

CHINESE WOMEN IN THE  
IMPERIAL PAST

# SINICA LEIDENSIA

EDITED BY

W. L. IDEMA

IN COOPERATION WITH

P.K. BOL • D.R. KNECHTGES • E.S. RAWSKI  
E. ZÜRCHER • H.T. ZURNDORFER

VOLUME XLIV



# CHINESE WOMEN IN THE IMPERIAL PAST

*New Perspectives*

EDITED BY

HARRIET T. ZURNDORFER



BRILL  
LEIDEN · BOSTON · KÖLN  
1999

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Chinese women in the imperial past : new perspectives / edited by  
Harriet T. Zurndorfer  
p. cm. — (Sinica Leidensia, ISSN 0169-9563 : v. 44)  
Includes bibliographical references and index.  
ISBN 9004110658 (cloth : alk. paper)  
I. Women—China—History Congresses. II. Zurndorfer, Harriet  
Thelma. III. Series.  
HQ1767.C4525 1999  
305.4'0951—dc21 99-28433  
CIP

**Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP-Einheitsaufnahme**

**Chinese women in the imperial past** : new perspectives / ed. by  
Harriet T. Zurndorfer. — Leiden ; Boston ; Köln : Brill, 1999  
(Sinica Leidensia ; Vol. 44)  
ISBN 90-04-11065-8

ISSN 0169-9563  
ISBN 90 04 11065 8

© Copyright 1999 by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.*

*Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by Brill provided that the appropriate fees are paid directly to The Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Suite 910 Danvers MA 01923, USA. Fees are subject to change.*

PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS

To Maria H.W. Huijerman-van Alderen

## CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgements .....	ix
Contributors .....	xi
HARRIET T. ZURNDORFER, "Introduction" .....	1
WILT IDEMA, "Male Fantasies and Female Realities: Chu Shu-chen and Chang Yü-niang and their Biographers" .....	19
CHRISTIAN DE PEE, "The Ritual and Sexual Bodies of the Groom and the Bride in Ritual Manuals of the Sung Dynasty (Eleventh through Thirteenth Centuries) .....	53
ANGELA KI CHE LEUNG, "Women Practicing Medicine in Premodern China" .....	101
MARK ELVIN, "Blood and Statistics: Reconstructing the Population Dynamics of Late Imperial China from the Biographies of Virtuous Women in Local Gazetteers" .....	135
ANNE T. GERRITSEN, "Women in the Life and Thought of Ch'en Ch'üeh: The Perspective of the Seventeenth Century" .....	223
PAOLA PADERNI, "Between Constraints and Opportunities: Widows, Witches, and Shrews in Eighteenth Century China" .....	258
BEATA GRANT, "Little Vimalakirti: Buddhism and Poetry in the Writings of Chiang Chu (1764-1804)" .....	286
CLARA WING-CHUNG HO, "Encouragement from the Opposite Gender: Male Scholars and Women's Publications in Ch'ing China, A Bibliographic Study" .....	308
HARRIET T. ZURNDORFER, "Women in the Epistemological Strategy of Chinese Encyclopedia: Preliminary Observations from Some Sung, Ming, and Ch'ing Works" .....	354
Index .....	397