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# Yúnnán in Huáng Xiūfù's 'Conversations with Guests in the Thatched Pavilion'

*An Annotated Translation of the Parts of《茅亭客话》*

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## The Yúnnán Papers

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This text is part of a series of translations of historical Chinese texts concerning Yúnnán.

This series does not aim to present any new research but to allow an English-speaking audience to better understand Yúnnán's history and culture through original texts. The texts are heavily annotated, giving geographical, historical and cultural background information and references to contemporary academic discussions.

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## 1 Introduction

The 《茅亭客话》 or ‘*Conversations with Guests in the Thatched Pavilion*’ is a collection of essays by the Sòng dynasty scholar Huáng Xiūfù 黃休復. Little is known about him or the history of the work.

The text contains an apocryphal story about a female dragon spirit in southern Sìchuān 四川 switching its allegiance to the Táng.

Richard von Glahn wrote in a note to his ‘*The Country of Streams and Grottoes: Expansion, Settlement, and the Civilizing of the Sichuan Frontier in Song Times*’:

Han generals renowned for their victories over the native peoples of the southwest also figured in legends concerning the Dragon Woman. One such tale relates that the Dragon Woman switched her allegiance from Nanzhao to the Tang in 740. (Glahn (1987), p. 228)

However, as Megan Bryson points out, the text does not refer to Nánzhào, but the region of *fān* 蕃, a variant writing of *fān* 番, in turn a variant writing of *bō* 蕃, i.e. a character referring to nomadic people of Tibetan stock.<sup>(1)</sup>

## 2 About this Translation

The text for this translation has been taken from an online resource based on a hand-written copy that is part of the ‘*Complete Library of the Four Treasuries*’ 《四库全书》.<sup>(2)</sup> Other editions are available in print and online.

I am not aware of an English translation.

## 3 Annotated Translation

### 卷 5

#### The Dragon Maid Temple 《龙女堂》

The 5th *juàn* contains a story narrating how a female dragon spirit switched her alliance to the Táng in 740 CE.

Glahn (1987), p. 228 takes the text as the female spirit switching her alliance from Nánzhào, but the text seems to refer to nomadic people south of Shǔ.

龙女堂

益州城西北隅有龙女祠，即开元二十八年长史章仇公兼琼拔平戎城，

The Dragon Maiden Temple

In the north-western corner of the walled town of Yìzhōu is a shrine to a dragon maiden, in the 28th year of the Kāiyuán era

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r3: in the 28th year of the Kāiyuán era ] 740 CE.

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<sup>(1)</sup> see note 20 in Bryson (2017), p. 199.

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://ctext.org/library.pl?res=108078> (accessed 26th June 2024).

