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This richly illustrated volume examines all known surviving examples of the Qing court phenomenon of “scenic illusion paintings” (tongqinghua), which today remain inaccessible inside the Forbidden City in Beijing. These works offer new insights into the life of Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736–1795) and reflect one way in which Chinese art integrated and domesticated foreign ideas.

The celebrated early-17th-century Sanyan collection of vernacular stories provides a vivid panorama of the bustling world of imperial China. These nine tales were selected for their popularity with modern readers and their usefulness as texts in classes on Chinese and comparative literature. Included are such favorites as “Jiang Xinge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt” and “Du Shiniang Sinks Her Jewel Box in Anger.”

This study explores the questions of how and why the earliest verifiable images of the historical Buddha were created. Robert DeCaroli presents the history of Buddhism’s relationship with figural art as an ongoing set of negotiations within the Buddhist community and in society at large.

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This pioneering volume draws on the established historical record and recent archaeological discoveries of thousands of tombs, building foundations, and remnants of walls and gates from Chang’an and its surrounding area to explore the built environment, sociopolitical transformations, and leading figures of the capital of the Western Han dynasty (206 BC–9 CE).

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At the heart of this book are translations of three gazetteers written during the Han (206 BCE–220 CE), Tang (618–907), and Northern Song (960–1126) dynasties describing the city of Suzhou. The texts allow the reader to trace the dramatic changes that occurred as the city experienced political and social upheavals over nine centuries.

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Tales from Medieval China
COMPILED BY LUO YE
TRANSLATED AND INTRODUCED BY ALISTER D. INGLIS
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This volume, the first complete translation of The Drunken Man’s Talk (Xinbian zuiweng tanlu; comp. ca. 13th century) in any language, presents short stories, anecdotes, and poems. Tales of romantic love unify the collection and make it an essential primary source for literary and social history, since official Chinese history sources did not usually discuss family conflict or sexual matters.

238 pp., $50.00 hardcover, 9780295994734
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SARAH TURNER, CHRISTINE BONNIN, AND JEAN MICHAUD
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EDITED BY ADRIENNE LO, NANCY ABELMANN, SOO AN KWN, AND SUMIE OKAZAKI
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