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Research Article

CHINESE SOURCES ON ANCIENT TURANIAN HISTORY

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ABSTRACT

Chinese language sources covering the period from the earliest times to the early Middle Ages have been compiled. These sources were chronologically created between the 22nd century BC and the XIX century AD. The properties of the sources were studied. Information about their copies and editions has been collected.

KEYWORDS

24 History, History of Chinese Writing, Liu Teyunem, Tsai Lun, Cima Qian, 占卜 Zhānbǔ, 史记 Shǐjì “Historical memories”.

INTRODUCTION

Along with archaeological sources, ancient written sources are of great importance in the study of ancient Turanian history. Among the written sources, the written sources left by the ancient ancestors of the peoples we call China today are of special importance. Today, there are

about 50 sources identified on the subject in the PRC.

In these sources, information on the ancient Turanian period is included in a separate chapter or in a manner related to the various connections between Turanian and ancient China.

Characteristics of Chinese resources

In the Chinese sources created before the XIX century, they focused on the history of other peoples in the vicinity along with their own history.

Here, ancient Chinese sources can be divided chronologically into three major parts.

The first part: sources from the earliest to the 3rd century BC:

- Author Unknown – “Inscriptions on the Tortoise Shell and Bones” (甲骨文);
- Unknown author – “History of Sya” (夏书);
- Unknown author – “Ancient Book” (尚书);
- Zuo Chiuming – “Zuo’s Statement” (左传/春秋左氏传);
- Zhou Gong Dan – “Traditions of the State of Zhou” (周礼/周官);
- Zhou Gong Dan – “The Lost Book of the Zhou [Dynasty]”, “The History of the Zhou [Dynasty]”, “The Review of the Zhou [Dynasty]” (逸周书/周书/周志);
- Author unknown – “Emperor Mu’s Statement” (穆天子传);
- Author unknown – “Bamboo Book Chronicles” (竹书纪年);
- Guan Jong – “Officials” (管子);
- Author Unknown – “Comments” (尔雅);
- Author unknown – “The Book of Mountains and Seas” (山海经);

The history of Chinese literature is primarily based on loyalty to national traditions and their preservation. Its territory covers areas much larger than the territory of China. The works created during this period mainly include works written on stone, bamboo stalks and tree trunks, and silk fabrics. Early sources were written on turtle shells and bones, later they were replaced by bamboo and tree trunks, and in rare cases on silk cloth, the main reason for this being the high price of silk. Also, by the Han period, stone and

paper printing methods were created. The preparation of stone texts is a very hard work. But such texts have a long life, such texts were first used to write Confucian laws during the Han period, and were written on stone sources of this type until the end of the XVIII century. Paper entered the Chinese book art in the 1st century AD. The paper was created by Tsai Lun, a courtier of the Han period. The creation of paper made a great contribution to the development of source studies and historical sciences [16. 327].

Among the sources created in the first phase, the oldest is the 甲骨文 Jiǎgǔwén zì (Inscriptions on the Tortoise Bowl and Bones). These writings were first discovered in 1899 in the Syaotun 小屯 area of China, and the first scientific studies on them were conducted by Liu Teyunem. As a result of studies, it was determined that these inscriptions correspond to the XIV-XI centuries BC. As a result of scientific research, it was determined that these records correspond to the later Shan period and were divided into five periods. More than 5,000 hieroglyphic characters have been found from the writing samples of this period, of which only 1,500 are found in modern Chinese, and the rest belong to the Shan period [17.50-51].

These records are mainly about cures for diseases and the secrets of divination “占卜 Zhānbǔ”, in which fortune-tellers read fortunes for ruling families and court officials by looking at turtles and various animal bones, and recorded their fortunes on these bones. It is interesting that the description of the Shan period and its events can also be found in the work “Historical Memories” by Cima Qian 史记 Shǐjì. The XIX century Chinese paleographer Lo Zhenyu compares 甲骨文 Jiǎgǔwén zì and 史记 “Shǐjì” and in his conclusion states that they are proportional to each other [18. 17].

