



# Jin Ping Mei Ch. 16-20

Li P'ing-erh Becomes Wife #6

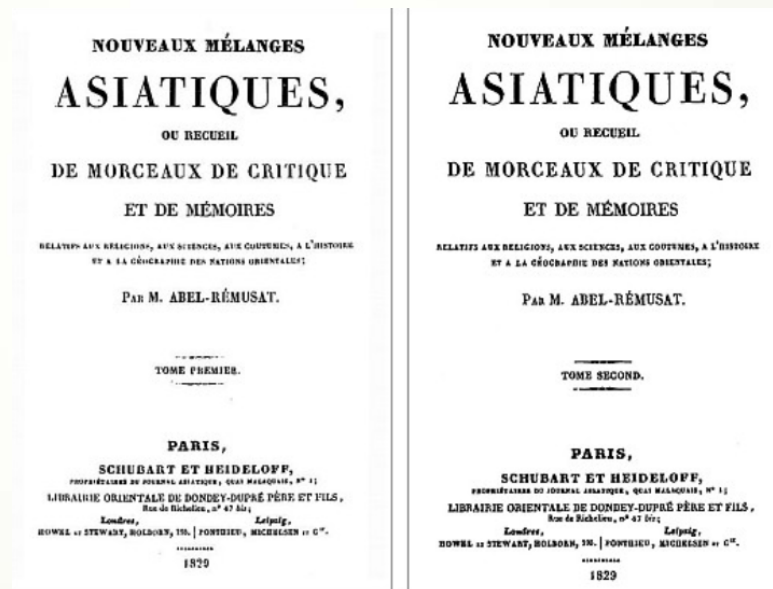
Ch'en Ching-chi & Hsi-men Ta-chieh Arrive in the Middle of the Night

The Garden Takes Shape

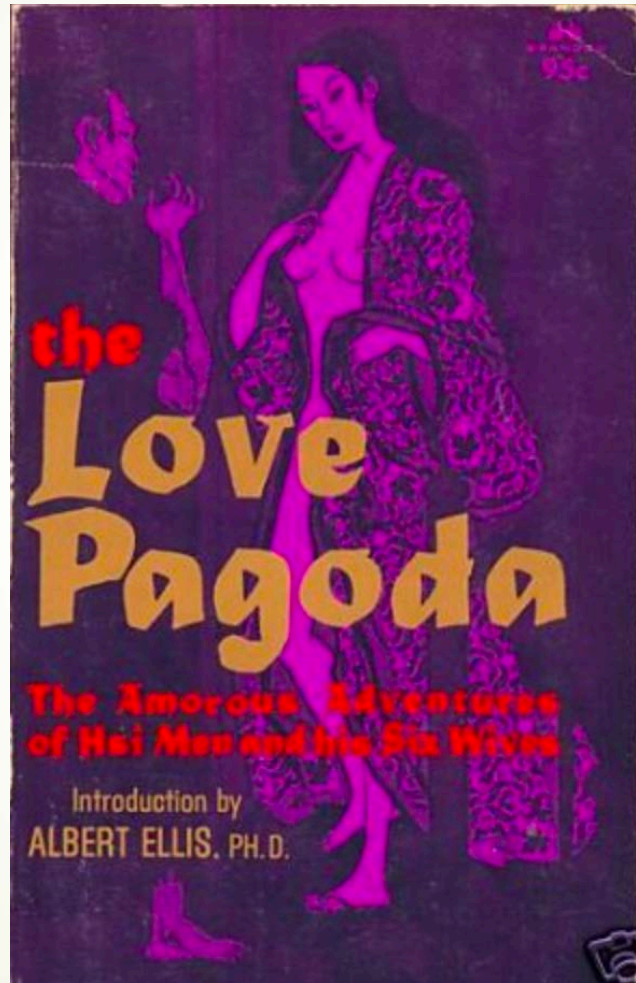


# Jean-Pierre Abel-Rémusat (1788-1832)

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Chair of Sinology, Collège de France



1965 Paperback Edition





# The First Twenty Chapters

- The novel can be divided into ten-chapter “decades”, but also into larger units of 20 or more: 1-20, 21-80, 81-100, or 1-20, 21-50, 51-80, 81-100...
- In any case, Chapter 20 marks a major milestone by concluding several loose threads, and taking up new ones, e.g. inauguration of the garden
- The P'an Chin-lien vs. Li P'ing-erh rivalry has already oscillated between jealousy, cooperation, & even “friendship;” many variations lie ahead
- Ch'en Ching-chi's entry into the family in Ch. 17 introduces the main rival & eventual disrupter of Hsi-men's domination over his wives & household
- Entrusting this pampered son-in-law (along with Pen Fourth) to supervise the garden construction: their excesses breed contempt for all moral restraints
- Ch'en & Pen embody Hsi-men's corrupt connections to court politicians

Li Pang-yen  
李邦彥 (?-1130)



Along the River on Qingming (Kaifeng)  
清明上河圖



Hsi-men Ch'ing becomes "Jia Lian"  
西門慶 → 賈廉 (賈璉)





## “Southern Bastards”

### 賊蠻奴才/蠻子

- ▶ When merchants from Hunan/Hubei (“Huguang”) arrive at Hsi-men’s shop to sell their herbs, they indirectly (through Tai-an) interrupt Hsi-men & P’ing-erh’s lovemaking (Ch. 16/p. 322)
- ▶ Hsi-men discovers a silk merchant’s son (Ting Shuang-ch’iao, “a southerner in a scholar’s hat,” Ch. 20, p. 424) in Kuei-chieh’s room at the Li establishment
- ▶ Southerners typically take the form of successful merchants, slick and unctuous but the objects of derision by the Shan-tung natives of Ch’ing-ho (whose attitude may reflect their insecurity)
- ▶ In addition to business, many southerners are talented scholars; some visit Hsi-men on their way to & from the capital for the exams



“Northern Barbarian Disasters” (1126/1550)  
夷狄之禍





## Zhang Zhupo says...

- ▶ “Hsi-men’s purchase of new page boys, teaching his maids to sing and perform, and opening up store space: all are mistakes. It’s permissible to buy pages, perhaps, but he goes to the extreme of storing the herbs for sale in Chin-lien’s quarters, and putting pawned items in P’ing-erh’s rooms. To turn a boudoir for beauties into a space for conducting business is crude enough, but employees will certainly not be able to avoid them when they come in to weigh herbs or to retrieve pawned objects. It is a stupid scheme that will give Ch’en Ching-chi ideas.” (Ch. 20)

# Foreign Monks & Pleasure Dens

## 胡僧 / 豹房



Emperor Wuzong (Zhengde), r. 1505-1521