木蘭詞
北魏逸名
muˋ lanˋ ciˋ bêi^ weˋ yiˋ mingˋ

THE BALLAD OF MULAN – Anonymous, Northern Wei Dynasty

英文翻譯及拼音
English Translation and Pinyin by Feng Xin-ming

(Note: Pinyin to enable entry by ordinary keyboard:
ji- = first tone, ji' = second tone, ji^ = third tone, ji` = fourth tone.)

唧唧復唧唧，木蘭當戶織。
ji- ji- fuˋ ji- ji- muˋ lanˋ dang- huˋ zhi-
“Ji ji,” and “ji ji,” Mulan weaves in front of the door.

不聞機杼聲，惟聞女歎息。
buˋ wenˋ ji- zhuˋ sheng-, weiˋ wenˋ nu^ tanˋ xi-
“Now we don’t hear the loom shuttle; we only hear our daughter sighing.

問女何所思，問女何所憶？
wenˋ nu^ heˋ suo^ si- , wenˋ nu^ heˋ suo^ yi-
“Daughter, what are you thinking about? What are you nostalgic over?”

女亦無所思，女亦無所憶，
nu^ yiˋ wuˋ suo^ si- , nu^ yiˋ wuˋ suo^ yi-
“I am not thinking about anything, and I am not nostalgic.
昨夜見軍帖，可汗大點兵，

zuo’ ye` jian` jun- tie’，ke^ han’ da` dian^ bing-
last night saw army notice, khan -- big roll-call soldiers
“Last night I saw the conscription notice; it’s the Khan’s Great Call-up.

軍書十二卷，卷卷有爺名。

jun- shu- shi’ er’ juan’，juan’ juan‘ you^ ye’ ming’
army book ten two roll, roll roll have father name
“There are twelve scrolls of army rolls, and every scroll has Father’s name.

阿爺無大兒，木蘭無長兄，

a- ye’ wu’ da` er’，mu` lan’ wu’ zhang^ xiong-
“ah” father no big son, mu lan no elder brother
“Father has no elder son; I have no big brother.

願為市鞍馬，從此替爺征。

yuan’ wei’ shi` an- ma^ cong’ ci’ ti` ye’ zheng-
wish for market saddle horse, from now for father campaign
“Let me buy saddle and horse, and go to war in Father’s place.”

東市買駿馬，西市買鞍韁，

dong- shi` mai^ jun` ma^，xi- shi` mai^ an- jian-
east market buy fine horse, west market buy saddle saddle-skirt
In the east market a fine horse is bought; in the west market, a saddle and its skirt;

南市買轡頭，北市買長韁。

nan’ shi` mai^ pei` tou’，bei^ shi` mai^ chang’ bian`
south market buy bridle --, north market buy long whip
In the south market, a bridle; in the north market, a long whip.
旦辞爷娘去，暮宿黄河边，
dan’ ci’ ye’ niang’ qu’, mu’ su’ huang’ he’ bian-
morning leave father mother go, evening sleep Yellow River side
In the morning she says good-bye to her parents; in the evening she
sleeps at the side of the Yellow River.

不闻爷娘唤女声，
bu’ wen’ ye’ niang’ huan’ nu^ sheng-
not hear father mother call daughter sound
She doesn’t hear the sound of parents calling her,

但闻黄河水声溅溅。
dan` wen’ huang’ he’ liu’ shui^ sheng- jian- jian-
but hear Yellow River flowing water sound “jian” “jian”
But hears the sound of the Yellow River’s water going “jian, jian.”

旦辞黄河去，暮宿黑山头，
dan’ ci’ huang’ he’ qu’, mu’ su’ hei- shan- tou’
morning leave Yellow River go evening sleep black mountain head
In the morning she says good-bye to the Yellow River; in the evening she
sleeps on the Black Mountains.