The ruler of the first period of the work, U Din, “武丁 Wǔdīng” wanted to know the result of the fortune telling before the imperial campaign, it was in this event that the nomadic wild tribes in the west of his country were mentioned.

In the sources created during this period, information about the eastern region of Turan and the peoples who lived there is more common. This information is covered in the form of various relations and wars with ancient Chinese dynasties.

The second part: sources created from the 2nd century BC to the XII century AD:

- ❖ Cima Chian – “Historical Memories” (史记);
- ❖ Ban Gu – “History of the Han [Dynasty]” (汉书);
- ❖ Ying Shao – “Content of general rules and customs” (风俗通义);
- ❖ Yu Huan – “A Brief History of the Wei Dynasty” (魏略);
- ❖ Chen Shou – “Three Kingdoms” (三国志);
- ❖ Fa Xian – “Fa Xian’s Tazkira” (法显传/佛国记);
- ❖ Hua Chiao and Hua Che – “History of the Later Han [Dynasty].” (后汉书);
- ❖ Shen Yue – “History of the Song [Dynasty].” (宋书);
- ❖ Song Yun - “Situation in the 11 countries west of the Wei state ” (魏国以西十一国事) or “Song Yun travel memories” (宋云行纪);
- ❖ Wei Shaw – “History of the Wei [Dynasty].” (魏书);
- ❖ Yao Cha and Yao Silian – “History of Liang [Dynasty].” (梁书);
- ❖ Lingsui Defen – “History of the Zhou [Dynasty].” (周书);
- ❖ Liu Sun – “Tang Dynasty Ancient History ” (旧唐书);
- ❖ Suan Zang – “Travel to the Western Countries during the Tang Dynasty” (大唐西域记);

- ❖ Author team led by Fang Xuanling – “History of the Jin [Dynasty]” (晋书);
- ❖ Fang Xuanling – “History of the Jin [Dynasty]” (晋书);
- ❖ Li Daoyuan – “The Study of Rivers” (酈道元.水经注);
- ❖ A team of authors such as Yan Shigu, Kun Inda. (Edited by Wei Zheng) – “History of the Sui [Dynasty]” (隋书);
- ❖ Li Dashi and Li Yanshou – “History of the Southern [Dynasty]” (南史);
- ❖ Li Yanshou – “History of the Northern [Dynasty]” (北史);
- ❖ The team of authors- “The Six Classics of the Tang Dynasty” (李隆基、李林甫、张说、张九龄.唐六典).
- ❖ Du Yov – “Dawn” (通典);
- ❖ Wangpu – “A Look at Tang History” (王溥.唐会要).
- ❖ Le shi – “Declaration of the Land on which Peace is Established” (太平寰宇记);
- ❖ Li fang, Sui men, Li mu (a team of 14 authors) – “Extensive Memories of the Great Peace Period” (太平廣記);
- ❖ Wang Tingde- “Memorandum of the trip of the Ambassador of the Western Territory” (王延德.西州使程记);
- ❖ Wang Qinjuo, Yaang Yi, Sun Shi and others – “The Great Tortoise of the Imperial Library” ((北宋)王钦若、杨亿、孙奭等编.册府元龟);
- ❖ Ou Yangxiu and Song Chi – “A New History of the Tang Dynasty” (新唐书);
- ❖ Zheng Chiao – “Overview” (郑侨.同志);
- ❖ Yuan Shu – “An Account of Important Historical Events” (通鑑紀事本末).

In most of the sources created during this period, the sources written mainly by palace historians have separate chapters and parts about the Turan region and the various countries there,

which include the name of the nation and state, location, military forces and population, customs, relations with surrounding countries, the size of fortresses and fortresses, and other information are covered, and the reason for this can be said that the authors used the reports of ambassadors and spies when writing the sources.

