



Chinese Historical Texts

History in Its Entirety

1. **GAO, Shigi, et al.** *Jiu chao ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events of Nine Dynasties in Their Entirety*]. 52 vols. Small 8vo, orig. wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers. [Shanghai]: Yu lin shu ju, [1902].

\$3500.00

First edition of this **important collection of classic Chinese historical texts**, all written **in the jishi benmo style** in which particular historic events are arranged around certain central themes. We have listed the authors and texts below and all quoted texts are taken from the online resource ChinaKnowledge.de maintained by Dr. Ulrich Theobald at the Department of Sinology, University of Tübingen.

The authors and texts are:

- i. **GAO, Shiqi** (1645-1704). *Zuo zhuan ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events of Master Zuo's Commentary [to the Spring and Autumn Annals] in Their Entirety*]. This is a history of the "Spring and Autumn Period" (770-5th century BCE). Gao was a scribe and historian at the Hanlin Academy.

- ii. **YUAN, Shu** (1131-1205). *Tong jian ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events of the Comprehensive Mirror in Their Entirety*]. The 142-juan long work "comprises 1,362 separate historic events in their entirety, beginning with the dissolution of the ancient regional state of Jin by the marquesses of Han, Wei and Zhao in 403 BCE...and ends with the foundation of the Song dynasty (960-1279) in 960." The structure of this work was influential: it "proved so useful and easy-to-read that it became the ancestor of a thoroughly new tradition of histo-

riography, the jishi benmo type."

- iii. **CHEN, Bangzhan** (d. 1623). *Song shi ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events of the Song Period in Their Entirety*]. "The Ming period was a time when historians began rewriting of the history of the Song period, trying to describe both her weaknesses...as well as her strengths...A first attempt to write a history of the Song in the jishi benmo-style had been made by Feng Qi (1559-1603) and Shen Yue (jinshi degree 1532), but their book was never finished. In 1604, Liu Yüewu and Xu Shen (jinshi 1577) asked Chen Bangzhan if he would be willing to continue this task. He immediately agreed and finished the book one year later. He had arranged the text in 109 chapters, 89 of them dealing with the Song empire, the rest with the 'barbarian' empires of Liao (907-1125) and Jin (1115-1234) and with the Mongols...Chen Bangzhan also provided his own critical statements to the events and affairs he describes."

- iv. **LI, Youtang** (1837-1905). *Liao shi ji shi ben mo* [*A History of the Liao Dynasty*]. "The Liao history is divided into two parts, the first consisting of the text based on the official history Liaoshi, while the second part are critical comments (Kaoyi) on sources whose statements differ from the 'official' version. This part of a great help for the study of the history of the Liao."

- v. **LI, Youtang**. *Jin shi ji shi ben mo* [*A History of the Jurchen Jin Dynasty*]. "The Jin history is divided into two parts, the first consisting of the text based on the official history Jinshi, while the second part are critical comments (Kaoyi) on sources whose statements differ from the 'official' version."

- vi. **ZHANG, Jian** (1768-1850). *Xi xia ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events from the Western Xia Empire in Their Entirety*]. "For the compilation, Zhang Jian studied a lot of different sources from the Song (960-1279), Liao (907-1125), Jin (1115-1234) and Yuan (1279-1368) empires. This was necessary because there is no official dynastic history for the Western Xia empire."

- vii. **CHEN, Bangzhan**. *Yuan shi ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events of the Yuan Period in Their Entirety*]. Finished in 1606, "Chen avoided to use the official dynastic history of the Yuan period, Yuanshi, and made no use of Shang Lu's (1414-1486) Xu (Song-Yuan) zizhi tongjian gangmu. The book is arranged in titled chapters and thus provides an ideal access to specific topics of the history of the Yuan period. The

weakness of the book lies in Chen's not going into textual critique, and the statements therefore have to be used with care."

viii. **GU, Yingtai** (1620-1690). *Ming shi ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events from the Ming Period in Their Entirety*]. Each of the 80 chapters "has a short introduction and a resumé at the end. Because of its nature the book only deals marginally with economic or social history and rather stresses events and politics. It also tries to circumvent disputes about the Manchu rulers' legitimacy. A third point of critique is that it makes use of popular stories whose historical accurateness cannot be proved. The book nevertheless obtained widespread attention because of its easier approach to history than the official dynastic histories."

ix. **YANG, Lurong** (active 17th century-18th century). *San fan ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events Around the Three Princes in Their Entirety*]. Finished in 1717, this work "narrates the history of Prince Fu (r. 1644-1645) in Nanjing, as the successor of the Chongzhen Emperor (r. 1628-1644), and the short reigns of Prince Tang (r. 1645-1646) and Prince Gui (r. 1646-1661) that tried to resist the conquest of China by the Manchus. It ends in 1683 with the submission of Zheng Keshuang (1670-1707), the last supporter of the Ming (1368-1644), to the Manchus. The Sanfan jishi benmo is a very concise history of the Southern Ming dynasty which is normally neglected by historians."

