

Contents

Acknowledgments | 7

**An Aromatic Blend of America and China:
Introducing Pearl Buck's Middlebrow Mission** | 11

Pearl Buck and the Missionary Theme | 15

Pearl Buck in the Context of Middlebrow Literature | 21

The Critical Dismissal of Pearl Buck | 28

1. The Sentimental Imperialism of American Women

Missionaries in China | 41

American Missionaries as Cultural Imperialists | 43

Women Missionaries – Competing Concepts of

Womanhood Abroad? | 48

Women Missionaries and their Home Audiences | 59

‘The Work of Women for Women’: Ambiguities in
the Social Gospel | 65

Missionary Marriages and the ‘Burden
of Motherhood’ | 71

The Missionary Home as Empire | 78

2. The Exile and Fighting Angel: Pearl Buck's Gendered Critique of Missions | 89

The Parents' Representativeness: Introducing Pearl Buck's
Recovery Project | 94

Between Fact and Fiction: Pearl Buck as a ‘New’ Biographer | 97

The American Mother and the Sainly Prophet: The Biographies
of Pearl Buck's Missionary Parents | 103

Rethinking the Biographies – Pearl Buck's *My Several Worlds* | 119

“Is there a Case for Foreign Missions?” Pearl Buck's Official
Break with the Missionary Movement | 123

‘Making Use of Missionary Pamphlets’? The Missionary Theme
in Buck's Fiction | 130

- 3. Pearl Buck's Coming of Age: *East Wind, West Wind* | 133**
 Pearl Buck's Rise on the American Literary Scene and the Publication
 Background of *East Wind, West Wind* | 136
 The Style and Narrative Perspective of *East Wind, West Wind* | 144
 The Missionary Husband and the Practice of Footbinding | 150
- 4. Reversing the Middlebrow: *The Good Earth* | 163**
 The Marketing and Reception of *The Good Earth* | 167
The Good Earth as a Depression Novel | 177
 The Iconicity of O-lan | 183
- 5. China/Town Hybridity and (Neo-) Missionary Nostalgia:
 "His Own Country" and *Kinfolk* | 199**
 "His Own Country" – The Return to One's 'Roots'? | 202
 'Showing what it is to be Chinese': Staging China/Town
 in *Kinfolk* | 210
 The 'Elegant Fake': Enter Dr Liang | 213
 "We must show this vast new country what it is to be Chinese":
 Dr Liang as an 'Old' Missionary | 216
 'Dissolving the Beautiful Cloud of Confucianism':
 The Neo-Missionaries in China | 222
 'Belonging to all of them': Mrs Liang and the Promise
 of Hybridity? | 229
- 6. Coda: "We haven't deserted Him exactly, we just haven't
 known how to fit Him in." The Missionary Legacy in Pearl
 Buck and her Fiction | 231**

Works Cited | 265