不闻爷娘唤女声，
bu’ wen’ ye’ niang’ huan’ nu^ sheng-
do-not hear father mother call daughter sound
She doesn’t hear the sound of parents calling her,

但闻燕山胡骑声啾啾。
dan` wen’ yan’ shan- hu’ ji’ sheng- jiu’ jiu’
but hear Yan Mountain barbarian horsemen noise “jiu” “jiu”
But hears the sound of the Yan Mountains’ barbarian horsemen going
“jiu, jiu.”
萬里赴戎機，關山渡若飛，
For thousands of miles, she goes wherever the battle takes her, crossing passes and mountains as if she flew.

朔氣傳金柝，寒光照鐵衣。
Frigid air transmits the metal night watch claps; frosty light illumes the iron armor.

將軍百戰死，壯士十年歸。
Generals die after a hundred battles; heroes return after ten years’ time.

歸來見天子，天子坐明堂，
They return to see the Son of Heaven, sitting in the Bright Hall.

策勳十二轉，賞賜百千強。
The merit scrolls confer twelve promotions, awarded to thousands of strong men.

1. Ci Hai 辭海，1989 ed., Shanghai, p. 1453 under entry “tuo” 「柝」:巡夜者擊以報更的梆子 (the clap board that night watchmen hits to announce the hour). It’s interesting here that the clap board is referred to as being a “golden” or metallic one, perhaps yellow copper, as ordinary night watch clap boards are made of wood. Perhaps in the army the night watch clap boards are made of metal?
The Khan asks what she wants. “Mulan doesn’t need to be an Imperial Cabinet Official³,

“I’d like a good camel’s thousand-mile hooves, to carry me back home.”

Hearing that Daughter is coming, the parents come outside the city walls, supporting each other.

Hearing that Little Sister is coming, Big Sister puts on her makeup in front of the door.

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² Op. Cit., p. 1511, under the entry “zhuan”「轉」: 轉變官職 (to change official position).
³ Op. Cit., p. 1258, under the entry “shang shu lang”「尚書郎」: “魏晉以後尚書各曹有 … 官 … 綜理政務, 通稱尚書郎 Since the Wei and Jin Dynasties the various departments of the Imperial Cabinet … have officials … who administer overall affairs and are generally known as shang shu lang。”
⁵ Op. cit., p. 1120, under entry “zhuang”「妝」: 化妆, … 如 … 「… 對君洗紅妝」 (makeup, as in “… in front of you, sire, I wash off my makeup”).
小弟聞姊來，磨刀霍霍向豬羊。

Hearing that Big Sister is coming, Little Brother sharpens the knife, eyeing the pig and goat.

開我東閣門，坐我西閣床。

“I open up my east bedroom door; I sit on my west bedroom bed.

脫我戰時袍，著我舊時裳。

I take off my wartime clothes; I put on my old time clothes.

當窗理雲鬢，對鏡貼花黃。

At the window she arranges cloud-like hair; facing the mirror she pastes on her yellow forehead ornaments.

出門看伙伴，伙伴皆驚惶，

She comes out to see her comrades; her comrades are all shocked.

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7 Op. cit., p. 634, under entry “hua huang” 「花黃」：裝飾…以金黃色紙剪成星月花鳥等形貼於額上… (ornament…pasting on the forehead golden yellow paper cut into the shape of star, moon, flower, or bird…)
同行十二年，不知木兰是女郎。

We march together for twelve years, and we don’t know that Mulan is a lady!

雄兔脚扑朔，雌兔眼迷离，

The male rabbit hops from the beginning; the female rabbit’s eyes are misty;

两兔傍地走，安能辨我是雄雌？

Both rabbits are running along the ground; how can you tell whether I am male or female?

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8 Op. Cit., p. 1709, under entry “shuo” 「朔」：初始 (at the beginning); 此二句则形容如何辨别雄雌兔 then it’s possible that these two lines describe how to distinguish between male and female rabbits. 但亦有可能「扑朔」为拟声辞，形容雄兔走路 but “pu shuo” may also be an onomatopoeia, describing the male rabbit’s run.