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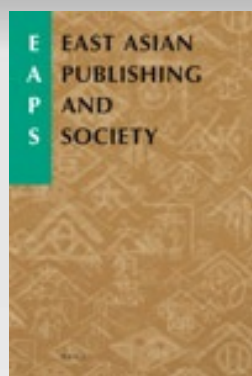
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## 'Carving the Complete Edition': Self-commentary, Poetry, and Illustration in the *Romance of an Embroidered Screen* (1670)



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Scholars of late imperial Chinese fiction have demonstrated that Ming 'literati novels' possessed both intellectual seriousness. Nonetheless, the large corpus of mid-length fictional narratives of the Qing remains mired in problem ostensibly popular nature. The self-commentaried edition of *Embroidered screen* (*Xiuping yuan*) presents a salien

nature of Qing novels and the reading of fiction in the seventeenth century. First circulated in manuscript copies, added when the novel was committed to print. The commented edition incorporates different genres—poetry, ex accounts—as well as visual elements, all intended to appeal to elite literati tastes among Qing readers. Its literary, also contributed to its popularity in eighteenth-century Japan, which in turn secured its preservation and eventua it fell into obscurity in Qing China, most likely due to political censorship.

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