6. CHINESE HISTORY

CHINESE HISTORY I: BASIC CATEGORIES AND SOURCES

Materials on the study of Chinese history will be presented in six sections, as follows:

- CHINESE HISTORY I: BASIC CATEGORIES AND SOURCES
- CHINESE HISTORY II: BIOGRAPHY
- CHINESE HISTORY III: IMPERIAL ERA EPIGRAPHIC SOURCES
- CHINESE HISTORY IV: LATER COURT SOURCES
- CHINESE HISTORY V: LOCAL HISTORY
- CHINESE HISTORY VI: TECHNICAL AIDS
  - CALENDARICS
  - GEOGRAPHY
  - OFFICIAL TITLES
  - MISCELLANEOUS

Naturally, it must be understood that, in broad terms, all aspects of the study of traditional China are historical in nature, and that more narrowly historical materials and tools likewise pertain to all areas of premodern sinology.

Introduction

The writing of history in China evolved gradually from the offices of court astrologers and scribes, offices already evident in our earliest epigraphic sources: the oracle inscriptions. These inscriptions themselves, being the dated records of divinations connected with matters of state, may be considered the earliest historical records in China. With the Chou conquest in 1045 B.C., the primary source for historical information becomes bronze inscriptions, which relate historical events in the course of prose consecrating ritual vessels. A number of texts exist which implicitly lay claim to being the earliest histories in China. These include the Shang shu 尚書, or Book of Documents, which includes texts purporting to date from the time of the Emperor Yao, the Chu-shu chi-nien 竹書紀年, an annals whose coverage stretches from the time of the Yellow Emperor to the Warring States period, the Yi Chou-shu 逸周書, which records events of the early Chou, and the Spring and Autumn Annals, the court records of the state of Lu, between 722 and 481 B.C. Substantial portions of all but the last of these are probably the products of much later eras, but it seems certain that they also include some of the oldest preserved texts in China. (The most accessible guide to matters of dating and authorship of all pre-Ch’in texts is: Michael Loewe, ed., Early Chinese Texts: A Bibliographical Guide (Berkeley: The Society for the Study of Early China, 1993) [Z 1035.8 .C5 E2 1993].)

During the Chou period, only one work emerged which could be properly termed a “history,” and that was the “Tso Commentary to the Spring and Autumn Annals.” While late Ch’ing New Text writers claimed that the Tso was a mid-Han forgery, modern scholarship tends to date the text to the hundred years surrounding 400 B.C., and to suggest the likelihood of more...
than one author. The Tso, along with two other important Chou texts, the Kuo-yü 国語 and the Chan-kuo ts’e 戰國策 (whose historical value is far inferior to the Tso’s, and which was probably compiled for non-historiographic motives), formed the most important sources for the first fully “self-conscious” work of history in China: the Shih-chi 史記 of Ssu-ma Ch’ien 司馬遷. To one degree or another, the impact of Ssu-ma Ch’ien’s achievement influenced nearly all further aspects of historical writing. The Shih-chi, though a private project of its author and in many ways a subversive text, became the first of a series of Imperially sanctioned “dynastic histories” whose authority was such that their contents became, for many literati and for early Western sinologists, the actual history of China itself.

Chinese historical sources comprise the largest body of original sources for any tradition in the world, but even when the dynastic histories are supplemented by other genres of history writing, they fall far short of providing us with a “history of China.” It is a truism of historiography that no set of historical sources can be fully adequate; no sources could even approach a full inventory of the countless “facts” of a single instant in the existence of the smallest village or town. Historians must select a mere handful of facts, and hope that their criteria of selectivity are crafted well enough to insure that their histories reflect the era they are studying at least as much as the era in which they themselves live. The radical difference between life and history is evident in the omission in all historical traditions, of detailed information on the lives of peasant classes, which comprised by far the greater part of the human community.

Chinese histories were, in many respects, unusually divorced from the facts on which they were putatively based. This is because historical writing was conceived less as an accurate record of the “facts” of the past, than as an assemblage from those facts of the “lessons” for the future. History was a method of confirming values, rather than of preserving facts. The values were those of the slowly evolving Confucian tradition. Historians were typically Confucian officials (the word “shih originally denoted the office of court recorder, rather than the records themselves), and reliable history was considered government history; private historiography, although it flourished in China, was always viewed with some suspicion. The primary topics of history were, as a result, matters of government, and official ideology provided the criteria of selectivity so crucial to the nature of the works themselves. While individual histories frequently do spend some time exploring unorthodox elements of society, in general, aspects of society which did not conform to establishment priorities were radically underrepresented. Histories are poor sources for the study of non-Confucian religious establishments, anti-establishment political movements, and so forth. Even negative material is sparse.

