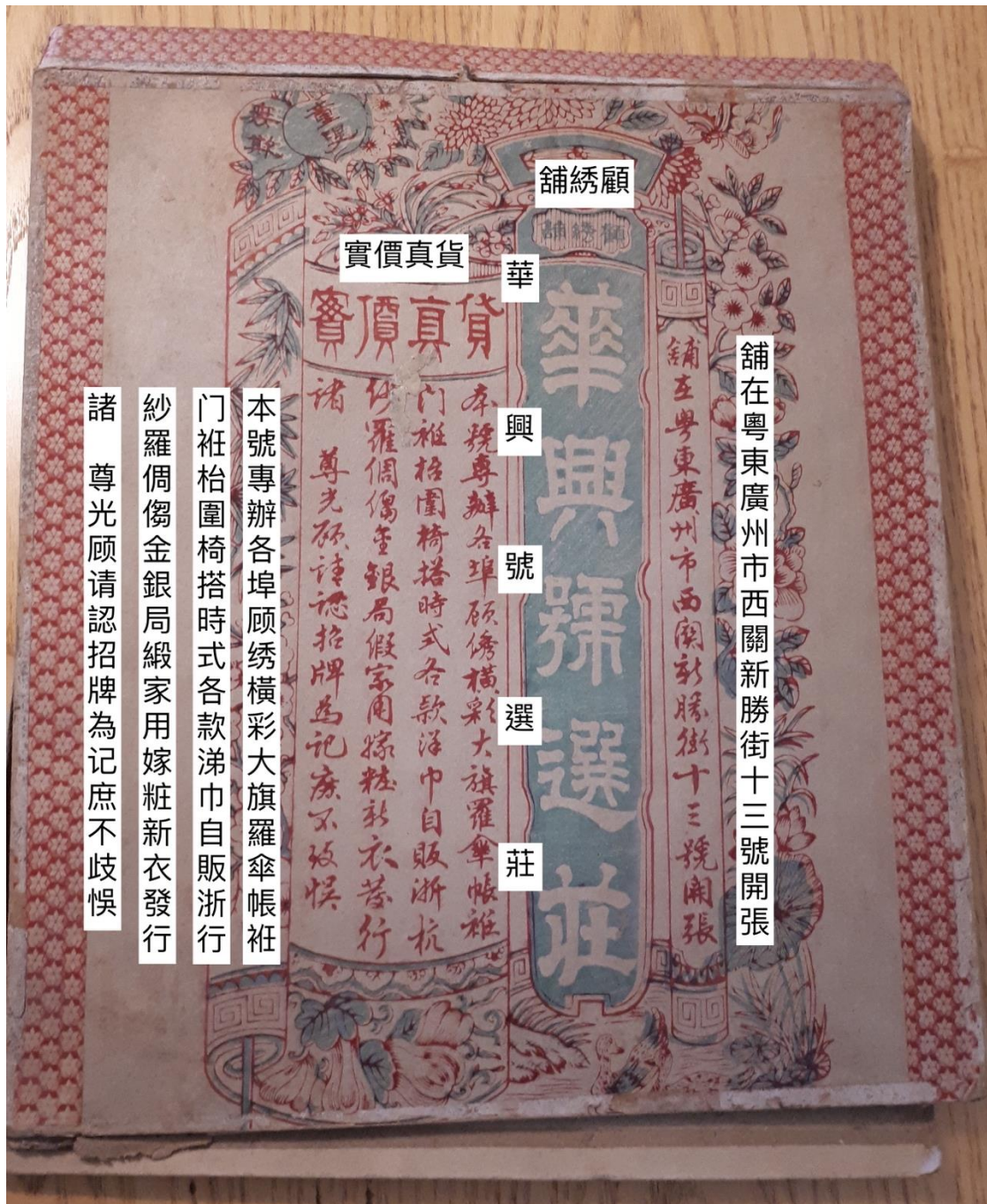


Over het altaarkleed dat nog in de verpakking zat:

1. Transcription¹



顧綉舖

A Gu Xiu (Gu embroidery) Shop

華興號選莊

Hua Xing Select Shop

¹ There are some characters that are used in 'simplified' forms or as variants, the commonly used ones in traditional forms have been indicated in brackets.

舖在粵東廣州市西關新勝街十三號開張

the shop is located at the No. 13, Xinsheng Street, Xiguan², Guangdong City, East Guangdong

貨真價實

genuine goods at fair prices

本號專辦各埠顧（顧）綉橫彩大旗羅傘帳裱

門（門）裱枱圍椅搭時式各款涕巾自販浙杭

紗羅個（綢）傷（縐）金銀局緞家用嫁妝新衣發³行

-> Punctuated:

本號專辦各埠顧綉：橫彩、大旗、羅傘、帳裱、門裱、枱圍、椅搭，時式各款涕巾自販浙杭紗羅個傷金銀局緞、家用、嫁妝、新衣發行

This select shop specialises in Gu embroidery from various regions, including fortune banners, banners (flags), processional umbrellas, bed curtains, door curtains, table aprons, chair covers and fashionable handkerchiefs.

The shop also sells leno and crepe from Hangzhou's gold, silver, and silk manufacturers, as well as the household, dowry, and clothing.

諸 尊光顧（顧）請（請）認招牌為記（記）庶不歧悞

In case of any misunderstanding, please recognise our trademark when patronising our shop.

² Xiguan (西關) is a prosperous historic commercial and residential area in Guangdong, where the famous and only neighbourhood allowed to trade with the West in the Qing Dynasty, the Thirteen Factories (十三行), was located.

³ It looks more like 「菱」 in the picture, and it is actually the traditional way to write 「發」 in the cursive script.

1. Altar cloth

This cloth was supposed to be on sale in the shop as a table apron (枱圍).

The three figures are the Star of Lu (祿星), the Star of Fu (福星) and the Star of Shou (壽星), from left to right, representing prosperity, happiness and longevity respectively. They have been identified as deities in Chinese folk religion and Taoism since the late Ming dynasty (between the 16th and 17th centuries) and are often seen as motifs in paintings, textiles, architectural decorations and figurines.

All three figures have a typical image through their appearance, clothing and the objects they carry. The star of Lu is always accompanied by an infant, indicating the prosperity of offspring. The star of Fu holds a *ruyi* (如意) or a gold ingot, representing good fortune. And the star of Shou is an old man with long white hair and beard, holding a peach of immortality (蟠桃) and a staff.

Placed in front of the altar, this cloth with its motif is a typical decoration designed for the altar.



Thanks to [Luo Xinwu](#) for the translation.

About Gu-embroidery:

<https://trc-leiden.nl/trc-needles/regional-traditions/east-asia/china/gu-embroidery>