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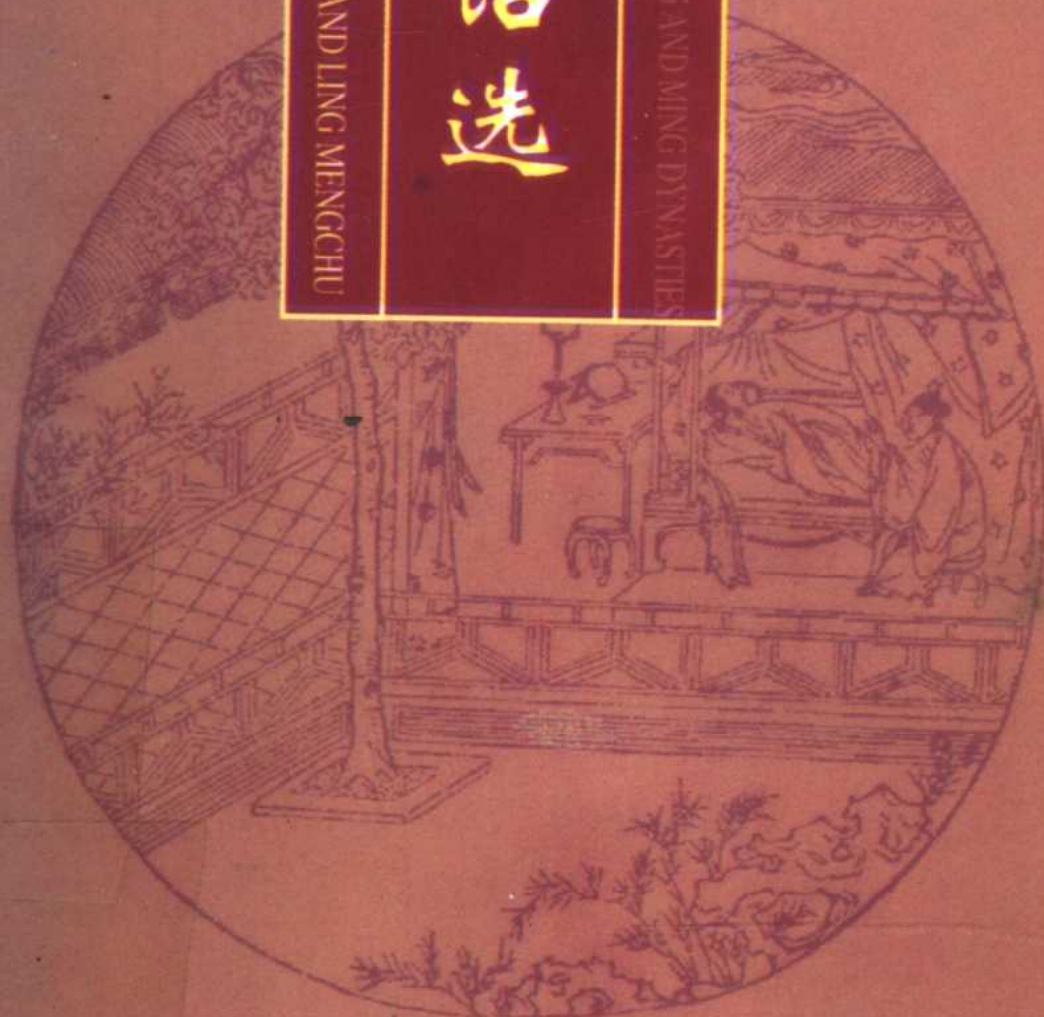
SELECTED CHINESE STORIES OF THE SONG AND MING DYNASTIES

宋明平话选

冯梦龙

凌濛初

BY FENG MENG LONG AND LING MENG CHU



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出版前言

本社专事外文图书的编辑出版,几十年来用英文翻译出版了大量的中国文学作品和文化典籍,上自先秦,下迄现当代,力求全面而准确地反映中国文学及中国文化的基本面貌和灿烂成就。这些英译图书均取自相关领域著名的、权威的作品,英译则出自国内外译界名家。每本图书的编选、翻译过程均极其审慎严肃,精雕细琢,中文作品及相应的英译版本均堪称经典。

我们意识到,这些英译精品,不单有对外译介的意义,而且对国内英文学习者、爱好者及英译工作者,也是极有价值的读本。为此,我们对这些英译精品做了认真的遴选,编排成汉英对照的形式,陆续推出,以飨读者。

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Publisher's Note

Foreign Languages Press is dedicated to the editing, translating and publishing of books in foreign languages. Over the past several decades it has published, in English, a great number of China's classics and records as well as literary works from the Qin down to modern times, in the aim to fully display the best part of the Chinese culture and its achievements. These books in the original are famous and authoritative in their respective fields, and their English translations are masterworks produced by notable translators both at home and abroad. Each book is carefully compiled and translated with minute precision. Consequently, the English versions as well as their Chinese originals may both be rated as classics.