Nevertheless, as cultural documents, the various histories of China are unsurpassed. Historiography was one of the important enterprises of Confucian scholarship, and as Confucianism provided for many centuries the interpretive framework of the cultural elite, the histories give us an extraordinarily elaborate roadmap of the Confucian mind. Thus they are primary sources for all other manifestations of Confucian culture: literature, philosophy, art, elite material culture, and of course, politics and social administration.
I. General Introductory Works on Traditional Historiography

Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Historical Writing


This conference volume remains an excellent introduction to the nature of historiography in an East Asian context. Although these essays represent the understanding and approaches of an earlier generation of sinologists, their ideas represent the foundation of the current field, and can be read with great benefit. The essays relating to China are listed below:

A.F.P. Hulsewe, “Notes on the Historiography of the Han Period,” 31-43
L.S. Yang, “The Organization of Chinese Historiography: Principles and Methods of the Standard Histories from the T’ang through the Ming Dynasty,” 44-59
W. Franke, “The Veritable Records of the Ming Dynasty,” 60-77
D.C. Twitchett, “Chinese Biographical Writing,” 95-114
E.G. Pulleyblank, “Chinese Historical Criticism: Liu Chih-ch’i and Ssu-ma Kuang,” 135-66
P. Demieville, “Chang Hsueh-ch’eng and his Historiography,” 167-85
J. Gray, “Historical Writing in Twentieth Century China: Notes on Its Background and Development,” 186-212
Chang Shun-hui 張舜徽, Chung-kuo li-shih yao-chi chieh-shao 中國歷史要籍介紹 (Wuhan: 1956)

Written in easy pai-hua as a primer for college students

Chin Yü-fu 金毓黻, Chung-kuo shih-hsueh shih 中國史學史 (Shanghai: 1944; rpt. 1957, 1966; Hong Kong: 1964; Taipei: 1968 -- name of author changed to Chin Ching-an 金靜庵)

Detailed; a standard survey account.

Wolfgang Franke, An Introduction to the Sources of Ming History (Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press, 1968)

Franke’s handbook includes extremely valuable introductions to various aspects of the field of Ming historiography, in addition to a well organized and detailed annotated bibliography to major sources and reference works. The value of Franke’s book is by no means limited to Ming studies (nor to historians). Reading Franke’s introductory sections will provide you with clear and engaging discussion of the manner in which history is conceptualized and pursued, and in this regard his book functions in ways similar to the Gardiner and Leslie volumes listed below.


C.S. Gardiner, Chinese Traditional Historiography (Cambridge, Mass.: 1938; 1961, with additions & corrections by L.S. Yang)


This outstanding set of essays is, to date, the best single vehicle for an overview of available source materials for various eras, despite the fact that it is nearing a quarter century since its essays were composed. Its table of contents is reproduced here:

Li Chi, “Archaeological Studies in China,” 9-14
Timoteus Pokora, “Pre-Han Literature,” 23-35
Michael Loewe, “Wooden Documents,” 36-41
Rafe DeCrespigny, “Universal Histories,” 64-70
D. Leslie, “Local Gazeteers,” 71-74
C. Mackerras, “Unofficial Regional Records,” 75-82
D. Bodde, “Legal Sources,” 99-103
Liu Ts’un-yen, “The Compilation and Historical Value of the Tao-tsang,” 104-119
Fujieda Akira, “The Tun-huang Manuscripts,” 120-128
Josef Kolmas, “Tibetan Sources,” 129-140
Joseph Fletcher, “Manchu Sources,” 141-146
D. Leslie, “Arabic Sources, “ 147-153
Otto B. Van der Sprenkel, “Western Sources,” 154-175
Paul A. Rule, “Jesuit Sources,” 176-187
C. Kirilloff, “Russian Sources,” 188-202
Lo Hui-min, “Some Notes on Archives on Modern China,” 203-220
J. Fass, “Chinese Newspapers,” 221-228
S. Fitzgerald, “Sources on Kuomintang and Republican China,” 229-240
S. Fitzgerald, “Sources on the Chinese People’s Republic,” 251-265
Png Poh-seng, “Sources on the Overseas Chinese,” 266-277
J. Chesneaux, “Lexicology as a Primary Source Material for the History of Modern China,” 278-286

Jaroslav Průšek, “History and Epics in China and the West.” In his Chinese History and Literature (Prague: 1970) 17-34

General insights into traditional sinological approaches by the doyen of the once influential Czech school of sinology.


### Issues of Textual Criticism


This is a standard work that considers issues of authenticity for about 500 texts, including Buddhist & Taoist texts. While Chang’s work is an excellent starting point, is has now become somewhat dated as work in this area has moved forward. It may be supplemented with the next item.

This is an edited collection of various articles and comments concerning issues of authenticity for a wide variety of texts. It includes helpful indexes in vol. 3.


This is an accessible introductory survey of issues concerning the study of the authorship, editorial history, annotation, and interpretation of ancient texts, including historical texts. It is representative of a subgenre of specialized books of this nature. The following work is another example.

