



Reflections of Míng Period Jìn Dialect: The Question of the Dialect Underlying the *Qīngjiāo Zázhù*

Professor Richard VanNess Simmons
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This presentation examines the phonology of Sāng Shàoliáng's 桑紹良 (fl. 1543-1581) *Qīngjiāo zázhù* 青郊雜著 [Compilation from the Qīngjiāo studio]. Sāng Shàoliáng compiled his book in an effort to provide a phonology that broadly reconciles northern and southern Mandarin pronunciations, primarily as a guide to versification. Because Sāng was from the area of Northern Héběi, his work is also often thought to represent a form of the Guānhuà koinē of the time (for example, see Lǐ Xīnkú 1983: 284-286). However, such a characterization has been disputed, as Sāng's phonology contains idiosyncratic elements and layers that could not have been widely used in the Míng Mandarin koinē (Gěng Zhènshēng 1991). Careful analysis of the phonology in Sāng's book reveals that in fact it was directly based on a type of Shānxī dialect, a variety that is spoken in the region where Sāng spent a large portion of his professional and family life. We thus have a Míng play by an author who also provided a detailed guide for operatic enunciation. This presentation will outline Sāng's Shānxī phonology and explore whether or not that phonology can be discerned in the rhyming used in the songs in his one surviving play, *Dúlèyuán* 獨樂園 [Garden for secluded contentment].

Date: November 13, 2019 (Wednesday)

Time: 4:30pm - 5:30pm (Tea reception: 4:00pm)

Venue: 2/F, Conference Room, Art Museum East Wing, Institute of Chinese Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Richard VanNess Simmons is Visiting Professor in the School of Chinese at The University of Hong Kong and Professor of Chinese and Immediate Past Chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University. He holds a Master's degree in Chinese literature, and a Ph.D. in Chinese linguistics from the University of Washington, Seattle. Simmons' research activities include extensive fieldwork experience investigating and mapping the dialects of Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces in China. He has received numerous grants and awards to support his scholarship, including a multi-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation U.S. China Cooperative Research Program. In Spring 2015 Simmons was the Starr Foundation East Asian Studies Endowment Fund Member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. His areas of expertise include: Chinese dialectology, dialect geography, historical linguistics, history of Chinese, and Chinese sociolinguistics. His current research project is to compile a comprehensive history of Mandarin and Mandarin dialects. Simmons' publications include *Chinese Dialect Classification — A Comparative Approach to Harngjou, Old Jintarn, and Common Northern Wu* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1999; revision and translation in Chinese—Beijing: Zhonghua, 2010), *Issues in Chinese Dialect Description and Classification* (Journal of Chinese Linguistics Monograph Series, Number 15, 1999), *Chinese Dialect Geography: Distinguishing Mandarin and Wu in Their Boundary Region* (Shanghai: Shanghai Education, 2006), *Handbook for Lexicon Based Dialect Fieldwork* (Beijing: Zhonghua, 2006), *Shanghainese Dictionary And Phrasebook* (New York: Hippocrene, 2011) and *Studies in Chinese and Sino-Tibetan Linguistics: Dialect, Phonology, Transcription and Text* (Taipei: Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, 2014).



All are welcome

