

Thomas G. Selby (1846-1910) and the Translation of Vernacular Fiction from the Cantonese Collection *Su hua qingtian* (1870)

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As an anthology of Chinese fiction selected and translated by Tomas G. Selby, an English missionary in China, *The Chinaman in His Own Stories* (1895) originates from the vernacular fiction in Cantonese, *Suhua qingtian* (1870), which was written by a Lingnan novelist in the late Qing dynasty, Shao Binru. On the basis of Chinese fiction, Thomas reviewed the self-projection of the Chinese in their own fiction, and studied the Chinese and their literature and culture from the Chinese's as well as his own perspectives. Meanwhile, he carried out revision and re-creation of Chinese fiction to a certain degree during the translation. Selby's anthology plays a unique role in the history of the translation of ancient Chinese fiction into Western languages, and is a relatively early and useful attempt to bring Chinese dialect fiction into the translation and research of the Western world.