

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Victor Segalen (1878–1919) was a surgeon, novelist, poet, literary theorist, sinologist, and amateur archaeologist, who is now recognized as among the luminaries of modern French literature. Like his novels—*Les Immémoriaux*, *René Leÿs*, and *Le Fils du ciel*—his poems creatively and critically explore issues of colonialism, exoticism, and cultural identity from an intimate perspective. He wrote four books of poetry—including also *Odes*, *Thibet*, and *Peintures*—but left most of his work unpublished during his short life.

Timothy Billings is an associate professor at Middlebury College, where he teaches English and comparative literature, as well as creative writing. He has been a fluent speaker of Mandarin for fifteen years.

Christopher Bush teaches comparative literature at Princeton University where he is a former fellow of the Society of Fellows. He specializes in French literature and English modernism, with an emphasis on the representation of the Far East.

Haun Saussy is the Bird White Housum Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale University. He is the author of *Great Walls of Discourse and Other Adventures in Cultural China* (Harvard University Press, 2001) and *The Problem of a Chinese Aesthetic* (Stanford University Press, 1993), in addition to numerous articles on Chinese literature in comparative contexts.