

1 General Surveys on the *Xiyang ji*

1.1 Books

This portion of the article will also include book reviews. Due to the scope of this bibliography, reviews will only be given for published monographs.

- 1.1.1 Dahl, Christiane. *Chinesische Unterweltsvorstellungen: Die Jenseitsreise des Wang Ming im Roman „Die Reise in die Westmeere unter dem Eunuchen Sanbao“ (1597)*. See 6.2.1

This monograph is a detailed discussion of the Underworld Journey in *Xiyang ji*.

- 1.1.2 Ptak, Roderich. *Cheng Hos Abenteuer im Drama und Roman der Ming-Zeit: „Hsia Hsi-yang“: Eine Übersetzung und Untersuchung. „Hsi-yang chi“: Ein Deutungsversuch*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1986. [354 pp.]

Ptak's work introduces the Ming *zaju* 雜劇 *Feng tianming Sanbao xia Xiyang* 奉天命三寶下西洋 and the novel *Xiyang ji* against the backdrop of the historic voyages. His analysis of the *Xiyang ji* relies on the framework of Northrop Frye (*Anatomy of Criticism*) to explain the underlying patterns of the novel's content, structure and character constellation, thereby trying to reach a comprehensive reading of the novel as a whole. Special attention is given to the main characters Jin Bifeng 金碧峰, Zhang Tianshi 張天師, Wang Jinghong 王景弘 and Zheng He, as well as to the role of the Three Teachings. Similarities to the *Xiyou ji* are repeatedly pointed out, for example in the constellation of the main characters and the quest motive. The appendix contains a German-language chapter-by-chapter summary of the currently untranslated novel. Furthermore, the book contains a full translation of the *zaju* which serves as the basis for the analysis of the play.

This book has been reviewed in: *Annali dell'Instituto Universitario Orientale* 46 (1986), 629-630; *Archipel* 35 (1988), 216-217; *Bochumer Jahrbuch zur Ostasienforschung* 10 (1987), 353-357; *Chinablätter* 16 (1987), 48-50; *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 108.1 (1988), 141; *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland* 1 (1988), 246-248; *Ming Studies* 1988.1, 84-89; *Nachrichten der Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens* 145-146 (1989), 141-142; *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 86.3 (1991), 325-327; *T'oung*

Pao 74.4/5 (1988), 339-341; *Wenxue yanjiu cankao* 1987.4, 48-50; *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 139.1 (1989), 295.

- 1.1.3 Shi Ping 時平 and Roderich Ptak (eds.). *Studien zum Roman "Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi"* 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》之研究. Maritime Asia, 23 and 24. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011 and 2013. [2 vols. 196 and 168 pp.]

This collection of essays on the *Xiyang ji* was published in two volumes as a joint project between Chinese and German scholars. The articles, some in Chinese, some in German, are discussed in detail in the sections below at: 3.1.1; 3.2.8; 3.2.12; 3.2.13; 3.2.17; 3.2.18; 4.1.1; 4.2.3; 4.3.3; 4.3.9; 5.2.9; 5.2.12; 5.3.2; 6.1.2; 6.1.4.

The first volume has been reviewed in: *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 162 (2012), 512-516.

The first volume is introduced by Zhou Fang 周方 in *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 26 (2012), 18.

A recollection of the scientific cooperation including an introduction of the two volumes has been published by contributor Zhou Ruyan 周茹燕: "Zhong-Ou hezuo yanjiu *Xiyang ji* zhi huigu" 中歐合作研究《西洋記》之回顧. *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 29 (2014), 31-34.

- 1.1.4 Su, Ming-yang. *Seven Epic Voyages of Zheng He in Ming China: 1405–1433: Facts, Fiction and Fabrication*. Torrance: self-publication, 2005. [358 pp.]

Su Mingyang's book introduces the established facts about Zheng He's historical voyages and presents an overview of fictitious works based on them. The last chapter is a discussion of "Fabrications" surrounding the voyages, notably Gavin Menzies' *1421: The Year China Discovered America*. The chapter on "Fiction" chiefly talks about the *Xiyang ji*, giving a brief background to its creation, presenting its general structure and introducing major studies in Chinese and Western languages. The novel's presentation of the treasure fleet and its use of supernatural elements (namely dragon kings, weak-water seas, magnetic barriers and the sea goddess Mazu 媽祖) are discussed in separate subsections. Su closes this chapter with a discussion of the available sources on the actual size of the treasure ships and the ongoing scientific discussion.

1.2 Unpublished PhD or Master Theses

Although these theses are not available for purchase, they are available either through the CNKI database (China), the airtiti library (Taiwan) or ProQuest (US). All these databases can be accessed through the CrossAsia platform of the Berlin State Library. In other cases they can be obtained by putting in a request with the university in question.

