



# The Plum in the Golden Vase or, Chin P'ing Mei, Volume Three : The Aphrodisiac /

Roy, David Tod,  
editor

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In this third volume of a planned five-volume series, David Roy provides a complete and annotated translation of the famous Chin P'ing Mei, an anonymous sixteenth-century Chinese novel that focuses on the domestic life of His-men Ch'ing, a corrupt, upwardly mobile merchant who maintains a harem of six wives and concubines. This work, known primarily for its erotic realism, is also a landmark in the development of narrative art--not only from a specifically Chinese perspective but also in a world-historical context. Written during the second half of the sixteenth century and first published in 1618, The Plum in the Golden Vase is noted for its surprisingly modern technique. With the possible exception of The Tale of Genji (ca. 1010) and Don Quixote (1605, 1615), there is no earlier work of prose fiction of equal sophistication in world literature. Although its importance in the history of Chinese narrative has long been recognized, the technical virtuosity of the author, which is more reminiscent of the Dickens of Bleak House, the Joyce of Ulysses, or the Nabokov of Lolita than anything in earlier Chinese fiction, has not yet received adequate recognition. This is partly because all of the existing European translations are either abridged or based on an inferior recension of the text. This translation and its annotation aim to faithfully represent and elucidate all the rhetorical features of the original in its most authentic form and thereby enable the Western reader to appreciate this Chinese masterpiece at its true worth. Replete with convincing portrayals of the darker side of human nature, it should appeal to anyone interested in a compelling story, compellingly told

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**Título uniforme:** Jin Ping Mei ci hua. English. (Roy). 3

**Título:** The Plum in the Golden Vase or, Chin P'ing Mei, Volume Three The Aphrodisiac David Tod Roy

**Edición:** Course Book

**Editorial:** Princeton, NJ Princeton University Press [2011] ©2006

**Descripción física:** 1 online resource (793 pages)

**Mención de serie:** Princeton Library of Asian Translations

**Nota general:** Description based upon print version of record

**Bibliografía:** Includes bibliographical references and index

**Contenido:** Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- CAST OF CHARACTERS -- CHAPTER 41. Hsi-men Ch'ing Forms a Marriage Alliance with Ch'iao Hung; P'an Chin-lien Engages in a Quarrel with Li P'ing-erh -- CHAPTER 42. A Powerful Family Blocks Its Gate in Order to Enjoy Fireworks; Distinguished Guests in a High Chamber Appreciate the Lanterns -- CHAPTER 43. Because of the Missing Gold Hsi-men Ch'ing Curses Chin-lien; As a Result of the Betrothal Yüeh-niang Meets Madame Ch'iao -- CHAPTER 44. Wu Yüeh-niang Detains Li Kuei-chieh Overnight; Hsi-men Ch'ing Drunkenly Interrogates Hsia-hua -- CHAPTER 45. Li Kuei-chieh Requests the Retention of Hsia-hua; Wu Yüeh-niang in a Fit of Anger Curses at Tai-an -- CHAPTER 46. Rain and Snow Interrupt a Walk during the Lantern Festival; Wife and Concubines Laughingly Consult the Tortoise Oracle -- CHAPTER 47. Wang Liu-erh Peddles Influence in Pursuit of Profit; Hsi-men Ch'ing Accepts a Bribe and Subverts the Law -- CHAPTER 48. Investigating Censor Tseng Impeaches the Judicial Commissioners; Grand Preceptor Ts'ai Submits a Memorial Regarding Seven Matters -- CHAPTER 49. Hsi-men Ch'ing Welcomes Investigating Censor Sung Ch'iao-nien; In the Temple of Eternal Felicity He Encounters an Indian Monk -- CHAPTER 50. Ch'in-t'ung Eavesdrops on the Joys of Lovemaking; Tai-an Enjoys a Pleasing Ramble in Butterfly Lane -- CHAPTER 51. Yüeh-niang Listens to the Exposition Of The Diamond Sutra; Li Kuei-chieh Seeks Refuge in the Hsi-men Ch'ing Household -- CHAPTER 52. Ying Po-chüeh Intrudes on a Spring Beauty in the Grotto; P'an Chin-lien Inspects a Mushroom in the Flower Garden -- CHAPTER 53. Wu Yüeh-niang Engages in Coition in Quest of Male Progeny; Li P'ing-erh Fulfills a Vow in Order to Safeguard Her Son -- CHAPTER 54. Ying Po-chüeh Convenes His Friends in a Suburban Garden; Jen Hou-ch'i Diagnoses an Illness for a Powerful Family -- CHAPTER 55. Hsi-men Ch'ing Observes a Birthday in the Eastern Capital; Squire Miao from Yang-chou Sends a Present of Singing Boys -- CHAPTER 56. Hsi-men Ch'ing Assists Ch'ang Shih-chieh; Ying Po-chüeh Recommends Licentiate Shui -- CHAPTER 57. Abbot Tao Solicits Funds to Repair the Temple of Eternal Felicity; Nun Hsüeh Enjoins Paying for the Distribution of the Dhran Sutra -- CHAPTER 58. Inspired by a Fit of Jealousy Chin-lien Beats Ch'iu-chü; Begging Cured Pork the Mirror Polisher Tells a Sob Story -- CHAPTER 59. Hsi-men Ch'ing Dashes "Snow Lion" to Death; Li P'ing-erh Cries Out in Pain for Kuan-ko -- CHAPTER 60. Li P'ing-erh Becomes Ill Because of Suppressed Anger; Hsi-men Ch'ing's Silk Goods Store Opens for Business -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX

**Lengua:** English

**ISBN:** 1-283-16375-6 9786613163752 1-4008-3792-8

**Materia:** Man-woman relationships- China Fiction. lat. Upper class- China Fiction lat. Merchants- China Fiction lat. Corruption- China Fiction lat. Harems- China Fiction lat. Concubinage- China Fiction lat. Chinese fiction- Ming dynasty, 1368-1644- Translations into English lat.

**Materia Geográfica:** Anhui (China, Provincia)- History- Song dynasty, 960-1279- Fiction Anhui (China, Provincia)- Social conditions- 960-1644- Fiction lat. Anhui (China, Provincia)- History- Song dynasty, 960-1279- Fiction lat.

**Autores:** Roy, David Tod, editor

**Enlace a formato físico adicional:** 0-691-12534-1 0-691-15018-4

**Punto acceso adicional serie-Título:** Princeton library of Asian translations

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## Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- [informa@baratz.es](mailto:informa@baratz.es)