茅亭客话 5	梦一女曰：我此城龙也，今弃蕃阨来归唐化。	the administrator duke Zhāngchóu Jiānqióng, captured and pacified the town of Róng. He dreamt of a woman who said, 'I am the dragon of this city, today I have abandoned the foothills of Fān to submit to the illustrious Táng.'
茅亭客话 10	投问诸巫，其言不异，寻表为立祠，锡号会昌祠。在少城，旧迹近扬雄故宅，每旱潦祈祷，无不寻应。	Asking all the shamans, their words were the same, so they sought a place to establish a temple, bestowing it the name Huìchāng Temple. It was in Shǎochéng, the old location was near Yáng Xióng's former residence, and whenever there was a flood or a drought they made sacrifices, which never failed.
茅亭客话 15	乾符中，燕国公高骈筑罗城，收龙祠在城内，工徒设板至此，骤有风雨，朝成夕败。	During the Qiánfú era, the duke of Yānguó Gāo Pián built an outer wall, so that the dragon temple was inside the town. When the workmen set up boards to it, there suddenly was wind and rain and what was built in the morning was destroyed at night.
	以闻于高公，公亦梦龙女曰：某是西山龙母池龙，君今筑城，请将某祠置于门外，所冀便于往来。	When duke Gāo heard this, he dreamt the dragon maiden saying, 'I am the dragon mother of the dragon of Xīshān, as you are building a town, I ask to bring my shrine outside the gate, so I can come and go as I please.'
	公梦中许之。及觉，遂令隔其祠于城外，而重葺之，风雨乃止，城不复坏焉。	In his dream, the duke permitted this. When he awoke, he ordered to separate the temple outside the walled town and took care to renovate it. Wind and rain then stopped, and the town was no longer harmed.
茅亭客话 25	继之王孟二主，甚严饰之，祈祷感应，封睿圣夫人。	Later, the two masters Wáng Wéi and Mèng Hàorán decorated it, as their prayers were heard, and she was given the title <i>Wise and Holy Lady</i> .
	天禧己未岁，自九月不雨，至庚申岁二月。寺观诸庙祈祷，寂无影响。	In the jǐwèi of the Tiānxǐ era, there was a drought from the 9th month up to the 3rd month of the gēngshēn year. Prayers were said at all temples, but they were not responded.
	知州谏大夫赵公稹躬诣其祠冥祷，未至郡，甘泽大澍达旦，属邑皆告足。	The magistrate and grand master of remonstrance Zhào Gōngzhěn personally went to her temple to make secret supplications, he had not yet arrived when sweet rain fell heavily until dawn, enough for all towns.
茅亭客话 35	是岁丰登，民无札瘥，遂奏章新其祠宇焉。	That year there was an abundant harvest, the people were saved from disaster, and an edict was written to the emperor to rebuild her temple.

## 4 Glossary

l4: 蕃] This character is miswritten as *fān* 番 in some editions, corrected according to a block-print edition.

r13: the Qiánfú era] 874–879 CE.

r28: In the jǐwèi of the Tiānxǐ era] 1019 CE.

r29: gēngshēn year] 1020 CE.

- Chángshǐ** 长史: administrator, literally 'senior scribe', see Hucker (1985), 185 – see page 6, 7
- Chéngdū** 成都: capital of Shǔ 蜀, during the Táng dynasty center of administration for Jiànnán 剑南 –
- Ērhǎi** 洱海: Lake Ērhǎi, highland lake in western Yúnnán with the center of Nánzhào on its western side. It was also called Xīěr 西洱, Xiě Hé – see page 7
- Gāo Pián** 高骈: – see page 6
- Gōng** 公: duke, '(1) Duke, from high antiquity the highest title of nobility after wang, normally reserved for members of the ruling family; ... Commonly prefixed with territorial names, ... (2) The Honorable or His Honor, polite term of indirect address applied to someone considered deserving of respect', see Hucker (1985), 3388 – see page 6, 7
- Hàn Cháo** 汉朝: Hàn dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 202 BCE–220 – see page 7
- Hàn** 汉: Hàn, main ethnic group of China, also name of early dynasty – see page 7
- Hàn Wǔdì** 汉武帝: Hàn emperor Wǔ, Hàn dynasty emperor Wǔ, 140–87 BCE – see page 7
- Huáng Xiūfù** 黄休復: author of the 《茅亭客话》 – see page 5
- Jiàndàfū** 谏大夫: grand master of remonstrance, title, see Hucker (1985), 865 – see page 6, 7
- Jiànnán** 剑南: Táng dynasty commandery in present-day Sichuān –
- Jiédù Shǐ** 节度使: military commissioner, 'a military title of great historical importance' 'during much of the late T'ang period they were virtually autonomous regional governors', see Hucker (1985), 777 – see page 7
- Kāiyuán** 开元: 713–741 BCE, second reign period of Táng Xuánzōng 唐玄宗 – see page 5
- Máotíngkèhuà** 《茅亭客话》: 'Conversations with Guests in the Thatched Pavilion', Sòng dynasty text by Huáng Xiūfù 黄休復, the translation of the title is taken from Lin (2015), p. 252 – see page 5, 7
- Mèng Hàorán** 孟浩然: Táng poet –
- Nánxī** 南溪: Táng dynasty administrative region, also called –
- Nánzhào** 南诏: southern zhào, regional power with its center on Ērhǎi during the 8th and 9th centuries – see page 5, 7
- Qiánfú** 乾符: reign period of Táng Xīzōng 唐僖宗, 874–879 – see page 6
- Qīng dynasty** 清朝: Qīng dynasty, last dynasty of imperial China, 1644–1912 BCE – see page 7, 8
- Róngzhōu** 戎州: historic administrative district, present-day Yíbin 宜宾, prefecture in north-eastern Yúnnán, established in 649 as ??, in 652 it became 戎州, in 742 it became 南溪, then in 758 it became 戎州 again before being disbanded in 907 (⊕ 28.77N 104.63E) – see page 6
- Shǎochéng** 少城: town near 成都 – see page 6
- Shǔ** 蜀: name of a state during the Warring States period, later used to refer to the western part of present-day Sichuān – see page 5

