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16. *Drinking Wine and Reading "Encountering Sorrow":  
A Reflection in Disguise* by Wu Zao (1799–1862) 239  
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In this dramatic tableau the playwright casts herself as the sole speaker. She poses before a portrait of herself cross-dressed as a male scholar and sings to the portrait a sequence of lyrics describing her frustrations as a woman of talent. The text concludes that none but her cross-dressed self-image is a match for the writer herself. Hangzhou poet and official Chen Wenshu, a noted patron of female writers, wrote a collection of poems celebrating this work.
17. *A Brief Record of the Eastern Ocean*  
by Ding Shaoyi (fl. 1847) 253  
TRANSLATED BY EMMA JINHUA TENG  
During his eight-month stay in Taiwan in 1847 Ding Shaoyi wrote the *Brief Record*, which treats sixteen topics, among them taxes, schools, coastal defense, local products, "savage" villages, "savage" customs, and marvels. When he returned to Taiwan in 1871 he appended new material to each item in his original account. The passage translated here is Ding's 1871 supplement to his original entry titled "Savage Customs."
18. The "Eating Crabs" Youth Book 263  
TRANSLATED BY MARK C. ELLIOTT  
This anonymous bilingual text, in Manchu and Chinese, reflects the complex ethnic picture in late imperial China, particularly in and around Beijing. Youth books were a form of oral performance very popular in the Qing capital. In this particular one, the story is told of a hapless Manchu bannerman and his shrewish Han Chinese wife who run afoul of a pot of feisty crabs.
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