

THE TAPESTRY OF POPULAR SONGS
IN 16TH- AND 17TH-CENTURY CHINA

SINICA LEIDENSIA

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THE TAPESTRY OF POPULAR SONGS
IN 16TH- AND 17TH- CENTURY CHINA

Reading, Imitation, and Desire

BY

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Cover illustration: Illustrated playing tiles, each featuring an aria from *The Lute (Pipa ji)* and instructions for a drinking game. Wanli (1573-1619). 16 x 8.5 cm. Source: *Yuan Ming xiqu yezi* (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1960). Former collection of Fu Xihua.

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Dedicated to Guan Dedong (1918–2005)

*And to the memory of my parents, Deci Mellin and John Charles Lowry,
and to Lena, of the magical smile*

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