George Carter Stent (1833-1884) served with the 14th Dragoons in India during the Mutiny, and came to China in the 1860s as a member of the guard of the new British Legation. In 1869 he joined the Maritime Customs. In Beijing he fell in love not only with the Chinese language but also with Chinese popular songs and ballads and their music. Apart from some articles based on lectures for the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, he published several dictionaries of the Beijing dialect and two collections of translations from Chinese folk literature. While some of the translations were based on written sources, other texts were based on oral performances by street singers as carefully recorded by Stent. Professor Idema will discuss the works of this largely forgotten Victorian Sinologue and what lessons he may provide for contemporary scholars and translators of China’s traditional vernacular literature 俗文學.

SPEAKER

Wilt L. Idema

Wilt L. Idema is Research Professor of Chinese Literature at Harvard University. His monograph *The Metamorphosis of Tianxian pei* was published by The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press in 2014.

HOST

Hua Wei

Hua Wei is Professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, and Director of Kunqu Research and Promotion Project at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Date: June 15, 2016 (Wed)
Time: 3-5pm
Venue: University Bookstore, CUHK (Room 101, Yasumoto International Academic Park)
Online registration: http://goo.gl/NGBnFL