

# Carstairs Douglas (1830–1877) and his *Chinese-English Dictionary of the Vernacular or Spoken Language of Amoy* (1873)

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## ***Abstract***

This paper traces the life and achievements of the Scottish missionary Carstairs Douglas (1830–1877), especially his contributions to the mission in Amoy (Xiamen 廈門). It also includes a contextualized description and evaluation of his dictionary of the spoken language of Amoy (1873), a reference work that may still be used with some benefit by students of the Southern Hokkien (Minnanhua) language.

## ***Keywords***

Carstairs Douglas, Amoy, Southern Hokkien, dialectology, Presbyterian Church of England

*Since all that I meet  
Must work for my good,  
The bitter is sweet,  
The Medicine is food.*

*Though painful at present  
Twill cease before long  
And then, oh how pleasant  
The conqueror's song!*

—Carstairs Douglas, Amoy, 22 August 1856