

A Study on Structural Changes of Chinese Local Plays in
Chiang-nan 江南 during the 15 th and 16 th
Centuries (III)

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This is the third part of this article in which the author studies the following problems.

(1) How the large landlords or *hsiang-shen* 鄉紳 developed their own special plays at their private halls on the occasion of their consanguinean rituals, such as ceremonies of coming of age, marriage, funeral and ancestral worship after the fall of *li-chia* 里甲 system.

(2) How the peasantry around the local market places developed their own favorite plays at field stages against the control of the land-owner class over the village plays in these times.

In short, after the fall of *li-chia* system, the *she-miao* 社廟 plays in the village communities, the social structure of which the author has already discussed in Chapters 1 and 2, were gradually divided into two parts, that is, the clan plays of the higher class and the market plays of the lower class. In the next chapter the author will proceed to analyze the characteristics of actors and dramas in each of these plays.