

China Scholar Blues

John Thompson

1.

① 筒 石 七 七 仄 五 句 伍 句 五 七 六 筒 七 达

5

外 筒 伍 四 三 句 三 四 七 外 七 句 四 七 达

9

仄 句 三 四 五 仄 句 仄 筒 四 五 伍 六 五 句 仄

13

筒 伍 伍 六 五 句 伍 句 五 达 外 句 伍 仄 五 句 伍 达

17

伍 伍 伍 七 七 筒 伍 伍 仄 五 筒 伍 伍 伍 四 筒 伍 达

21

伍 伍 伍 伍 石 四 伍 仄 石 句 伍 ②

26

I've got the Chi - na Scho - lar Blues, wor - ried a - bout my fu - ture.

苟 石 四 苟 为 廷 下 中 苟 苗 伍 勾 五 比 大 苟 初 廷

31

Learn this, for - get that, so it goes. What a life to choose, sir!

然 松 下 廷 下 上 廷 苟 然 廷 立 然 苟 四 然 廷

35

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing: names, pla - ces, dates me - mo - ri - zing.

中 然 廷 然 廷 六 然 廷 苟 然 苟 四 五 厄 六 五 苟 初 廷

39

Yi Jing, Dao De Jing, Shi Jing, A - na - lects, Art of War com - pre - hen - ding.

然 然 然 下 然 然 苟 勾 三 四 苟 下 然 然 苟

43

All this just to pass an exam where suc - cess means they're like - ly to send you

苟 尼 然 石 七 七 石 一 石 七 斤 五 勾 戾 廷 五 四 勾 戾

47

to some re - mote, aw - ful place with dull mat - ters to at - tend to.

然 廷 然 廷 苟 = 三 四 廷 六 五 廷 然 廷 然 廷 苟 苟

3.

52

I've got the Chi - na Scho - lar Blues, fol - low - ing the tra - di - tion of

苟石 比 勻 然 去 池 下 然 然 花 然 然 下 然 然 然 立 下

57

stu - dy - ing hard then try - ing for a lu - cra - tive po - si - tion.

中 苟 然 主 焉 然 上 上 然 然 然 然 中

61

Rich fami - lies don't let their daugh - ters wed hard up a - spi - ring scho - lars.

苟 然 中 苟 然 中 苟 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

65

Poor ones are more like - ly to, but they don't have the much need - ed dol - lars.

然 下 中 然 下 中 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

69

Bo - xie passed e - xams then sought out the pa - rents he'd had to a - ban - don,

苟 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

73

on - ly to find out that they had died in a lo - cal fa - mine.

然 下 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

78

I've got the Chi - na Scho - lar Blues, bet you don't hear that of - ten, but

苟 巧 苟 此 下 然 然 苟 苟 下 然 然 上 六 中 然 然 下 七

83

once start - ed down that slip - per - y path, its eas - y to fall in.

此 然 然 下 然 然 然 然 然 然 下 中 然 然 中 然 然 中

87

Qin, chess, books, paint - ing: arts they are, known as the scho - lars' four trea - sures.

苟 尺 远 苟 尺 果 苟 尺 三 二 苟 尺

91

Land - scapes, friends and ban - quets, too, you might think that they on - ly - had plea - sures. But

苟 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

95

Xi Kang, though a scho - lar and qin play - er known for po - e - tic ren - di - tions,

然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

99

was e - xe - cu - ted for ne - ver bow - ing to corrupt con - di - tions.

然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然 然

Coda

104 *slow and free*

I've got the Chi - na Scho - lar Blues, wor - ried a - bout my fu - ture.

色 七 四 五 七 七 六 五 四 七 六 五 七 六 五

or: 七

Notes:

Lyrics for additional verse (needs work):

I've got the China Scholar Blues,
as a young man it's constant work,
Women do not have a better deal,
No, if luck is not with them, then there
Yu Ji slit her throat thinking this was the
to help Xiang Yu fight the war, and

feeling the heavy pressure, for
no time for leisure.
being kept home can they cope more?
isn't so much they can hope for. So
only thing in her power
not fret so much about her.

Additional verse ending

Qu Yuan drowned himself when he thought his
All this is why I just want to

doctrines had no more power; and
hide in my ivory tower.

References:

Verse 1: Perhaps repeat this at end?

Verse 2: Shang, Zhou, etc: names of all the major dynasties, in order.

Yi Jing, Dao De Jing, etc.: names of classic literary works.

The path to success in ancient China was passing an imperial exam on classical studies.

Verse 3: Boxie is a character in the opera *Pipa Ji*.

Verse 4: Just before dying, Xi Kang (223-262) is said to have played the famous qin piece
Guangling San

Extras: Yu Ji's husband Xiang Yu was defeated by Liu Bang, founder of the Han dynasty.
(cf. *Chu Ge*)

Qu Yuan was a famous scholar official, commemorated by the Dragon Boat Festival
(cf. *Qu Quan Wen Du*, etc.)