- 1.2.1 Chen Simin 陳思敏 [Chen Szu-min], “*Jinghua yuan yu Xiyang ji yiguo zhi lu yanjiu: yi ‘lüxing wenxue’ shijiao tanxi*” 《鏡花緣》與《西洋記》異國之旅研究—以「旅行文學」視角探析 [Exploring Aspects of Foreign Excursions in “Flower in the Mirror” and “Journey to the West Ocean” as Travel Literature]. PhD Thesis, Tainan: Tainan University, 2011. [268 pp.]

In her PhD thesis Chen Szu-min compares both *Xiyang ji* and *Jinghua yuan* to diverse records of overseas travels. Chen largely focuses on depictions of foreigners, their customs, “alien” landscapes and descriptions of navigation at sea. She also explores how authors can use travelling accounts to express different forms of “satire”, “idealization”, “departure and return” or “introspection”.

- 1.2.2 Goode, Walter. “On the *Sanbao taijian xia xiyang-ji* and Some of Its Sources”. See 3.2.3

Goode’s dissertation focuses on seven episodes which Luo Maodeng borrowed from Buddhist, Daoist, and popular literature.

- 1.2.3 Jiang Lijuan 蔣麗娟. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tonsu yanyi yanjiu*” 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》研究 [The Study on “Sanbao Eunuch Visited the Western World Historical Novel”]. M.A. Thesis. Suzhou: Suzhou University, 2008. [107 pp.]

Jiang’s M.A. thesis begins with a discussion of the novel’s author and its various editions. It continues with an analysis of changing representations of Zheng He, starting with the historical person. This is followed by a comparison between the historic travels and their depiction in the novel and other legends.

- 1.2.4 Liu Xiangyu 劉香玉. “*Xiyang ji yanjiu*” 《西洋記》研究 [“The Western World Records” Research]. M.A. Thesis. Beijing: Shoudu Normal University, 2009. [59 pp.]

Liu’s M.A. thesis looks at the novel’s political, religious and economic dimensions. The author links these complex themes to the heterogeneity of Luo Maodeng’s sources, the uniqueness of his text and various considerations related to the publishing process of the book. Lastly, Liu also analyses the artistic qualities of the novel visible in the characters, as well as the reasons why this work fails to satisfy the reader.

- 1.2.5 Lü Boxun 呂柏勳 [Lu Bou-hsuen]. “Jitian jidi: lun *Xiyang ji* de lühang yu yuanzheng” 際天極地: 論《西洋記》的旅航與遠征. [The Study of “Romance of Sanbao Eunuch’s Journey to the West Ocean” A Journey and an Expedition]. M.A. Thesis. Hsinchu: National Tsing Hua University, 2008. [247 pp.]

Lü’s thesis introduces the *Xiyang ji* as a literary work which combines elements from two literary genres: the *yanyi* 演義 (“historical romance”) and *shenmo xiaoshuo* 神魔小說 (“fantasy novels”). He interprets the journey in *Xiyang ji* as a military campaign which highlights conflicts between Chinese and “Barbarians”, as well as Buddhism and Daoism.

- 1.2.6 Mao Rui 毛睿. “*Zheng He xia Xiyang su wenxue zonghe yanjiu*”. See 3.1.9.

Mao’s thesis investigates Zheng He’s travels in popular literature.

- 1.2.7 Wu Peirong 吳佩蓉 [Wu Pei-jung]. “Xiaoshuo de yanyi: *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi* shuxie xianxiang zhi yanjiu” 小說的衍異: 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演藝》書寫現象之研究, M.A. Thesis. Taipei: Chengchi University, 2008. [157 pp.]

Wu’s M.A. thesis uses narrative theory to analyze the conflict between Buddhists and Daoists and highlights the difference Luo makes between Chinese and “Barbarians” in his novel. In a broader sense, the author also looks at the influence of popular literature genres on the *Xiyang ji*.

- 1.2.8 Zhang Huoqing 張火慶. “*Sanbao taijian xia Xiyang yanjiu*” 《三寶太監下西洋》研究, PhD Thesis. Taipei: Soochow University, 1992. [423 pp.]

Zhang’s research of the *Xiyang ji* includes a general survey of the novel’s formation, an analysis of the main characters, a detailed investigation of the supernatural beings in the novel who frequently assist the main protagonists in warfare, and a discussion of the interrelation of the three teachings within the novel.



Fig. 2 *Xiyangji*, Chapter 22 (5.14b-15a, 576f):
“The Tianfei Temple Helps in the Night with Heavenly Lamps.”