Fine set in six slipcases.

2. **HESHEN, sponsor**. *Da Qing yi tong zhi* [*Records of the Unity of the Great Qing*]. Many maps in the text. 500 parts in 60 vols. Small 8vo, orig. wrappers, stitched. [Hangzhou: Zhu jian zhai, 1897].

\$3500.00

The famous Da Qing yi tong zhi was the **government-sponsored survey and geographical description of the entire Qing empire**. The first version, started in 1686, appeared in 1744. Changes in administration, particularly in the border regions, made necessary a new, enlarged edition, which was published in 1784 and further changes required another, further enlarged edition in 1842. At the end of the 19th, our revised edition appeared.

"Beginning with the capital Beijing, the imperial geography describes every province and prefecture of the Qing empire, ending with the border regions and the tributary states. The geographical description for each location, be it a province (sheng), a prefecture (fu, zhou), or a district (xian), follows more or less a fixed pattern. Each chapter begins with a map (tu) and a table (biao with geographical and chronological overview), and then describes borders to neighbouring units (jiangyu), the starry sky at the location (fenye), administrative history (jianzhi yange), topography (xingshi), local customs (fengsu), city walls and moats (chengchi), schools (xuexiao), household numbers (hukou), field tax revenue (tianfu), other levies (shuikou), offices (zhiguan), mountains and rivers (shanchuan), historic places (guji), passes (guan'ai), fords and bridges (jinliang), dams and dykes (diyan), tomb hills and graves (lingmu), shrines (cimiao), Buddhist and Daoist temples (siguan), famous officials (minghuan), illustrious persons (renwu), foreign residents (liuyu), outstanding females (lienü), noted immortals and monks (xianshi), and local products (tuchan)."–ChinaKnowledge.de (online resource).

Fine set, well-preserved in six slipcases.

A History of the Southern Ming

3. **LING, Xue**. *Nan tian hen* [*Traces of Heaven in the South*]. Six vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers removed, orig. stitching. [China]: Fu ku she, from back of title & from colophon: "1910."

\$1650.00

First edition of this **controversial history of the southern Ming governments**, a group of scattered rump states which, following the collapse of the Ming dynasty in 1644, continued until 1661, all resisting the Qing. Ling has provided biographies of the men who were enthroned as emperors and pretenders as well as the leading players in the politics of the time.

The publication of this book was frowned upon by the Qing government due to

its discussion of the notorious Yangzhou massacre and subsequent atrocities. The appearance of Nan tian hen was delayed by nearly 40 years from the time of its composition and was only published as the Qing dynasty was collapsing. The title labels on the upper covers have all been carefully removed (though traces remain) to ease commercial release.

Fine set, preserved in a Western slipcase.

4. **LINQING.** *Hong xue yin yuan tu ji* [*An Illustrated Record of Goose Tracks in the Snow*]. Numerous illus. in the text. Six vols. Small 8vo, orig. protective wrappers (some protective wrappers defective or detached) over orig. blue wrappers (some foxing & waterstaining), orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers, orig. stitching. Shanghai: 1879.

\$1250.00

A reduced lithographic reprint of this famous book, the **autobiography of Linqing** (1791-1846), who belonged to a family closely associated with the Imperial family. As a high government official, he travelled widely in China. His autobiography gives a clear account of the workings of the Qing government during the first half of the 19th century. He served in several posts in which he oversaw many river control projects, recorded here. Linqing was also deeply interested in garden architecture and there are many passages in these volumes on his visits to temple and their gardens.

This work was originally published over a series of years; the first fully illustrated edition in six volumes appeared 1847-49.

Good set, preserved in a modern cloth slipcase.

A History of the Southern Ming Dynasty

5. **YANG, Lurong.** *San fan ji shi ben mo* [*Historical Events Around the Three Princes in Their Entirety*]. 42; 26; 31; 38 folding leaves. Four vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers, new stitching. [China]: on title-page & at end of Preface: “1717.”

\$1950.00

First edition of this **well-regarded standard history**, finished in 1717, which “narrates the history of Prince Fu (reigned 1644-1645) in Nanjing, as the successor of the Chongzhen

Emperor (reigned 1628-1644), and the short reigns of Prince Tang (reigned 1645-1646) and Prince Gui (reigned 1646-1661) that tried to resist the conquest of China by the Manchus. It ends in 1683 with the submission of Zheng Keshuang (1670-1707), the last supporter of the Ming (1368-1644), to the Manchus. The Sanfan jishi benmo is a very concise history of the Southern Ming dynasty which is normally neglected by historians.”—ChinaKnowledge.de (online resource).

Fine set of a scarce work, preserved in a slipcase. First leaf of Preface a little defective with loss of about eight characters.

✪ Kenneth M. Swope, *On the Trail of the Yellow Tiger. War, Trauma, and Social Dislocation in Southwest China during the Ming-Qing Transition* (University of Nebraska Press: 2018).