

About the Authors

Walter Feldman, of the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, teaches Turkish language and culture and also serves as Coordinator of Turkic Programs. He has contributed articles to such journals as *Asian Music*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, and *Ethnomusicology*.

Chao Gejin is Associate Professor for the Institute of Ethnic Minorities' Literature at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. Among his research interests are folklore and folk literature, especially Mongolian oral epic. He has co-authored *Duochong Xuanze de Shijie* and *Menggu Caoyuan Wenhua*, and has translated J. M. Foley's *The Theory of Oral Composition* into Chinese.

Thomas Hale is Professor of African, French, and Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University and has conducted extensive research on African oral epic. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Scribe, Griot and Novelist: Narrative Interpreters of the Songhay Empire* and the forthcoming *Griots and Griottes: Masters of Words and Music* (Indiana University Press).

Presently Assistant Professor of English at Stephen F. Austin State University, *Catherine S. Quick* teaches rhetoric and composition, world literature, and folklore. She has published "Jezebel's Last Laugh: The Rhetoric of Wicked Women" in *Women and Language* and has also carried out extensive research on the role of oral traditions in the composition of the synoptic gospels.

Leslie Stratyner is Assistant Professor of English at Mississippi University for Women. Among her publications are "By the Banks of the Acheron: T. S. Eliot, Dante, and 'The Hollow Men'" and "*þe us þas beagas geaf*: Sauron and the Perversion of Anglo-Saxon Ethos."

Vaira Vīķis-Freibergs, Professor of Psychology at the Université de Montréal, is the editor of *Linguistics and Poetics of Latvian Folk Songs*. She has also contributed articles to the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, *The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet Literature*, and the *Scandinavian Yearbook of Folklore*.