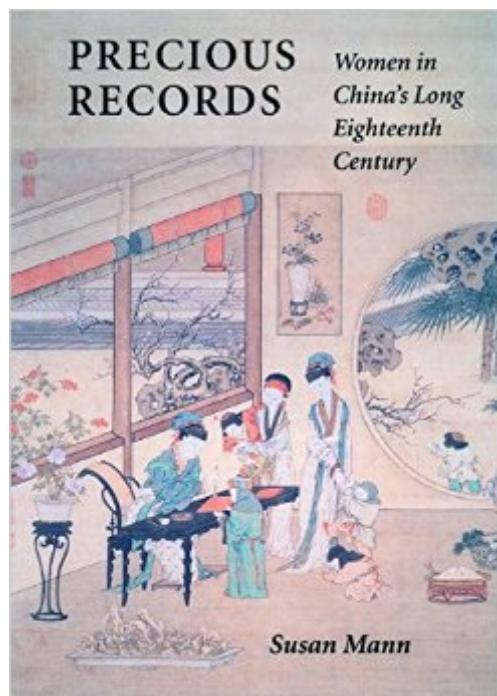


The book was found

# Precious Records: Women In China's Long Eighteenth Century



## Synopsis

This first book-length study of gender relations in the Lower Yangzi region during the High Qing era (c. 1683-1839) challenges enduring late-nineteenth-century perspectives that emphasized the oppression and subjugation of Chinese women. Placing women at the center of the High Qing era shows how gender relations shaped the economic, political, social, and cultural changes of the age, and gives us a sense of what women felt and believed, and what they actually did, during this period. Most analyses of gender in High Qing times have focused on literature and on the writings of the elite; this book broadens the scope of inquiry to include women's work in the farm household, courtesan entertainment, and women's participation in ritual observances and religion. In dealing with literature, it shows how women's poetry can serve the historian as well as the literary critic, drawing on one of the first anthologies of women's writing compiled by a woman to examine not only literary sensibilities and intimate emotions, but also political judgments, moral values, and social relations. After an introductory chapter that evaluates the historiography of Chinese women, the book surveys High Qing history, charts the female life course, and discusses women's place in writing and learning, in entertainment, at work, and in religious practice. The concluding chapter returns to broad historiographic questions about where women figure in space and time and why we can no longer write histories that ignore them.

## Book Information

Paperback: 340 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press; 1 edition (May 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804727449

ISBN-13: 978-0804727440

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #702,815 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Chinese #179 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Chinese #1069 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia

## Customer Reviews

To an even greater extent than in the West, the views of Chinese women have been seldom heard; Susan Mann's book attempts to correct that for women of the Qing Period (1644- 1911) although she

comfortably moves back and forward in time to other periods. To an admirable degree, she succeeds in her task. She brings together primary sources from women themselves where possible but does not hesitate to supplement those sources with the work of male writers, often court officials, where necessary. Speaking of gender, a cover blurb (and to some extent the Introduction with its use of terms like 'male gaze' etc.) could suggest that this is a 'feminist' work. To view it as such would be a mistake; Mann is a highly respected scholar who happens to be of the female gender and she 'tells it like it was' without emphasising either sentimental or ideological aspects of the lives of Chinese women. Without wishing to downplay her obvious and genuine concern for feminine issues, she can only be described as a 'feminist historian' in the way that, say, Ursula LeGuin is a feminist writer of fantasy and science fiction or Alison Jolly a feminist writer on human evolution or biology. The work is clearly directed towards students of Chinese history but is well written and should be enjoyable to anyone with a serious interest in China (and with a little perseverance). Some chapters are dense and scholarly, like Chapter 4 on 'Writing' which explores many primary sources, whilst others read quite smoothly. This is not a criticism; just a fact of life for such a work. Mann does everything possible to ease the burden for her readers with, for example, many pertinent illustrations, references largely moved to comprehensive Endnotes and an English-Chinese character list. The book does not attempt to cover all areas of Qing history (thankfully) but covers the areas it promises to in great detail- a reader can ask for little more. Recommended.

I am glad to see this book, because this book is the first book-length study of women during the High Qing. I think this book does not fulfill what it promises in the introduction -- to challenge the lens of Orientalism. It is true that the book goes beyond the paradigm of oppression and subjugation and examines farm household, courtesan entertainment, religion, etc., but it tries too hard to claim a voice for Chinese women. Who is the author to "recover" Chinese women's voice? In reinventing the "traditional" woman, the author perpetuates the gaze on women. There are some complexities of different "types" of women, but the author lacks a critical self-reflection. Afterall, what alternative is she bringing in to replace Orientalism?

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century Gymnastics: Great Moments, Records, and Facts: Great Moments, Records, and Facts (Great Sports) Amazing Olympic Records (Amazing Sports Records) Resplendent Synagogue: Architecture and Worship in an Eighteenth-Century Polish Community (The Tauber Institute Series for the Study of European Jewry) A Bushel of Pearls: Painting for Sale in Eighteenth-Century Yangchow Engraven Desire:

Eros, Image, and Text in the French Eighteenth Century Watteau's Soldiers: Scenes of Military Life in Eighteenth-Century France George Whitefield: God's Anointed Servant in the Great Revival of the Eighteenth Century Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste (The Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century Culture and History) Letters from an American Farmer and Sketches of Eighteenth-Century America (Penguin Classics) The Sublime: A Reader in British Eighteenth-Century Aesthetic Theory Mime, Music and Drama on the Eighteenth-Century Stage: The Ballet d'Action Man of the Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century India: The Letters of Claude Martin, 1766-1800 The Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Odyssey "Licentious Liberty" in a Brazilian Gold-Mining Region: Slavery, Gender, and Social Control in Eighteenth-Century SabarÃƒÂ¡, Minas Gerais Growing Public: Volume 1, The Story: Social Spending and Economic Growth since the Eighteenth Century The China Collectors: America's Century-Long Hunt for Asian Art Treasures #Women #Coloring Book: #Women is Coloring Book No.8 in the Adult Coloring Book Series Celebrating Women (Coloring Books, Women, Shopping, Gifts for ... Series of Adult Coloring Books) (Volume 8) Poorly Made in China: An Insider's Account of the Tactics Behind China's Production Game 2010 Special Report: China Life & Non-Life - Market Review. China: A Dangerous Wind or An Opportunity? A.M. Best's Perspective

[Dmca](#)