

茶歌 Cha Ge

36. Song of Tea

Qingzhi Diao 清徵調 tuned as 1 2 4 5 6 1 2
(originally 1 2 4 6 5 1 2). Tonal centers 5 then 2.
Original tablature said raise 4th, lower 5th strings,
thus in effect reversing the 4th and 5th strings, but
it can be played just as well using standard tuning.
Melody is largely tetratonic: 1 2 5 6 1.

Melody: only in 理性元雅 *Lixing Yuanya* (1618)
Lyrics: 盧仝 Lu Tong, 走筆謝孟諫議寄新茶
Rapidly penning thanks to Imperial
Censor Meng for sending some new tea

1.

日 高 丈 五 睡 正 濃， 軍 將 打 門 驚 周 公。
Ri gao zhang wu shui zheng nong, jun jiang da men jing Zhou Gong.
As the sun rose five degrees I was sleeping very deeply, when / an envoy knocked / door on my jolting me from a dream.

9

口 傳 諫 議 送 書 信， 白 絹 斜 封 三 道 印。
Kou chuan shan yi song shu xin, bai juan xie feng san dao yin.
He said the imperial censor had sent a written letter, it was white silk with slanting across it three seals.

18 *rit.*

開 緘 宛 見 諫 議 面， 首 閱 月 團 三 百 片。
Kai jian wan jian shan yi mian, shou yue yue tuan san bai pian.
Breaking it open / was looking at it was as if I the imperial censor's appearance, personally / sent he had moon-round (tea) 300 bricks.