1.3 Survey Articles

1.3.1 Duyvendak, J. J. L. “Desultory Notes on the *Hsi-Yang Chi*”. See 5.1.1

Duyvendak reflects on the historical circumstances under which the novel was written and identifies its geographical and historiographical sources.

1.3.2 Li Ping 李平. “Pingfan zhong jian guangcai: chongdu *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi*” 平凡中見光彩—重讀《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》. *Shanghai daxue xuebao (Shehui kexue ban)* 上海大學學報 (社會科學版) 1985.2, 116-122.

Li Ping explores the historicity of *Xiyang ji*'s main characters and details of the voyages by comparisons to sources such as the *Mingshi* 明史, *Yingya shenglan* 瀛涯勝覽 and *Xingcha shenglan* 星槎勝覽. *Xiyang ji* is further discussed as a novel of the late Ming that is set during the strong early years of the same dynasty. Finally, the position of the novel within the *shenmo xiaoshuo* genre is discussed throughout the article.

1.3.3 Wang, Yuanfei. “Magical Weapons, Adorable Exotica: Imperial Fetishism in a Sixteenth-Century Chinese Novel”. *Sino-Platonic Papers* 193 (2009), 98-121.

This article explores the sinocentric world system of *Xiyang ji*, and the three categories of *baobei* 寶貝 (“treasures”) appearing in the novel: the jade seal, the “treasure weaponry” and the tributes. Wang Yuanfei argues that these *baobei* manifest a preoccupation with material objects, an “imperial fetishism” that underscores China's hegemony.

1.3.4 Xiang Da 向達 (pen name: Jueming 覺明). “Guanyu Sanbao taijian xia Xiyang de ji zhong ziliao” 關於三寶太監下西洋的幾種資料. (1) *Xiaoshuo yuebao* 小說月報 20 (1929), 47-64. (2) *Zheng He yanjiu ziliao xuanbian* 鄭和研究資料選編, by Xiang Da. Beijing: Renmin jiaotong chubanshe, 1985, 31-56. (3) *Tang dai Chang'an yu Xiyu wenming* 唐代長安與西域文明, by Xiang Da. Beijing: Xinzhi sanlian shudian 1987, 532/564. [*Tang dai Chang'an yu Xiyu wenming* is the title of a book by Xiang Da published 1933 as well as the title of a collection of his work, first published in 1957, which includes, among

others, this article. The collection was subsequently republished by various publishers throughout the years.]

Xiang Da's article is the earliest scholarly publications on the *Xiyang ji*. It is usually, but not always, published under his pen name Jueming. Further complication arises from the fact that Part 3 of this article has also been published separately under a different title (see reference below).

The article's first part sheds light on the historical Zheng He and the importance of his voyages. The second part introduces various historical sources, including *Xiyang fanguo zhi* 西洋番國志, *Xingcha shenglan* 星槎勝覽 and *Yingya shenglan* 瀛涯勝覽. The third part turns to the *Xiyang ji* and starts by introducing Yu Yue's 俞樾 evaluation of the novel. Next comes a round-up of available information on Luo Maodeng, before the obvious relationship of *Xiyang ji* to Ma Huan's 馬歡 *Yingya shenglan* is discussed. At the end, the author addresses the similarities to Wu Cheng'en's 吳承恩 *Xiyou ji*.

- 1.3.5 Xiang Da 向達 (pen name: Jueming 覺明). “Lun Luo Maodeng zhu *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi*” 論羅懋登著《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》. (1) In: *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi* 三寶太監西洋記通俗演義, by Luo Maodeng 羅懋登 (author), ed. by Lu Shulun 陸樹命 and Zhu Shaohua 竺少華 [Shanghai: Shanghai guji chubanshe, 1985], vol. 2, 1291-1297. (2) *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 16 (2010), 8-10.

Third part of Xiang Da's 1929 article “Guanyu *Sanbao taijian xia Xiyang de ji zhong ziliao*” (see above).

- 1.3.6 Zhang Hua 張華 and Xia Weizhong 夏維中. “*Xiyang ji chutan*” 《西洋記》初探. (1) In: *Zheng He yanjiu lunwenji* 鄭和研究論文集, ed. by Nanjing Zheng He yanjiu hui 南京鄭和研究會 [Dalian: Haiyun xueyuan chubanshe, 1933], vol 1, 489-497. (2) *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 17 (2010), 35-37.

This article presents the historical background and the literary scene at the time of *Xiyang ji*'s creation. It goes on to explore the relation of *Xiyang ji* to both “fantasy novels” and its historical sources. Finally, special attention is given to the purpose of Zheng He's travels, his fleet and the oversea trade he instigated.

