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The Influence of Chinese Cinderella “Yeh – Shen” on the Evolving Images of Cinderella in the West

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Chinese Cinderella story “Yeh – Shen” was discovered and translated into English. In the 1980s, its recurrent popularity made it a household story. As the earliest complete Cinderella – type story ever recorded, “Yeh – Shen” provided legitimate support for Cinderella’s becoming of “the people’s princess”, a tendency toward a everyday girl image. Based on this argument, the Eurocentric fairy tale genealogy of “Basile – Perrault – Grimms – Disney” should be revised as “Perrault – Grimms – “Yeh – Shen” – Basile – Postmodern”. Along the new genealogical sequence, the Chinese influence in the evolution of Cinderella images will be revealed, and Angela Carter’s postmodern feminist rewriting of “Cinderella” will provide a convincing text testifying to such influence.