Muslims in China
By Aliya Ma Lynn
Translated by Phylis Lan Lin and Cheng Fang
(in English and Chinese)

“How awkward I feel when people ask, ‘Are there Muslims in China?’ There is so much to tell and let the world know about Muslims in China, but there is such scant literature, in English especially, to transmit the information.

“I am a Chinese Muslim, I grew up in a Muslim family, and I married a Muslim scholar. I made a special trip to China in 2000 and toured four northwestern provinces. My scholarly friends offered me books, magazines, and journals to quench my thirst for information. They helped me present a more complete picture of Muslims in China in both the past and the present.” —Aliya Ma Lynn

Aiya Ma Lynn, or Mrs. Shums Tung Tao Chang, is originally from Beijing. She attended the American University of Cairo in Cairo, Egypt. As a journalism major, she also attended Fu Tan University (1946-1949) in Shanghai, China. From 1950 to 1970, she serviced as a news translator and announcer in Broadcasting Services, Singapore, and later became a media producer in Radio and TV Malaysia. From 1970 to 1977, she lectured on Chinese language and literature at Nanyang University of Singapore.

Now a freelance writer, she is a member, former president (1966-1998), and president-elect (2004–2006) of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW, Phoenix Branch), Phoenix Writer’s Club, Arizona State, and the Phoenix Branch Poetry Association. Many of her poems, prose, and travelogues were published in both English and Chinese magazines in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and China.