- Shǔjùn** 蜀郡: Shǔ, historical administrative unit in present-day Sìchuān, its name multiple times changing to Yìzhōu – see page 8
- Sìchuān** 四川: Chinese province – see page 5
- Sìkù Quánshū** 《四库全书》: ‘*Complete Library of the Four Treasuries*’, Qīng dynasty library collection – see page 5, 8
- Sòng Cháo** 宋朝: Sòng dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 960–1279 – see page 5, 8
- Sòng** 宋: Sòng, Chinese dynasty – see page 8
- Sòngzhēnzōng** 宋真宗: Sòng emperor Zhēnzōng, Sòng emperor, 997–1022 – see page 8
- Táng Cháo** 唐朝: Táng dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 618–907 – see page 8
- Táng** 唐: Táng, Chinese dynasty contemporary with Nánzhào, 618–907 – see pages 5, 6, 8
- Táng Xīzōng** 唐僖宗: Táng emperor Xīzōng, Táng dynasty emperor, 873–888 – see page 8
- Táng Xuánzōng** 唐玄宗: Táng dynasty emperor Xuánzōng, Táng dynasty emperor, 712–756 – see page 8
- Tiānxǐ** 天禧: reign period of Sòngzhēnzōng 宋真宗, 1017–1021 – see page 6
- Wángmèng** 王孟: Wáng Wéi and Mèng Hàorán, refers to both Wáng Wéi and Mèng Hàorán, two Táng poets – see page 6, 8
- Wáng Wéi** 王维: Táng poet –
- Xǐěr** 西洱: shorter form of Xiě Hé, a reference to Ērhǎi –
- Xǐěr Hé** 西洱河: Xiě River, historic name for Ērhǎi, now in use for the river that flows out of the lake – see page 8
- Xīshān** 西山: – see page 6
- Yáng Xióng** 扬雄: scholar during Hàn dynasty – see page 6
- Yíbīn** 宜宾: city in southern Sìchuān –
- Yìzhōu** 益州: Yìzhōu, one of thirteen administrative regions created by Hàn Wǔdì 汉武帝 in 106BCE, covering the region of present-day Sìchuān with its center at 成都. In 742 it became Shǔjùn 蜀郡, but the name remained in use to refer to 成都 – see page 5, 8
- Yúnnán** 云南: at the time of the Táng dynasty the name for the geographic region south of its Jiānnán district –
- Zhāngchóu Jiānqióng** 章仇兼琼: Jiédù Shǐ of Jiānnán – see page 6
- zhào** 诏: zhào, term for a local ruler or his realm – see page 8
- Zhào Gōngzhěn** 赵公稔: – see page 6
- Zhīzhōu** 知州: magistrate, ‘MING: Subprefectural Magistrate’, see Hucker (1985), 965 – see page 6, 8

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