Chiang Yuan-ch’ing 蔣元卿, *Chiao-ch’ou-hsueh shih* 校讎學史 Ho-fei, Anhuei: Huang-shan shu-she, 1985

Wang Shu-min 王叔岷, *Chiao-ch’ou hsueh* 校讎學 (Taipei: 1959)


This very brief study deals with the oldest sustained text of narrative history, and can serve as an excellent model of one style of text criticism.


Roth treats non-historical texts of the ancient period exclusively, but many of the methods of textual criticism that he analyzes can be applied to the interpretation of historical texts as well.

II. Categories and terms for historical studies (a brief lexicon)

1. Categories of history in the *Ssu-k’u ch’üan-shu tsung-mu t’i-yao* 四庫全書總目題要

   (This Ch’ing era bibliography, which we will later discuss in detail, gives the most complete traditional overview of the Chinese historical corpus.)

   *cheng-shih* 正史 (standard histories); these are discussed in detail below

   *pien-nien* 編年 ([non-standard] annals); many in style of *cheng-shih*;

   earliest work in category: *Chu-shu chi-nien*; the *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* 資治通鑑 is the most famous of these

**chi-shih pen-mo** 紀事本末 (topical chronologies); earliest example a Sung rearrangement of materials from “T’ung-chien”

**pieh-shih** 別史 (non-standard histories); term originated in Sung; various formats, broad in scope

**tsa-shih** 雜史 (miscellaneous histories); narrow in scope: military histories, clan histories, topical histories, etc.

**chao-ling tsou-yi** 詔令奏議 (edicts and memorials)

**chuan-chi** 傳記 (biographical writings)

**shih-ch’ao** 史鈔 (redactions); includes synopses and editions of edited selections; few works in this category

**tsai-chi** 載記 (unsanctioned historical records); includes records of “states” not recognizing Imperial authority, such as foreign lands and “usurped” regions

**shih-ling** 時令 (seasonal regulations); compendia of Imperial regulations subject to calendrical arrangement; few works

**ti-li** 地理 (geographies)

**chih-kuan** 職官 (records of the bureaucracy)

**cheng-shu** 政書 (administrative histories); this category includes texts known as “hui-yao 會要,” which are institutional histories; the “Shih-t’ung 十通,” which we will explore later under “Encyclopaedias,” are major works in this category

**mu-lu** 目錄 (bibliographies)

**shih-p’ing** 史評 (historical criticism); Liu Chih-chi’s 劉知幾 Shih-t’ung 史通 is the earliest example

2. Terms relating to Standard Histories (cheng-shih 正史)

Terms referring to the corpus:

Ch’ien ssu shih 前四史: refers to the Shih-chi, Han shu, Hou Han shu, and San-kuo chih

Shih-ch’i shih 十七史: refers to the 17 histories considered “cheng-shih” when term was coined in the Sung

Nien-erh shih 廿二史: all recognized cheng-shih, excluding Chiu T’ang shih, Chiu wu-tai shih, and Hsin Yuan shih

Nien-ssu shih 廿四史: excludes the Hsin Yuan shih

Nien-wu shih 廿五史: only Ch’ing shih kao and Ch’ing shih not included.

Standard sections of cheng-shih [see table next page for list]
pen-chi 本紀 (Imperial annals)
piao 表 (tables) -- these do not appear in all cheng-shih
shu 書 (monographs -- the term is used only in the Shih-chi)
chih 志 (monographs) -- in most cheng-shih
  ching-chi chih 經籍志 (dynastic bibliographies)
yi-wen chih 藝文志 (dynastic bibliographies, same meaning as last)
shih-huo chih 食貨志 (financial administration)
hsing-fa chih 刑法志 (legal codes)
chih-kuan chih 職官志 (official posts)
hsuan-chü chih 選舉志 (examination system)
ping chih 兵志 (army and garrisons)
ti-li chih 地理志 (administrative geography)

shih-chia 世家 (annals of aristocratic houses--Shih-chi only)
lieh-chuan 列傳 (biographies)

3. Terms concerning other Imperial historical sources

ch’i-chü chu 起居註 (diaries of activity and repose [discussed in “Later Court Sources”])
shih-cheng chi 時政記 (records of current government)
jih-li 日歷 (daily chronicles: edited from first two)
shih-lu 實錄 (veritable records [discussed in “Later Court Sources”])
Tung-hua lu 東華錄 (records from the Eastern Gate [discussed in “Later Court Sources”])
kuo-shih 國史 (contemporary national histories)
hui-yao 會要 (collected administrative documents)
hui-tien 會典 (collected administrative statutes)
ching-shih-wen 經世文 (writings on statecraft; collected memorials)
tang-an 檔案 (archival court documents)

