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**Bannermen Tales (*Zidishu* 子弟書): Text, Performance, and Cultural Hybridity in Qing Beijing**

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*Zidishu* (bannermen tales), a storytelling genre created by Manchus, was popular in Beijing and Northeast China during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This paper reconstructs various milieus for *zidishu*’s performances, including both public and private arenas. By reconstructing *zidishu* performances as well as introducing three linguistic types of *zidishu*, I argue that *zidishu* employed cultural hybridization as a way of performing and thereby preserving Manchu identity.

The practice of *zidishu* helped bannermen maintain a sense of Manchu distinctiveness in the everyday world shaped by the reality of interactions between the Manchus and Han Chinese.