

The Forgotten Patrons: English Translations of *Jin Ping Mei* in the 20th Century

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The Chinese translation history is not complete without discussions on the introduction of Chinese texts into the western world, so this paper attempts to approach the idea of patronage through the examination of English translations of the classic Chinese novel *Jin Ping Mei*. Since its first English version in the 1920s, *Jin Ping Mei* has so far been adapted and translated into English for a dozen times, with the high points of its English dissemination coinciding with the two sexual revolutions of the 20th century in the West. While the ideological, economic and status components of patronage can all be said to have an obvious and effective role to play in the translation activities around *Jin Ping Mei*, this research will go a step further to include some important but so far under-exploited paratexts such as the archival materials in its discussion of patronage, introducing the publisher, copyeditor, ghost translator, literary censors, and for the first time, Freud, into the translational landscape of *Jin Ping Mei* in English.