It is generally considered that these English translations are not only significant for introducing China to the outside world but also useful reading materials for domestic English learners and translators. For this reason, we have carefully selected some of these books, and will publish them successively in Chinese-English bilingual form.

Foreign Languages Press

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宋明平話選

**SELECTED CHINESE STORIES
OF THE SONG AND
MING DYNASTIES**

崔待诏生死冤家

绍兴年间，行在有个关西延州延安府人。本身是三镇节度使咸安郡王。当时怕春归去，将带着许多钩眷游春。至晚回家，来到钱塘门里，车桥前面，钩眷轿子过了，后面是郡王轿子到来。则听得桥下裱褙铺里一个人叫道：“我儿出来看郡王！”当时郡王在轿里看见，叫帮窗虞候道：“我从前要寻这个人，今日却在这里。只在你身上，明日要这个人入府中来。”当时虞候声诺，来寻这个看郡王的人，是甚色目人？只见车桥下一个人家，门前出着一面招牌，写着：“璩家装裱古今书画。”铺里一个老儿，引着一个

THE JADE WORKER

During the Shao Xing period (1131-1162) there lived in Hangzhou, the southern capital, a certain Prince of Xian'an, who was a native of Yan'an and the military governor of three garrison areas. One day, seeing that spring was nearly over, he took some of his womenfolk out to enjoy the scenery. On their way back in the evening, they had passed through Qiantang Gate and the women's sedan-chairs had just crossed Carriage Bridge when the prince, whose chair brought up the rear, heard someone call from a shop by the bridge:

"Come out, lass, and look at the prince."

A girl came out, at sight of whom the prince exclaimed to his bodyguard: "This is just the girl I have been looking for! See that you bring her to the palace tomorrow."

The bodyguard assented, and immediately set about carrying out the prince's orders. There was a house beside the bridge with a signboard on which was written: The House of Qu, Ancient and Modern Paintings Mounted. And it was out of this shop that an old man had come, leading a girl.

女儿，生得如何？

云鬓轻笼蝉翼，蛾眉淡拂春山；朱唇缀一颗樱桃，皓齿排两行碎玉。莲步半折小弓弓，莺啭一声娇滴滴。

便是出来看郡王轿子的人。虞候即时来他家对门一个茶坊里坐定。婆婆把茶点来。虞候道：“启请婆婆，过对门裱糊铺里请璩大夫来说话。”婆婆便去请到来。两个相揖了就坐。璩待诏问：“府干有何见谕？”虞候道：“无甚事，闲问则个。适来叫出来看郡王轿子的人是令爱么？”待诏道：“正是拙女，止有三口。”虞候又问：“小娘子贵庚？”待诏应道：“一十八岁。”再问：“小娘子如今要嫁人，却是趋奉官员？”待诏道：“老拙家寒，那讨钱来嫁人。将来也只

What was she like, this girl?

*Her cloudlike hair was lighter than cicada's
wing;
Her mothlike eyebrows fairer than hills in spring;
Her lips were cherry-red, her teeth like jade,
And sweeter than an oriole she could sing.*

Such was the girl who had come out to see the prince's sedan-chair.

The bodyguard sat down in a tea-house opposite, and when an old woman brought him tea he said: "May I trouble you to ask Mr. Qu from the mounting shop across the street to step over to have a word with me?"

The woman fetched Old Qu; and after the men had exchanged greetings they sat down.

"What can I do for you?" asked Old Qu.

"It is nothing — just an idle question. Is the girl you called out to watch the prince's sedan-chair your daughter?"

"She is. We have only the one child."

"How old is she?"

"Eighteen."

"Do you intend to marry her to someone or to present her to some official?"