4. Genealogical sources

tsung/chia/shih-p’u 宗/家/氏譜 (geneologies)
chia-hsun 家訓 or chia yueh 家約 (family instructions)

5. Other terms

chiao-k’an 校勘 (textual criticism)
chiao-ch’ou 校錄 (redaction analysis)
chin-shih wen 金石文 (epigraphy)
chia-ku wen 甲骨文 (oracle inscriptions)

- **chin-wen** 金文  (bronze inscriptions)
- **shih-k'ō wen** 石刻文  (stone inscriptions)
- **han-chien** 漢簡  (documents on wooden slips)
- **ling** 令  (administrative & penal laws; statutes)
- **lü** 律  (penal codes)
- **ti-fang chih** 地方志  (local gazetteers [discussed further in the “Local History” section])

[See also the Biography section for further terms.]

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**Monographs in the Standard Histories**

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*Table indicating which monograph types occur in each cheng-shih.*  
(correlate numbers with letters above; 26a is Ch'ing shih)  
[from Wilkinson 1973, p. 87]

For a useful and interesting collection of historical vocabulary, see:

Hu Ying-yuan 胡應元 (David Y. Hu), *Chung-kuo shih-hsueh tz'u-hui* 中國史學辭彙  
Over 11,000 items are explained and discussed in English prose. Terms are listed alphabetically by Wade-Giles transcription, with an index of additional terms that are mentioned in the discussions but not separately listed (vol. 2, pp. 3209f). Chinese characters for sources cited are included (a bibliography appears in vol. 2).

III. Standard Histories (cheng-shih 政史)

1. Complete Editions

A. Published Editions


   This edition was popular during the 1930s, and as a result, the Harvard-Yenching concordance series is keyed to it.


   The title, “hundred patches,” refers to the fact that the various histories were photocopied from the best available Sung and Yuan editions for each; the series was produced as a supplement to the huge Ssu-pu ts’ung-k’an 四部叢刊 ts’ung-shu series.


   This edition is undermined by its extremely small print; however, it includes valuable appendices on available editions. The Erh-shih-wu shih jen-ming so-yin 二十五史人名索引 (discussed in the Biography section) is keyed to this edition.


   Same as “c.,” but lacking the appendices on editions.

e. Chung-hua shu-chü 中華書局 (Beijing)

   [Shelved individually according to the LC call number of the dynastic period covered, the IU Library has two complete sets of this edition, shelved in the O.C. and O.R. sections, ranging from DS 748 to DS 754]
This is not strictly speaking a complete edition, but rather separate editions of each of the histories. The Chung-hua editions are clearly printed, reliable, and include standard commentaries in the form of numbered notes. These editions are now the standard for the field, and all scholarly citations to the cheng-shih should include citations keyed to them.

For additional editions, see Wilkinson 2000, pp. 507-8.

B. Online Editions


The 漢籍全文資料庫 link from the site homepage will lead to a tree of the “four treasuries” (ssu-k’u 四庫: ching 經 [classics], shih 史 [history], tzu 子 [thought], chi 集 [literature]). The hyperlink branches under shih are cheng-shih 正史 and cheng-shu 政書 [administrative texts]. The former of these two leads to full searchable texts for all twenty-five standard histories, plus the Ch’ing-shih kao 清史稿. The base text is the Chung-hua edition, with paragraph and page number breaks indicated, and traditional included commentary available through hyperlinks.

b. Wei-chi pai-tu 維基百度 (Wikipedia) (http://zh.wikisource.org/zh/%E4%BA%8C%E5%8D%81%E5%9B%9B%E5%8F%B2)

Most of the histories are now available as digital text, searchable within individual chuan, on the Chinese version of Wikipedia.

c. CHANT (www.chant.org, by subscription, access through IU Libraries)

The CHANT database, discussed in earlier readings, includes searchable full text of the following histories: Shih-chi, Han shu, Hou-Han shu, San-kuo chih, Sung shu, Nan-Ch’i shu, and Wei shu.

This is by no means a complete listing – many online sites include searchable texts of the histories, and such will only proliferate in the future.

Particular sections from all the histories are sometimes excerpted and published together – e.g., the monographs on a given subject from each History. In addition, the “lun-tsan” 論贊 (Comments) which were placed at the end of each section and which expressed the personal views of the compilers have been published together: Sung Hsi 宋晞, Cheng-shih lun-tsan 正史論贊, 4 vols. (Taipei: 1954-60) [O.C. DS 734.7 .S95] The various sections on foreign peoples for the first fifteen histories have been collected in Chien Po-tsai 翁伯賢, ed., Li-tai ko-tsu chuan-chi hui-pien 歷代各族傳記會編 (Peking: 1958-59).
2. Corrections, Supplements, Comprehensive Reference Tools and Studies

A very large number of corrections and supplements to the Standard Histories were produced by traditional scholars. A large number of these pertaining to the Monograph and Tables sections of the histories were collected in the massive:


This has been continued in the broader based collection, including post-Ch’ing scholarship:


In addition, the following studies by prominent Ch’ing scholars may be consulted (see Wilkinson 2000, 509 for detailed comments):

Ch’ien Ta-hsin 錢大昕 (1728-1804), *Nien-erh shih k’ao-yi* 廿二史考異 (1782; Shanghai: 1959, 2v.)

