

**M321**  
**Miao love songs.**

*Collected by Wang Ming-ji.*

Notes.

These songs are all recorded in Document C as follows. Song of a youth and a maiden, (no. 7, page 7). A woman's song, (no. 2, page 4). Song of a woman and a man, (no. 3, page 4). A cautionary song, (no. 4, page 4). Busy bees, (no. 6, page 7).

Song of a youth and a maiden.

**Line 14.** The word 𑄎 usually has the force of the English definite article, as in line 18, but here, and again in line 19, it is the sign of the vocative case.

**Line 19.** The exclamation 𑄎̃ is more often used by women than by men. It reinforces what has just been said, hence the translation, “so it is”.

A woman's song.

**Line 2.** In the Miao manuscript the expression 𑄎𑄎𑄎 has been altered to 𑄎𑄎𑄎. The original reading is probably correct. 𑄎𑄎𑄎 means “bridegroom's family”, and in this context, where a young woman is looking at a particular young man as a possible bridegroom, it is simply a polite way of saying, “your family”. On the other hand it is difficult to see what the altered reading 𑄎𑄎𑄎 could mean.

**Line 7.** The final word 𑄎° is an exclamation urging the listener to comply with the proposition that has just been made.

Song of a woman and a man.

In the Miao text the following pairs of lines are written as single sentences without punctuation. 1 and 2, 4 and 5, 10 and 11.

**Line 11.** The word 𑄎̃ means “to break in” a horse for riding, or “to train” an ox for ploughing.

A cautionary song.

**Line 1.** The final word of this line, 𑄎𑄎, “ragged”, and the final word of line 3, 𑄎𑄎, “hungry”, have been accidentally interchanged in the Miao manuscript.