The third part: sources that provide information about the ancient period, created in the XII - XIX centuries:

- ❖ Sui Tianling – “A look at the history of the Western Han” (徐天麟. 西汉会要);
- ❖ Sui Tianling – “A look at the history of the Eastern Han” (徐天麟. 东汉会要);
- ❖ Ma Duanlin – “A general survey of sources” (马端临. 文献通考);
- ❖ Yui Anchi. “Tang period..” (明代俞安期辑. 唐类函);
- ❖ Zhang Ying – “Yuan jian lei han” (张英/渊鉴类函);
- ❖ Shen Bingjen – “Compilation of Old and New Tang History” (沈炳震. 新旧唐书合钞);

Most of the information in the sources created during this period was prepared on the basis of the information in the sources created before it and covered in the way of data analysis. Also, ancient Chinese sources have their own characteristics, and by clarifying and analyzing them, it is possible to understand the objectivity and scientific value of the information in them. In the sources of this period, it will be possible to see the great chauvinist theory of China. Also, some geographic and hydrographic data in these sources are inconsistent and different compared to neighboring sources. The main reason for this is that when writing the sources of this period, the authors used various collections and catalogs of historical eras before themselves. At the same time, after the introduction of Islam to Central Asia, the arrival of Buddhist monks and Chinese tourists was also limited, and they mainly used

various collections and historical catalogs as mentioned above, which makes them doubtful about their authenticity.

I. According to their origin, they can be divided into the following groups:

Chronicles written by palace historians;
Memoirs of Buddhist monks;
Historical works written by unofficial historians;
Historical encyclopedias.

II. Positive aspects:

Being a valuable written source in illuminating the pre-Islamic period of Turan; The fact that the information in the source is taken from official reports to the emperor; Covering geographical, ethnological, ethnographic and other information.

III. Negative aspects:

Ideology;
The fact that most of them have not yet been fully translated into other languages;
It is not fully included in the scientific treatment;
Geographic uncertainty and localization problem.

IV. According to the characteristics of the language, it can be divided into three periods:

From the earliest times - to the III century;;
III - XII centuries;
XII - XIX centuries.

V. According to the content, these works can be classified into four large groups:

Historical annals;
Geographical works;
Travel reports;
Historical encyclopedias.

CONCLUSION

In short, many of these sources have been copied and republished over the centuries and have survived to this day. Some have been lost, and some have been included as separate chapters or references to sources created in later periods.

Chinese traditional 24 sources included in the history of the Ming dynasty (The Ming dynasty ruled China from 1368 to 1644) Nanjing (南监本) copy (21 dynastic histories included), Beijing (北监本) copy (21 dynastic histories included), Chongjen Maoshi (明崇祯毛氏汲古阁刻) copy (17 dynastic histories included), Ching dynasty (The Ching Dynasty was the dynasty that ruled China from 1636 to 1912). Qianlong Wuying (清乾隆武英殿刻本) copy (24 dynasties included), Tongji and five provinces joint copy (清同治光绪间五省官书局合刻), Bainaben (百衲本) and Jinjuben (今注本) has other versions.

In 1930-1936, the Bainaben (百衲本) copy of the 24 history was published in full by the Shangwu (商务印书馆) publishing house.

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, a team of hundreds of scientists of the People's Republic of China was assigned the task of editing and publishing the sources of the ancient language close to the modern language, and the Zhonghuashujuy (中华书局) organization was appointed to be responsible for this. As a result, an edited (点校本) copy of the first 4 edited ancient sources was published in 1959. The rest will be published in 1977 with a pause due to the "Cultural Revolution" in 1966. In addition, a 20-volume miniature edition was published in 1997, a 63-volume simplified edition in 2000, and a 241-volume edition dedicated to the "100-year" jubilee in 2011, and in 2019, the "Foundation of the People's Republic of China".

There are special 241-volume editions of the "National Holiday" collection dedicated to the 70th anniversary.

Version of "Jinjuben" (今注本) 1994 On the initiative of the Ministry of Culture of the PRC, the Institute of History of the Academy of Social

Sciences of the PRC and more than 20 other higher education and scientific research institutions analyzed ancient sources with the help of more than 300 experts, it will be prepared in 600 volumes in a horizontal position, punctuated and enriched with modern comments, and will be published by the Academy of Social Sciences Publishing House from 2020.

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