Wang Ming-sheng 王鳴盛 (1722-1798), *Shih-ch’i shih shang-ch’ueh* 十七史商榷 (1787; Shanghai: 1958, 2v.)

Chao Yi 趙翼 (1727-1814), *Nien-erh shih cha-chi* 廿二史劄記 (1799; Shanghai: 1958)

[These three works have been indexed in *Chūgoku zuihitsu sakuin* 中國隨筆索引 and *Chūgoku zuihitsu zatsusho sakuin* 中國隨筆雜著索引, compiled by Saeki Tomi 佐伯富 (Kyoto: 1954, 1960), the latter is not in the IU collection.]


-- This impressive new publication is divided into three parts, dealing with events, institutions, and people. Each is preceded by a full table of contents. However, the IU Library has not yet received volume 4, that includes the comprehensive index (along with various tables and charts), and until that volume comes in, this dictionary will not be accessible for research purposes. There is a lengthy introduction by Ch’ü Lin-tung 瞿林東 that includes substantive overviews of each history as well as discussions of commentaries and supplements.
3. Modern Studies of the Standard Histories as a Whole


[see also Yang’s essay in *Historians of China & Japan*]

4. Studies and Research Aids for Individual Standard Histories

The Chung-hua shu-chü has published name indexes keyed to each of its editions of the histories. These may be located on the O.R. shelves, next to or near to the relevant history.

*The First Four Histories (Ch’ien ssu-shih 前四史)*

A. *Shih-chi 史記*, Ssu-ma T’an 司馬談 (180-110? B.C.) & Ssu-ma Ch’ien 司馬遷 (145-86? B.C.) [covering earliest times to 99 B.C.]

☞ Consult Wilkinson 2000, pp. 781-84.

*Translations*


Chavannes’ deeply annotated translation of *chüan* 1-47 of the *Shih-chi* was a major publishing event in the history of French sinology, the gold standard of the 19th century. The appendix sixth volume, by Chavannes’ eventual successor, Demiéville, covers *chuan* 48-52.


Watson’s elegantly literary, but generally unannotated translations, include *chuan* 5-12, 15, 17-20, 28-30, 48-59, 68, 71-73, 79, 84-104, 106-127, 129.

This projected 9 volume translation will be the first complete and scholarly translation of the Shih-chi into English and Chavannes’ scholarly translation in French. To date, volumes 1, 2, 5 (pt. 1), and 7 have appeared.

**Studies**


Chin Chien-te 金建德, *Ssu-ma Ch’ien yin shu k’ao 司馬遷引書考* (Shanghai: 1963)


There are countless other studies in many languages. For a now dated bibliography of Chinese sources, see: *Shih-chi yen-chiu te tzu-tiao ho lun-wen so-yin 史記研究的資料和論文索引* (Peking: 1957) [O.C. Z 3108 .A3 C55]

**Text Critical Editions**


This is supplemented by, Mizusawa Toshitada 水澤利忠, *Shiki kaichū kōshō kōho 史記會註考證校補*, 8 vols. [O.C. DS 748 .S7 T2 Suppl.]


This text critical edition only includes base text for which the editor included a clarifying comment.


**Indexes and Dictionaries**

Translations

There is no complete translation of the Han shu in English. Of the following partial translations, the first two have long been basic scholarly resources:


Dubs provides a fully annotated translation of the “Basic Annals” (pen-chi 本紀) sections of the text, chiuan 1-12. He also translates ch. 99, which is the biography of Wang Mang 王莽.


Text Critical Edition

Indexes and Dictionaries

Han shu jen-ming so-yin 漢書人名索引 (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1979)

Han shu ti-ming so-yin 漢書地名索引 (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1990)

Han shu tz ‘u-tien 漢書辭典, Ts’ang Hsiu-liang 倉修良, ed. (Chi-nan: Shan-tung chiao-yü ch’u-pan-she, 1996) [O.C. DS 748 .P38 H38 1996]

C. Hou-Han shu 後漢書, Fan Yeh 范曄 (398-445) [covering 25-220 A.D.]


Text Critical Edition


Studies

Tai Fan-yü 戴蕃豫, Fan Yeh chi ch’i Hou-Han shu 范曄及其後漢書 (Changsha: 1941)


Indexes and Dictionaries

Hou-Han shu chi chu-shih tsung-ho yin-te 後漢書及注釋綜合引得 (Harvard-Yenching Index 41)

Hou-Han shu so-yin 後漢書索引, comp. Huang Fu-luan 黃福鑾 (Hong Kong: Hsien-tai chiao-yü yen-chiu-she, 1971)


D. San-kuo chih 三國志, Ch’en Shou 陳壽 (233-297) [covers: Wei, 221- 265; Shu, 221-264; Wu, 222-280]
Text Critical Editions

San-kuo chih chi P’ei chu tsung-ho yin-te 三國志及裴注綜合引得 (Harvard-Yenching Index 33)

This is an index to names, official titles, and other key terms in both the history and its standard commentary, by P’ei Yin 裴駰.