- 1.3.7 Zhang Huoqing 張火慶. “*Xiyang ji de liangge wenti: chushi dongji yu Xiyang suozai*” 《西洋記》的兩個問題—出使動機與西洋所在. *Xingda zhongwen xuebao* 興大中文學報 1 (1988), 69-82.

This article discusses two aspects of *Xiyang ji*: the motive for setting out on the voyages and the location of the “Western Ocean” (*Xiyang* 西洋) according to the novel.

- 1.3.8 Zhang Huoqing 張火慶. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji de renwu jiaose yu lütu fanying*”, 《三寶太監西洋記》的人物角色與旅途反應. *Xingda zhongwen xuebao* 興大中文學報 2 (1989), 133-155.

This article introduces major characters from *Xiyang ji* and their roles in the novel: the Five Tiger Generals (Wu hu jiang 五虎將) and Wang Ming 王明, Zheng He 鄭和, Zhang Tianshi 張天師, and Jin Bifeng 金碧峰.

- 1.3.9 Zhang Yanbo 張燕波. “*Xiyang ji yu Zheng He yanjiu*” 《西洋記》與鄭和研究. *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 18 (2010), 19-21.

Zhang Yanbo’s reviews earlier research on *Xiyang ji*, quoting representative studies. He also considers possible views of Late Ming scholars on Zheng He and general aspects related to *Xiyang ji*’s historical sources.

- 1.3.10 Zhao Jingshen 趙景深. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji*” 《三寶太監西洋記》. (1) *Qingnian jie* 青年界 9.1 (1936), 121-144. (2) In: *Xiaoshuo xianhua* 小說閒話, by Zhao Jingshen [Shanghai: Beixin shuju, 1937], 153-207. (3) In: *Zhongguo xiaoshuo congkao* 中國小說叢考, by Zhao Jingshen [Jinan: Qi Lu shushe, 1980], 264-295. (4) In: *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongshu yanyi* 三寶太監西洋記通俗演義, by Luo Maodeng 羅懋登 (author), ed. by Lu Shulun 陸樹倫 and Zhu Shaohua 竺少華 [Shanghai: Shanghai guji chubanshe, 1985], vol. 2, 1298-1328. (5) *Zheng He yanjiu dongtai* 鄭和研究動態 16 (2010), 12-22.

The main part of Zhao Jingshen’s article is a comparison of the countries described in *Xiyang ji* with entries of the same countries in both *Yingya shenglan* and *Xingcha shenglan*. When possible, English country names are included. Other parts deal with the supernatural material borrowed from *Xiyou ji* and *Fengshen yanyi*, *Sanguo yanyi* references, and episodes taken from *Bao Gong an*

包公案 and other literary sources. Finally, Zhao shares some observances about stylistic anomalies and shortcomings of the novel.

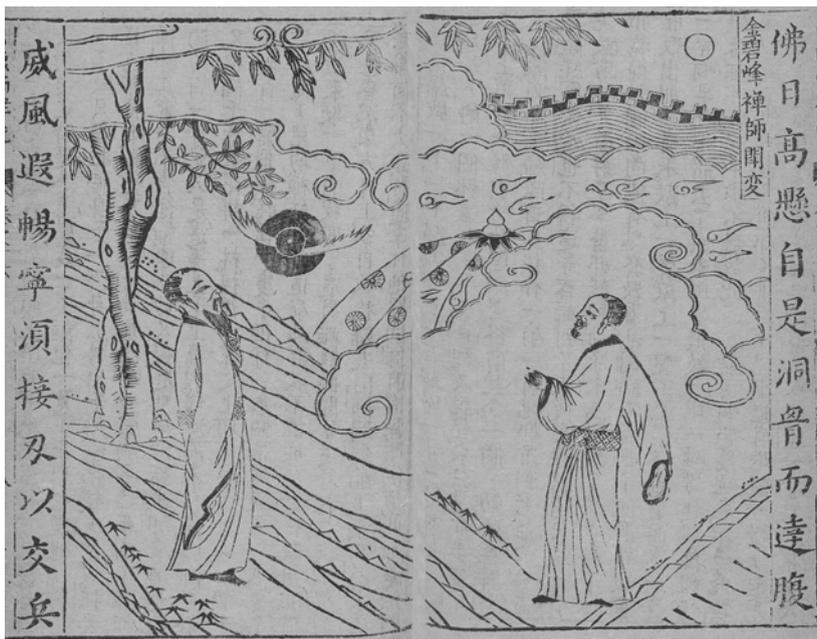


Fig 3 *Xiyang ji*, Chapter 76 (16.7b-8a, 2026f):
 “Venerable Jin Bifeng Engages in a Contest of Transformation [with Master Feiba].”