TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword by Professor Bonnie S. McDougall	i
Acknowledgements	v
List of Abbreviations	vii
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Topic and Sources	2
Terminology, Concepts and Methods	4
Similarities among Myth, Folklore and Ethnology: Narrative Forms	7
Theories and Functions	
Review of Previous Scholarship in Modern Chinese Literature	16
Overview of the Main Contents	21
Connections between the Study of Modern Chinese Literature and	
Anthropology	
Myth Criticism	24
The Six Writers and the Anthropological Elements	26
Chapter 2 Adaptations of Chinese Myths	29
Section 1 Studies of Chinese Mythology	
Studies by Chinese Scholars	
Studies by Western Scholars	
Chinese Mythology in the New Literature	
Section 2 Mythic Consciousness in Xu Dishan's Early Writings (1921-1930	
Bitter Life and Tides of Love: Two Sides of a Contradiction	
Nihilism vs Hope: The Burden of Religion	
Buddhist, Humanist and Christian: A Person of Mixed Cultures	
Mysticism: Estrangement and Loneliness	
Summary	
Section 3 Adaptation of Chinese Mythology in the Poetry of Mao Zedong	
Mythological Images	

Mythological Symbols78
Mythological Thoughts82
Summary85
Section 4 Different Understandings of Myth; Different Attitudes toward Myth: Xu
Dishan's Early Writings and Mao Zedong's Poetry87
What is art, what is literature and what is myth?87
A Frame of Pessimism & A Frame of Optimism92
What is old and what is new?95
Chapter 3 Fiction with Folk Elements99
Section 1 Review of the May Fourth Folklore Movement99
The Development of Folklore Studies100
Problems in Folklore Studies
Literary Concerns and a New Literary Trend112
Section 2 Fei Ming's Short Stories: A Poetry of Folk Elements
Through the Eyes of Children: A Pastoral Realm
Behind a Smiling Face: Life's Appeal
A Peaceful Mind: Zen Thought
Intermittence and Emptiness: Poetic Elements and Characteristics of Prose133
Summary
Section 3 The Grey Countryside: Eastern Zhejiang in Lu Yan's Short Stories139
"Simple Humanism" and Rustic Life
Minor Tragedies Caused by Folk Customs
Small Town Oppression
Legendary Style with Symbolism
Summary
Section 4 Portrayals of Rural Life Compared: Fei Ming vs Lu Yan
Looking Back on the Countryside
Language Style161
Mild Disposition vs Intense Self-examination
Chapter 4 Pastoral Fiction with Local Colour167
Section 1 Developments in Cultural Ethnology167
The Development of Ethnological Studies in China
Connections between Cultural Ethnology and New Literature
Section 2 West Hunan in the Regional Fiction of Shen Congwen184
Mountain Songs in West Hunan
The Miao Romance 191
Idealisation of Miao Life

Homesickness: Primitive Psychology and Folk Archetype	198
Summary	
Section 3 Memories of the Homeland: Short Stories by Wang Zengqi	
Local Flavour: Food and Drink	205
Special Professionals: Talented Folk	209
Popular Beliefs: Secularised Religion	
Genre Painting: Local Scenery	
Summary	222
Section 4 Descriptions of the "Homeland" Concept	224
An Idyllic Elegy and Homeland Rebuilding	225
Characteristics of the Homelands: Wildness vs Leisure	
Attitudes toward the Homelands: Sensibility and Sense	232
Chapter 5 Conclusion	235
Achievements and Functional Considerations	
Literary History and Genres	241
Influences and Future Trends	
Glossary of Authors and Places	251
Bibliography	257
Index	269