San-kuo chih chiao-chien 三國志校箋, Chao Yu-wen 趙幼文, 2 vols. (Ch’eng-tu: Pa-Shu shu-she, 2001) [O.C. DS 748.2 .C424 Z53 2001]

Studies

Rafe de Crespigny, The Records of the Three Kingdoms: A Study in the Historiography of the San Kuo Chih (Canberra: Australian National University, 1970)

Indexes and Dictionaries

San-kuo chih yin-te 三國志引得, Huang Fu-luan 黃福鑾, ed. (Hong Kong: Hsien-tai chiao-yü yen-chiu-she, 1973)

San-kuo chih ti-ming so-yin 三國志地名索引 (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1980)


The Eleven Histories covering the years 265-618

E. Chin shu 晉書, Fang Hsuan-ling 房玄齡 (578-648), et al. [covering 265-419]

F. Sung shu 宋書, Shen Yueh 沈約 (441-513) [covering 420-479]

G. Nan-Ch’i shu 南齊書, Hsiao Tzu-hsien 蕭子顯 (489-537) [covering 479-502]

H. Liang shu 梁書, Yao Ch’a 姚察 (533-606) and Yao Ssu-lien 姚思廉 (d.637) [covering 502-556]

I. Ch’en shu 陳書, Yao-ch’a and Yao Ssu-lien [covering 557-589]

J. Wei shu 魏書, Wei Shou 魏收 (506-572) [covering 386-550]
K. *Pei-Ch'i shu* 北齊書, Li Te-lin 李德林 (530-590) and Li Pai-yao 李百藥 (565-648) [covering 550-577]

L. *Chou shu* 周書, Ling-hu Te-fen 令狐德棻 (583-661) [covering 557-581]

M. *Sui shu* 隋書, Wei Cheng 魏徵 (580-643), et al. [covering 581-617]

N. *Nan-shih* 南史, Li Yen-shou 李延壽 (c.629) [covering 420-589]

O. *Pei-shih* 北史, Li Yen-shou [covering 368-618]

☞ Consult Wilkinson 2000, pp. 809-12, 819.

**Studies**

Jan Chao-te 冉昭德, “Kuan-yü Chin-shu te chuan-shu yü T‘ang hsiu Chin-shu chuan-jen wen-t‘i” 關于晉書的撰述像唐修晉書撰人問題, *Hsi-pei ta-hsueh hsueh-pao (jen-wen k‘o-hsueh)* 西北大學學報 (人文科學) 4 (1957), 71-78

Li Cheng-fen 李正奮, “Wei-shu yuan-liu k‘ao” 魏書源流考, *Kuo-hsueh chi-k‘an* 國學季刊 2.2 (1929), 363-81

Li Chü-t‘ien 李菊田, “Sung-shu tsuan-hsiu shih-mo k‘ao” 宋書纂修始末考, *Shuo-wen yueh-k‘an* 說文月刊 3.8 (1942), 76-88

**Text Critical Editions**


**Indexes and Dictionaries**

*Nan-ch‘ao wu-shih jen-min so-yin* 南朝五史人名索引 (Peking: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1985) [O.R. DS 748.5 .C47 1985]

This index covers items F, G, H, I, N above.

This index covers items J, K, L, O above.

*Sui shu jen-ming so-yin* 隋書人名索引 (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1979) [O.R. DS749.2.W442 T46 1979]


This dictionary covers items J, K, L, M, O above.

**The Later Histories**

**P. Chiu T’ang shu** 舊唐書, Liu Hsu 劉昫 (887-946) et al. [covering 618-906]

**Q. Hsin T’ang shu** 新唐書, Ou-yang Hsiu 歐陽修 (1007-1072), Sung Ch’i 宋祁 (998-1061), et al. [covers 618-906]

**Studies**


Lo Hsiang-lin 羅香林, “*T’ang-shu yuan-liu k’ao*” 唐書源流考, *Kuo-li Chung-shan ta-hsueh wen-shih-hsueh yen-chiu yuan yueh-k’an* 國立中山大學文史學研究院月刊 2.5 (1934), 53-114

