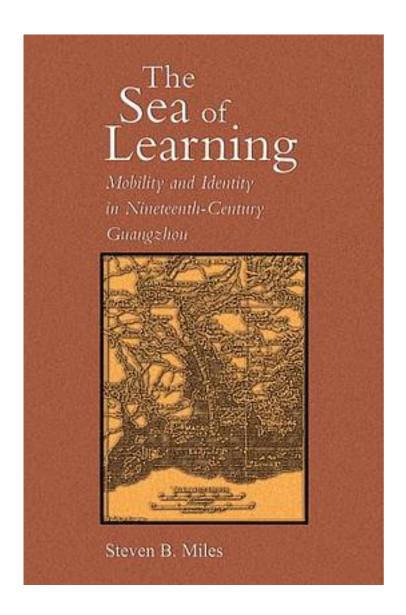
The Sea of Learning



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著者:Steven B. Miles

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In 1817 a Cantonese scholar was mocked in Beijing as surprisingly learned for someone from the boondocks; in 1855 another Cantonese scholar boasted of the flourishing of literati culture in his home region. Not without reason, the second man pointed to the Xuehaitang (Sea of Learning Hall) as the main factor in the upsurge of learning in the Guangzhou area. Founded in the 1820s by the eminent scholar-official Ruan Yuan, the Xuehaitang was indeed one of the premier academies of the nineteenth century.

The celebratory discourse that portrayed the Xuehaitang as having radically altered literati culture in Guangzhou also legitimated the academy's place in Guangzhou and Guangzhou's place as a cultural center in the Qing empire. This study asks: Who constructed this discourse and why? And why did some Cantonese elites find this discourse compelling while others did not? To answer these questions, Steven Miles looks beyond intellectual history to local social and cultural history. Arguing that the academy did not exist in a scholarly vacuum, Miles contends that its location in the city of Guangzhou and the Pearl River Delta embedded it in social settings and networks that determined who utilized its resources and who celebrated its successes and values.

作者介绍:

Steven B. Miles got a PhD from University of Washington, and currently is an Assistant Professor of History at Washington University in St. Louis.

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书评

关于士绅、社会流动、族群认同的构建的主题的一本书,应该算是当下主流的华南地区的历史人类学研究的理论和方法了,来源于他的论文: Creating Zhu'Jiujiang':Localism in Nineteenth-Century Guangdong,J-Store上提供下载······

《学海:十九世纪广州的社会流动性与身份认同》一书,是美国中国研究学者麦哲维历经十数载完成的力作。作者在前言中说,他希望自己无负乃师所望,写出一部思想家的历史(a history of intellectuals),而非仅仅是一部思想史(an intellectual history)。读毕此书,笔者...

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