

The 11th Mao Dun Literature Prize Winners Released

By Qu Jingfan

On August 11th 2023, the 11th Mao Dun Literature Prize (awarded once every four years) was unveiled in Beijing. Five novels received this prestigious honor, including Yang Zhijun's *Snow Mountains and the Earth* (《雪山大地》), Qiao Ye's *Baoshui Village* (《宝水》), Liu Liangcheng's *Bomba* (《本巴》), Sun Ganlu's *The Vast Land* (《千里江山图》), and Dong Xi's *Echo* (《回响》).

Mao Dun Literature Prize is hosted by China Writers Association. Since its establishment in 1981, the ten sessions of the prize have collectively selected 48 award-winning works. It has made significant contributions to promoting the creation of novels, establishing contemporary literary classics, reflecting the depth of contemporary literature and art, and advancing the development of literature. According to statistics from OpenBook, since the announcement of the prize winners on August 11th, the sales of these works have increased significantly.

The award ceremony for the 11th Mao Dun Literature Prize will be held in mid-November in Tongxiang, Zhejiang, the hometown of Mao Dun.



The 10th Mao Dun Literature Prize award ceremony was held in Oct 2019.

The World Science Fiction Convention Will Unveil Hugo Award Winners in October



On July 6th, the 2023 Hugo Award Nominee List was announced by the jury panel of Chengdu World Science Fiction Convention. Among the nominees, there are four works by Chinese authors competing for the Best Short Story category: Jiang Bo's *On the Razor's Edge* (《命悬一线》), Ren Qing's *Resurrection* (《还魂》), Lu Ban's *Upstart* (《白色悬崖》) and Wang Kanyu's *Zhurong on Mars* (《火星上的祝融》). The 2023 Chengdu World Science Fiction Convention will take place from October 18th to 22nd, and the final results of the 2023 Hugo Awards will be announced during the convention. This marks the first time the Hugo Awards have been selected and presented in China.

The World Science Fiction Convention is the largest and most influential international science fiction event globally, and its Hugo Awards are the highest international accolades in the field of science fiction. In 2015, Chinese author Liu Cixin set record by winning the Hugo Award for the Best Novel with his science fiction book *The Three-Body Problem* (《三体》), becoming the first Asian science fiction writer to receive this prestigious award since its inception.

The 2023 Hugo Award has 17 main categories, including the Best Novel, along with additional awards like the "Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book" and "Astounding Award for Best New Writer", a total of 19 awards. Apart from the four Chinese authors whose works were nominated for the Best Short Story, writer Hai Ya from Shenzhen has been nominated in the Best Novelette category with his work *The Space-Time Painter* (《时空画师》). Additionally, *Chinese Science Fiction, An Oral History, Volume 1* (《中国科幻口述史(第一卷)》) has been nominated for Best Related Work. Besides, the interviewee of *Chinese Science Fiction, An Oral History*, Yao Haijun, and the book's editor, Yang Feng, have been respectively nominated for Best Novel Editor and Best Short Work Editor in the Hugo Awards.

Chinese Original Children's Books Shine at 2023 Bologna Children's Book Fair



At the 60th Bologna Children's Book Fair held from March 6th to 9th, 2023, Chinese original children's books achieved a historic record in terms of awards and nominations.

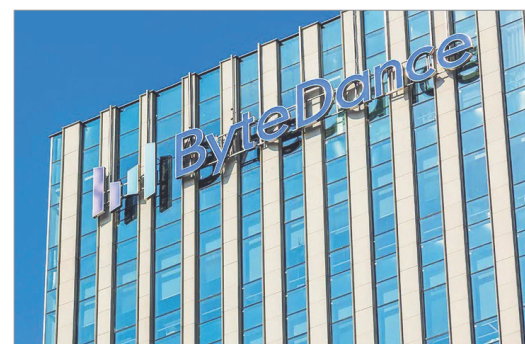
In the list of Best Children's Book Awards announced by the organizers, *Whose Sock* (《谁的袜子》), the Chinese edition of the book was published by Tomorrow Publishing House, won the first prize in the Bologna Ragazzi Award BRAW Comics for early readers. Additionally, *Thump! Thump! Thump!* (《噹噹噹》), the Chinese edition was published by the 21st Century Publishing Group, received Special Mention Award in the category of Fiction. *Night Night* (《晚安》), the Chinese version was published by Studio MARY of Hong Kong, was awarded Special Mention in the category of Comics for Young Adults.

This year marks the highest number of Chinese original children's books nominated and awarded in history and the best performance of Chinese original works in the Bologna Best Children's Book Award selection. In addition, 15 Chinese illustrators (including those from Hong Kong and Taiwan) had their works selected for this year's Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, and the ratio of Chinese illustrators winning awards has been increasing year by year.

ByteDance Launched 8th Note Press to Publish Romance & Fantasy Novels

In July 2023, ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, announced the establishment of 8th Note Press, an independent publishing company in the United States. This new company will focus on publishing novels of popular genres like fantasy, mystery, and romance, which are trending on social media platforms. Additionally, the company plans to create an online store where consumers can purchase print books, e-books, and audiobooks, creating an ecosystem for discussion, reviews, and communities. Besides the advance payments and royalties, the company also offers a full range of online marketing services.

The 8th Note Press has hired former Penguin Random House editor Katherine Pelz as acquiring editor, who used to be responsible for editing



romance novels. The company has already extended invitations to authors for manuscript submissions. Apart from new releases, the company will also reprint classics.