Norton, 1997.

On Supernatural Literature in China: <http://www.illuminatedlantern.com/cinema/archives/ghost_lovers_and_fox_spirits.php>

On Fox Spirits in China: <http://academia.issendai.com/fox-chinese.shtml>

**On Keats’s “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”**

You should use the Oxford English Dictionary to look up words that you do not know. Examine the histories of definitions and see what specific words meant in the early 1800’s, when Keats wrote his poetry.

Some other references:

A biography of Keats: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/john-keats>

Some general information about Keats’ poetry: <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/keats.html>

Some guidance on “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”: <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/belle.html>

**On Mahfouz’s “Zaabalawi”**

Al-Ghitani, Gamal. *The Cairo of Naguib Mahfouz*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2000.

Thompson, Jason. *A History of Egypt: From Earliest Times to the Present*. New York: Anchor, 2009.

Nobel Prize Electronic Museum on Mahfouz: [www.nobel.se/literature/laureates/1988/index.html](http://www.nobel.se/literature/laureates/1988/index.html) [look particularly under “Documentary”]

Biography and background on Mahfouz: <http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/mahfouz.htm>

**Format for Your Notes and Citations:**

When you write up your notes, you should indicate the word or phrase that you are discussing, and where it appears in the story or poem (page or line number). You *must* cite your sources for the information in your notes. You should use the parenthetical citation format, and after all of your notes, you should have a brief Works Cited page, where you list all of your sources. You may find guidance on how to set up a Works Cited page at this website: <http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.html>