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## Transcreator's Preface

*Yunte Huang*

"Think Haiku, Act Locu" is part of a series of poems entitled *CRIBS* (forthcoming as a book from Tinfish Press, 2005). *CRIBS* is a discrete sequence of poems probing into the manifolds of the book's title word: "crib" as a small child's bed, as literal translation, as plagiarism, as a summary or key to understanding a literary work, as a manger for feeding animals, as confinement, as home, as a memory aid for illegal immigrants, and so on. Speaking in a forked/chopsticked tongue, I explore translingual and cross-cultural terrains where the inchoate, tangential, and back-translational emerge and diverge to unsettle an adopted diction.

**Note:** When Richard Nixon went to China in 1972, his Chinese hosts took him to see the Great Wall. The first thing Nixon said upon arrival was: "What a great wall!"

**Think Haiku, Act Locu—An Experiment in Back-Translation***Yunte Huang*

take it  
with a grain of MSG

what's the memory size  
of your abacus?

speak  
in a chopsticked tongue

another day  
another yen

the yin-yang  
of base and superstructure

the great  
Great Wall\*

be careful  
not to get shanghaied

the Peking-duck congress  
is just a bunch of lame mandarins

the two stick together  
like ping and pong  
he sold his birthright  
for a bowl of hot & sour soup?

a writer is a man

of characters  
sell haiku  
buy locu