

Some Remarks on the Chinese Traditional
Entertainments in South East Asia
by Kanehide ONOYE

This is an investigation into the Chinese traditional entertainments still going on in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. The field survey was carried out in 1976.

The Chinese colloquial stories which had originally been recited by the professional storytellers in the amusement quarters (*wa-shi* 瓦市) during the Song Dynasty became to be written down on paper towards the end of that period. The scenes of storytelling can be imagined when we read some colloquial stories themselves. For examples, the *Shui-hu-zhuan* 水滸傳 has a scene at the *Gou-lan* 拘欄 playhouse and the *Xing-shi-heng-yan* 醒世恒言 described storytellers performing in front of the *Miao* 廟 temple.

For this reason it is quite important to make inquiry of Chinese public entertainments in order to study the development of Chinese colloquial stories. The most excellent survey so far in this field is Prof. Shintarō Okuno's "Water and Flame Lore" (*Bulletin of Sinological Society of Japan*, vol. 18).

As opportunities are rarely given us for this kind of investigation on mainland China, the present inquiry is made at a few places in South East Asia and mainly in the field of traditional Chinese operas which concern with such religious events as *Yu-lan-jie* 孟蘭節, Festival of Hungry Ghosts, in Hong Kong and *Zhong-qiu-jie* 中秋節, Mid-Autumn Festival, in Singapore. Both in Hong Kong and Singapore there still are performed the Road Operas, but the modernization of cities are rapidly expelling them. It seems quite necessary to do in time the investigation into those entertainments before they may eventually disappear.

As a result of this field trip, many kinds of materials have been collected. Moreover the most fruitful thing is to have got the promise of the cooperation in future survey from scholars in those countries.