"I'm a poor man. Where would I get the money to

是献与官员府第。”虞候道：“小娘子有甚本事？”待诏说出女孩儿一件本事来，有词寄《眼儿媚》为证。

深闺小院日初长，娇女
绮罗裳；不做东君造化，金针
刺绣群芳。 斜枝嫩叶包
开蕊，唯只欠馨香；曾向园林
深处，引教蝶乱蜂狂。

原来这女儿会绣作。虞候道：“适来郡王在轿里，看见令爱身上系着一条绣裹肚。府中正要寻一个绣作的人，老丈何不献与郡王。”璩公归去，与婆婆说了。到明日写一纸献状，献来府中。郡王给与身价，因此取名秀秀养娘。

不则一日，朝廷赐下一领团花绣战袍。当时秀秀依样绣出一件来。郡王看了欢喜道：

marry her off? I shall have to send her to serve in some official's house."

"What accomplishments has your daughter?"

Then Old Qu told him, in the words of the song:

*As days grow longer, in her quiet room
The girl embroiders many a flower in bloom,
And rivals Nature with her needle now
To stitch bright blossoms on a slanting bough,
With tender leaves, soft buds and tendrils rife,
In all but scent completely true to life;
So many a roving butterfly and bee
Fly in to light on her embroidery.*

"Just now," said the bodyguard, "the prince noticed from his sedan-chair the embroidered apron your daughter is wearing. We are looking for a girl to do embroidery in the palace. Why don't you present your daughter to the prince?"

The old man went home and talked it over with his wife; and the next day he drew up a petition and took the girl to the palace. The prince paid for the girl, and gave her the name Xiuxiu.

Some time later, when the emperor presented the prince with a flower-embroidered battle dress, Xiuxiu immediately made another exactly like it. The prince

“主上赐与我团花战袍，却寻甚么奇巧的物事献与官家？”去府库里寻出一块透明的羊脂美玉来，即时叫将门下碾玉待诏，问：“这块玉堪做甚么？”内中一个道：“好做一副劝杯。”郡王道：“可惜恁般一块玉，如何将来只做得一副劝杯！”又一个道：“这块玉上尖下圆，好做一个摩侯罗儿。”郡王道：“摩侯罗儿，只是七月七日乞巧使得。寻常间又无用处。”数中一个后生，年纪二十五岁，姓崔，名宁，趋事郡王数年，是升州建康府人。当时叉手向前，对着郡王道：“告恩王，这块玉上尖下圆，甚是不好，只好碾一个南海观音。”郡王道：“好！正合我意。”就叫崔宁下手。不过两个月，碾成了这个玉观音。郡王即时

was pleased, and said: "His Majesty has given me this embroidered battle dress. What rare gift can I give him in return?"

He found a piece of fine, translucent white jade in his treasury, and calling for his jade workers asked them: "What can you make out of this piece of jade?"

"A set of wine cups," said one.

"That would be a pity," said the prince. "How can we use such a fine piece of jade to make wine cups!"

"This piece is pointed on top and round at the bottom," said another. "It can be made into the kind of doll women use when they pray for children."

"That type of figurine is only used on the seventh of the seventh month," objected the prince. "It would be useless at other times."

There was a young craftsman in the group whose name was Cui Ning, a native of Jiankang in Shengzhou. He was twenty-five years old and had served the prince for several years. Now he stepped forward with clasped hands and said: "Your Highness, this pear shape is no good. All it can be carved into is a Guan yin."

"Good!" exclaimed the prince. "The very thing!" He ordered Cui to start on the job.

In less than two months, the jade Guanyin was finished; and when the prince sent it with a petition to the

写表进上御前，龙颜大喜。崔宁就本府增添请给，遭遇郡王。

不则一日，时遇春天，崔待诏游春回来，入得钱塘门，在一个酒肆，与三四个相知，方才吃得数杯。则听得街上闹吵吵，连忙推开楼窗看时，见乱烘烘道：“井亭桥有遗漏。”吃不得这酒成，慌忙下酒楼看时，只见：

初如萤火，次若灯光，千条蜡烛焰难当，万座糝盆敌不住。六丁神推倒宝天炉，八力士放起焚山火。骊山会上，料应褒姒逞娇容，赤壁矶头，想是周郎施妙策。五通神牵住火葫芦，宋无忌赶番赤骡子。又不曾泻烛浇油，直恁的烟飞火猛！

崔待诏望见了，急忙道：“在我本府前不远。”奔到府中看时，已搬挈得罄尽，静悄悄地无一个人。崔待诏既不见人，且循