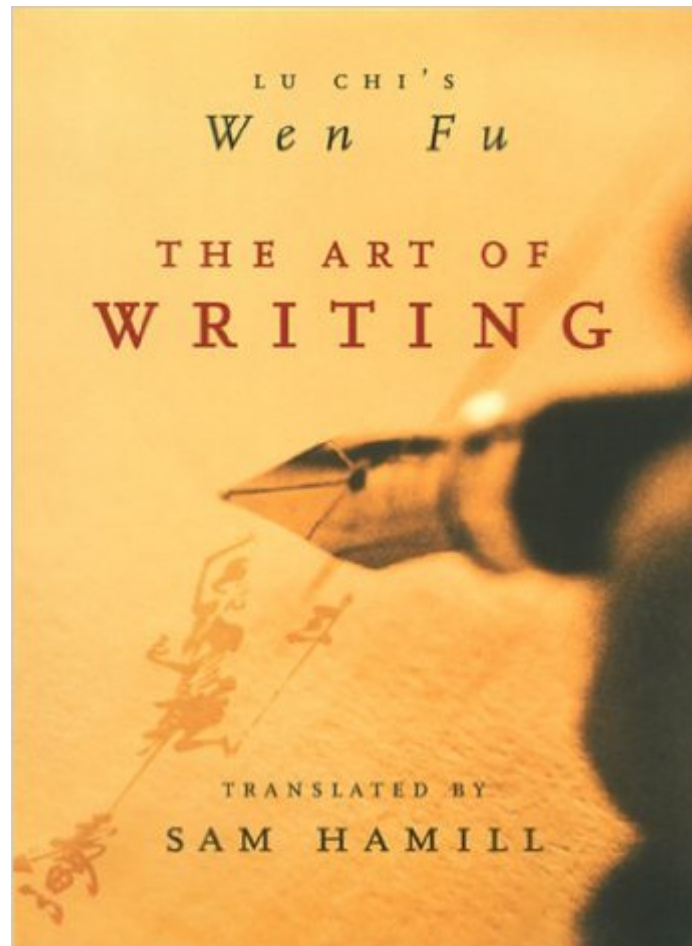


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# The Art Of Writing: Lu Chi's Wen Fu



## Synopsis

Written in 200 C.E., the Wen Fu is one of the first Chinese works about the use of language. Discussing the joys and problems that face both writer and reader, it is for those who wish to engage the art of letters at its deepest level. "These timeless poems delve into the heart of writing."  
- Cleveland Plain Dealer Poet

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A few days ago I told someone that I wanted to be able to write more like Lao Tzu. Humility is not one of my stronger suits... That I wanted to be able to write as profoundly and yet concisely as the "OldBoy" himself... I can dream can't I? Today while looking at a book about Thoreau at a local bookstore "Wen Fu" caught my attention. I opened it and discovered that it had been written in the third century by Lu Chi, a soldier-poet. That the "Wen Fu" is a book about the art of writing poetry and intended for those who wish to engage the art of letters at its deepest levels. It discusses the joys and problems that face both writer and reader and provides basic insights about many techniques of this style of writing. The more I read the better it got. It is a book about having the courage of your convictions where writing is concerned. Sam Hamill's Introduction is excellent at setting up Lu Chi's "Wen Fu". I found it very helpful in understanding and appreciating Lu Chi's words about words. "Consider the use of letters. All principles demand them. Though they travel a thousand miles or more, nothing in this world can stop them. They traverse the thousands of years." The art of writing is about using words at least as much as they use us.

Well, you know the saying, the pen is mightier than the sword, so I guess Lu Chi is mightier than Sun Tzu. This book was written about 1700 years ago by a Chinese noble. The words are very inspiring and quite beautiful. This is a writer's book, one to own if you are a writer, or one to give as a gift that will be appreciated, if you want to make a writer happy. Here's a sample: "Caught between the unborn and the living, a writer struggles to maintain both depth and surface." and on rewriting: "Perhaps only a single blossom from the whole bouquet will bloom." This is a very short book, but one you will revisit.

This beautiful book is an inspiring resource for writers and anyone who is touched by creativity. I return to its pages of wisdom again and again for guidance as I try to write. It is a classic that must be in every library. I have purchased several to give to friends.

A quick and inspirational read, "The Art of Writing" strips away the technical and verbose over analyzing of what it is to write and strikes at the soul of what it is to be a writer. A poetic dive into the waters of creativity, the text addresses the importance of being sincere in execution and subject matter, the reality of writer's block, where inspiration can be found, etc. It reads like a flowery version of the Tao Te Ching at times, but I mean that in a good way. Never pretentious, it strives to inspire, rather than school. It may come off as arty for some, but for me, it struck all the "write" chords ;)

This is an incredibly rich, thoughtful and beautiful poem on the art of writing. Written 1700 years ago, it remains as valid today as then since the essence of writing, the art of using words to convey messages, feelings and knowledge, remains utterly unchanged. This is a book I recommend to my students when they must write their theses. Also it is the one I read over and over again, hoping someday I will also master this art. I agree with another reviewer that much of what is written in this little book also applies subtly to other arts. If you are an artist at heart you will rapidly notice this. A final note: there is a version on the internet, translated in 1952 by a Chinese scholar named Shih-Hsiang Chen, which is also worth reading [...]

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