**Indexes**

*Hsin-Chiu T’ang shu jen-ming so-yin* 新舊唐書人名索引 (Shanghai: Shang-hai ku-chi ch’u-pan-she, 1986) [DS749.3 .O823 C48 1986]

*Hsin T’ang shu tsai-hsiang shih-hsi-piao yin-te* 新唐書宰相世繫表引得 (Harvard-Tenching Index 16)

**R. Chiu Wu-tai shih** 舊五代史, Hsueh Chü-cheng 薛居正 (912-981) [covering 907-960]

**S. Hsin Wu-tai shih** 新五代史, Ou-yang Hsiu [covering 907-960]
Translation


Studies


Dictionary


**T. Sung shih** 宋史, T’o-t’o 托托 (1313-1355), et al. [covering 960-1279]


Index


**U. Liao shih** 營史, T’o-t’o, et al. [covering 916-1125]

☞ Consult Wilkinson 2000, pp. 863-64.

Studies

Yang Chia-lo 楊家駱, ed., *Liao-shih hui-pien* 遼史彙編, 10 vols. (Taipei: 1973) [Includes collated editions, reprinting of studies and indexes, bibliography]

**V. Chin shih** 金史, T’o-t’o, et al. [covering 1115-1234]

Studies


Shih Kuo-ch’i 施國祁, *Chin-shih hsiang-chiao* 金史詳校 (1920)

Shih Kuo-ch’i, *Chin-yuan cha-chi* 金源簡記 (1880)
Indexes


Kinshi goi shūsei 金史語彙集成, 3 vols. (Kyoto: 1960-63) [ALF DS 751 .T71 O5]

W. Yuan shih 元史, Sung Lien 宋濂 (1310-1381), et al. [covering 1206-1368]

Studies


Li Ssu-ch’un 李思純, Yuan-shih hsueh 元失學 (Shanghai: 1936)

indexes

Yuan-shih jen-ming so-yin 元史人名索引 [O.C. DS 752 .S853 Y36 1982]

Genshi goi shūsei 元史語彙集成, 3 vols. (Kyoto: 1961-63) [O.J. DS 752 .S85 K8]

X. Hsin Yuan shih 新元史, K’o Shao-min 柯劭忞 (1850-1933) [covering 1206-1307]

Y. Ming shih 明史, Chang T’ing-yü 張廷玉 (1672-1755), et al. [covering 1368-1644]

Studies


Pao Tsun-p’eng 包遵彭, ed., Ming-shih pien-tsuan k’ao 明史編纂考, Ming-shih lun-ts’ung 明 史論叢 1 (Taipei: 1968)

Translation

A project to assemble contributed online translations of sections of the Ming shih is being sponsored by the Society for Ming Studies, and coordinated by Sarah
Schneewind (at UC- San Diego, which is hosting the site). The URL is http://chinesestudies.ucsd.edu/mingstudies/index.htm.

Index

*Ming-shih jen-ming so-yin* 明史人名索引 (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1985) [DS 753 .M572 L55 1985]

*Ch’ing Histories*

**Z. Ch’ing-shih-kao** 清史稿, Chao Erh-hsun 趙爾巽 (1844-1927), et al., and *Ch’ing shih* 清史, completed in 1962 in Taiwan [covering 1644-1911]

☞ Consult Wilkinson 2000, pp. 943-44.

*Studies*


*Text Critical Edition*


Note: An index to person and place names appears in vol. 16.

Index

*Ch’ing-shih-kao chi piao chuan jen-ming so-yin* 清史稿紀表傳人名索引, 2 vols. (Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 1996)

*Addendum for Ch’ing historical studies*

The following item appears to be a useful tool for gaining an overview of some areas of Ch’ing history and culture.


A 1200-page one-volume dictionary covers persons, texts, intellectual schools, technical terms, etc., in the area of Ch’ing period political, social, and intellectual history. There are over 4600 entries, arranged according to pinyin transcription.
Because of the difficulty of sorting through sources on the late Ming and Ch’ing periods, the abundance of which may constrain research as much as enable it, the following collection of disparate materials may be useful:

*Ming-Ch’ing shih-liao hui-bian* 明清史料匯編, 83 vols. (Taipei: Wen-hai ch’u-pan-she, 1967-84) [O.C. DS 753 .S546]

**IV. Other Annalistic Sources**

**A. The Tzu-chih t’ung-chien**

*Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* 資治通鑑, by Ssu-ma Kuang 司馬光, et al.; presented in 1084 [DS 745 .C54; see below for editions]

