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Autore	Ling Mengchu <1580-1644, >
Titolo	Slapping the Table in Amazement : A Ming Dynasty Story Collection // Ling Mengchu ; translated by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : University of Washington Press, , [2018] ©[2018]
ISBN	0-295-74214-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (926 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	951
Soggetti	Short stories, Chinese Chinese fiction - Ming dynasty, 1368-1644 China Social life and customs 17th century Fiction
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	The man whose luck has turned chances upon Dongting tangerines; the merchant from Persia reveals the secrets of a turtle shell -- Yao Dizhu flees from disgrace only to incur more disgrace; Zhang Yue'e uses a mistake to advance her own interests -- Liu Dongshan brags about his prowess at the city gate; eighteenth brother leaves his mark in the village tavern -- Cheng Yuanyu pays for a meal at a restaurant; Lady Eleventh explains swordsmanship on Mount Cloud -- Zhang Derong encounters a tiger sent by the gods as a matchmaker; Pei Yueke becomes the lucky mate just in time for the blissful date -- Zhao the nun drugs a beauty into a stupor; Jia the scholar takes revenge in a brilliant move -- Emperor Minghuang of Tang, a Daoist devotee, seeks out eminent Daoists; Consort Wu, a Buddhist disciple, witnesses contests of magic power -- General Wu repays the debt of one meal; Chen Dalang reunites with two loved ones -- In the director's garden, young ladies enjoy a swing-set party; at pure and peaceful temple, husband and wife laugh and cry at their reunion -- Scholar Han takes a wife in a wave of panic; Prefect Wu makes a match for a talented scholar -- An evil boatman commits blackmail with a dead body; a heartless servant wrongfully presses murder charges -- Mr. Tao takes in strangers seeking shelter from the rain; Jiang Zhenqing gains a wife with a jest -- Mr. Zhao spoils his son and dies as a result; Magistrate

Zhang sentences an unfilial son to death in an ironclad case -- To steal money, Yu Dajiao does violence to a drunken man; to confront the culprit in court, Yang Hua attaches himself to a woman's body -- With his merciless heart, Squire Wei plots to seize another man's property; with his clever plan, Scholar Chen wins back his house
Zhang Liu'er lays one of his many traps; Lu Huiniang severs a bond of marriage -- Prayer services are held at West Hill Temple for a departed soul; a coffin is prepared in the Kaifeng Yamen for a living criminal -- An alchemist turns half a grain of millet into a nine-cycle pill; a rich man squanders thousands of taels of silver to win a beauty's smile -- Li Gongzuo ingeniously reads a dream; Xie Xiao'e cleverly snares pirates -- Li Kerang sends a blank letter; Liu Yuanpu begets two precious sons -- Yuan's face-reading skills impress the high and mighty; Zheng's good deed wins him a hereditary title -- With money, a commoner gains an official post; out of luck a prefect becomes a boatman -- The older sister's soul leaves her body to fulfill a wish; the younger sister recovers from illness to renew a bond -- The old demon of Yanguan County indulges in debauchery; the Bodhisattva on Mount Huihai puts the evil spirits to death -- Revenue manager Zhao leaves word for his love a thousand li away; Su Xiaojuan achieves happiness with a single poem -- In a competition for sexual favor, a village woman is murdered; in claiming celestial authority, a judge solves a case -- Gu Axiu donates to a nunnery with joy; Cui Junchen is shown the lotus screen through a clever scheme -- The master of golden light cave recalls the past; the venerable Elder of Jade Void Cave is enlightened about his previous life -- They remain loyal to each other through their trysts; his success is announced at the jailhouse -- Commissioner Wang rides roughshod over his subordinates; Adjutant Li gets his comeuppance from a reincarnated victim
Priest he commits fornication via black magic; Registrar Zhou wipes out rebels via fornication -- Mr. Hu corrupts a fellow man in a wife-swapping scheme; a Chan master in meditation explains the principle of retribution -- Squire Zhang, in his noble-mindedness, adopts an orphan; Judge Bao, in his wisdom, recovers a document -- Scholar Wenren shows his prowess at Cuifu Nunnery; the Nun Jingguan goes in glory to Huangsha Lane -- A pauper keeps temporary watch over another man's money; a miser resorts to tricks when buying his nemesis's son -- The monk of the Eastern Hall invites demonic spirits during a lapse in vigilance; the man in black commits murder in an abduction attempt -- Qutu Zhongren cruelly kills other creatures; the Yunzhou prefect helps his nephew in the netherworld -- To stake his claim on the family fortune, a jealous son-in-law plots against the rightful heir; to continue the bloodline, a filial daughter hides her brother -- Heavenly preceptors, with their theatrics, claim to subdue drought demons; a county magistrate, in his sincerity, prays for sweet rain from heaven -- On the Huayin trail, Li meets one extraordinary man; the Jiangling commander opens three mysterious envelopes -- Notes -- Translations of traditional Chinese literature.

Sommario/riassunto

Slapping the Table in Amazement is the unabridged English translation of the famous story collection *Paian jingqi* by Ling Mengchu (1580-1644), originally published in 1628. The forty lively stories gathered here present a broad picture of traditional Chinese society and include characters from all social levels. We learn of their joys and sorrows, their views about life and death, and their visions of the underworld and the supernatural. Ling was a connoisseur of popular literature and a seminal figure in the development of Chinese literature in the vernacular, which paved the way for the late-imperial Chinese novel. *Slapping the Table in Amazement* includes translations of verse and

prologue stories as well as marginal and interlinear comments.