The *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* chronicles the history of China from the end of the fifth century B.C. to the tenth century A.D. Written by a famous scholar and an influential Prime Minister (the principal opponent to Wang An-shih), the *T’ung-chien* was one of the most celebrated and widely read texts in China, and became standard fare for exam candidates. The *T’ung-chien* was perhaps most read in the form of a synopsis, *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien kang-mu* 資治通鑑綱目, which was composed by the great Sung neo-Confucian, Chu His 朱熹 (on which see two articles by Ch’ien Mu 錢穆: “Ssu-ma Kuang Tzu-chih t’ung-chien” and “Chu-tzu T’ung-chien kang-mu yü Yuan Shu T’ung-chien chi-shih pen-mo” 朱子通鑑綱目與袁樞通鑑紀事本末, in Wen-yi fu-hsing 文藝復興 26 (2/1972), 1-4; 27 (3/1972), 9-13, and also Ch’ien’s *Chu-tzu hsin hsueh-an* 朱子新學案, Vol. 5 (Taipei: 1971), 120-150 [see below for information on Yuan Shu’s reorganization of the *T’ung-chien*]. The IU Library has what appears to be a wonderful Ming edition of the “gang-mu” (the preface is dated 1473).

*Translations*

Portions of the *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* have been translated into English, by Rafe de Crespigny, *The Last of the Han, Being the Chronicle of the Years 181-220 A.D. as Recorded in Chapters 58-68 of the Tzu-chih t’ung-chien of Ssu-ma Kuang* (Canberra: 1969), and by Achilles Fang, *The Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* (220-265), *Chapters 69 to 78 from Tzu-chih t’ung-chien of Ssu-ma Kuang, Translated with Notes* (Cambridge, Mass.: 1952, 1965, 2v.).

*Studies*


*Editions*

The most convenient edition of the *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* is the punctuated edition prepared by Wang Ch’ung-wu 王崇武, Nieh Ch’ung-ch’i 聶崇岐, and Ku Chieh-kang 顧
頡剛, with commentary by Hu San-hsing 胡三省, notes on disputed points (k’ao-yi) by Ssu-ma Kuang himself, and text criticism by Chang Yü 章鈺 (Peking: Ku-chi ch’u-pan-she, 1956, 10 v. [O.C./O.R. 745 .C54]; Taipei: Shih-chieh shu-chü, 1974, 16 v.)

**Index**

Saeki Tomi 左伯富, *Shiji tsugan sakuin* 資治通鑑索引 (Kyoto: 1961) [O.R. DS 745 .S77 Index]. There is also an index to the place names in Hu San-hsing’s notes: *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien Hu-chu ti-ming so-yin* 資治通鑑胡註地名索引 (Kyoto: 1967).

**Continuations**

Several continuations of the *T’ung-chien* were written to bring it up to date. Li T’ao 李燾 (1114-1183) compiled the *Hsu Tzu-chih t’ung-chien ch’ang-pien* 續資治通鑑長編 [O.C. DS 751 .L516425], which covered the period of the Northern Sung in great detail, and Li Hsin-chuan 李心傳 (1146-1263) added the 36 years of Sung Kao-tung’s reign in his *Chien-yen yi-lai hsi-nien yao-yu* 建炎以來繫年要錄 [O.C. DS 751 .L662] (on these see Fang Chuang-yu 方壯猷, “Nan-Sung pien-nien shih-chia er-Li nien-p’u” 南宋編年史家二李年譜, in *Shuo-wen yueh-k’an* 說文月刊 4 [1944/5], 465-92). The most ambitious continuation, however, was undertaken under the supervision of the great Ch‘ing scholar Pi Yuan 畢沅 (1730-1797); the resulting *Hsu Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* (Peking: Ku-chi ch’u-pan-she, 1957) [O.R. DS 751 .P57] covers the years 960-1370, and supersedes the previous continuations.

**B. Topically Rearranged Historical Annals (chi-shih pen-mo 紀事本末)**

Up to the Sung, the two main forms of historical writing were Annals (*pien-nien t’i* 編年體) and Annals-Biographies (*chi-chuan t’i* 紀傳體), as in the Standard Histories. The disadvantage of these two forms was that the reader had either to search through many different entries in the rigid chronological frame of the Annals or to bring together information often scattered in the different parts of the composite Standard Histories. These difficulties were addressed by a twelfth-century scholar-official named Yuan Shu 袁樞 (1131-1205), who rearranged all the chronological entries in Ssu-ma Kuang’s *Tzu-chih t’ung-chien* into 239 topical entries, and thus broke out of the strict annals framework. He called his rearrangement *T’ung-chien chi-shih pen-mo*. Although there were many imitators, and Yuan is generally credited with having developed the third major type of Chinese historical writing, for the most part, writers in this style only rearranged existing works, as had Yuan. The single exception was Ku Ying-t’ai 谷應泰 (d. 1689), who wrote his *Ming-ch’ao* (later, *Ming-shih*) *chi-shih pen-mo* (1658; Shanghai: 1935-37; Taipei rpt.: 1956) [O.C. AC 149 .K98 v. 58-9; O.C. AC 149 .P3 ser. 94 case 34-35] before the annals histories of the Ming had been compiled.