

Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts

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REVIEWS

interest is considerable in that they reflect aspects of Tibetan life, and its interface with the imperial world of the British (and, in the case of Ts'ang-ch'ing, the Chinese) at a relatively humble level. These men were what Alex McKay, in his excellent introduction, calls 'intermediaries', members of that class which stood between the alien representatives of the imperial power and the local populations. As Alex McKay has shown elsewhere (see his *Tibet and the British Raj*, for example), in the extremely specialized context of Anglo-Tibetan relations during at least the final five decades of the British Empire, Sum-dien Paul played a key part in what amounted, albeit rather informally, to the functioning of a Tibetan service (in some ways analogous to the British China Consular Service).

There were, really, two major categories of 'intermediaries'. First there were what might be called 'grand intermediaries', indigenous notables who did far more than inform and advise their British masters. Such men as the members of the Sikkimese dynasty of Ugyen Gyatso (DLama O-rgyan rGya-mtsho) and Laden La (his nephew), and the Bengali Tibetan scholar Sarat Chandra Das fell into this category. The British lauded them with honours. Some of them became extremely wealthy. When they did not identify themselves with the

imperial power they at least saw themselves as part of the ruling Tibeto-Sikkimese establishment. There were also, however, what might be termed 'medium intermediaries', far more modest both in their way of life and their expectations; and into this category fall all three autobiographers published here.

All three autobiographies abound with details illuminating daily life in the Tibetan world and its interactions with the British and Chinese imperial apparatus, and for this reason alone they make intriguing reading. Of particular interest to the historian, perhaps, are the accounts of the Sikkimese in Khar-paul's narrative to the Panchen Lama and his contacts with the British in the years immediately following the 1841-2 Gyangshu expedition. Also intriguing is Paul's remark that Sir Charles Bell 'had never been popular among the Tibetans', something one would not have gleaned from Bell's writings but which agreed well enough with the opinion of Bell's successor as Political Officer Sikkim, Lt.-Colonel Bailey.

This is, in its way, a delightful book; and it is further garnished by photographs not only of the three autobiographers and Johan van Manen but also (from a source which is not too clear) some major Tibetan monasteries as they looked in c. 1900.

ALASTAIR LAMB

EAST ASIA

DONALD JOHN HARPER (tr.): *Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts*. (The Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series.) xi, 549 pp. London and New York: Kegan Paul International, 1998. £85, \$144.50.

We must celebrate the long-awaited publication of Donald Harper's *Early Chinese medical literature*. To begin with it is the first complete translation into any language of the medical texts preserved within the Mawangdui 馬王堆 silk and bamboo manuscript collection. This alone is remarkable in a field characterized by a chronic shortage of rigorous academic work. Secondly, Harper has written a prolegomena to the translation of grand scale; he gives a wide-ranging introduction to medical sources, philosophic background, culture, people, theory and practice of the late Warring States and early Imperial period in China. The manuscripts themselves offer us a direct window on to medical affairs of the late third and early second centuries B.C. Harper has opened that window and set the view into perspective. What we see for the first time is an extraordinary diversity of medical traditions and treatments available to the elite readership. It is an engaging spectacle: this is not a set of dry treatises on mechanics and anatomy, but a tapestry that weaves together medicines of Yin and Yang, of magic, ritual incantations, of sexual cultivation, meditations and prescriptions made

up of every conceivable herb, animal and household product.

Archaeologists excavating tomb 3 at the Mawangdui site in Changsha, Hunan during the late 1970s unearthed the largest and most varied trove of excavated manuscripts ever to be found in China. Tombs 1 and 2 belonged to Li Cang, 李蒼 Lord of Dai 侯, a chancellor of the Western Han Kingdom of Changsha, and his wife. The manuscripts were excavated from tomb 3, thought to be that of one of their sons, the younger Lord of Dai, Li Xi, 李希 or his brother who had held a military position. They are written in various styles of clerical script on silk and bamboo strips. There are treatises on philosophy, astronomy, geography and politics, a range of interests that prove their owner to be of eclectic taste—a kind of catholicism that may reflect the concerns and diversions of the leisured and educated classes in general. Seven of the manuscripts describe things medical. Among these are some that seem to be household manuals of remedies for various illnesses ranging from haemorrhoids and convulsions to 'child sprite' and 'ailments of the horse, sheep or snake'. The prescriptions include charms, exorcism, pharmacology, many kinds of heat treatments and basic surgery. Other texts are early editions of treatises found in the canons of acupuncture and moxibustion and are fascinating for the new light they shed on the construction of that medical body. Four of the manuscripts describe different forms of self-cultivating, sexual, breathing, dietary and callisthenic techniques for prolonging and enhancing life. Many of these techniques take

"Discovered in , in the richest cache of ancient manuscripts ever unearthed in China, the seven medical manuscripts from Mawangdui Tomb 3 in Changsha, Hunan Province, are certain to transform the study of early Chinese medicine. "Donald Harper's translation of the Mawangdui.Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts Donald John Harper Snippet view - The book itself is 5-stars.It is the only translation of the Mawangdui manuscripts available because the original hardcover book is out of print. But the cover was.Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts. The Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series. London: Kegan Paul International, pp.Share to: Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts / translated and study by Donald J. View the summary of this work. Bookmark.Reviews Donald Harper. Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts. London: Kegan Paul International; New York: Columbia.Early Chinese Medical Literature. The Mawangdui Medical Manuscript Check for updates. Citation tools. Set citation alert. Citing literature.Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts / translated and study by Donald J. Harper. Creator: Harper, Donald John. Publisher.Early Chinese Medical Literature has 4 ratings and 1 review. Cintain said: Study, transcription, and translation of the Manuscripts of Tomb No. 3 of Mawa.Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts. Book.Responsibility: translated and study by Donald J. Harper. Language: English. Texts of medical manuscripts translated from Chinese. Imprint: New York: Kegan .Early Chinese Medical Literature, the Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts, Translation and Study. (The Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series) by Donald Harper.sacflamenco.com: Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts: illustrated edition edition. pages. xx inches. In Stock.Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui by Donald John Harper Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts. by Donald.Early Chinese Medical Literature - The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts The beauty of Professor Donald Harper's Early Chinese Medical Literature is that it is .Item #15 ISBN: The seven medical manuscripts from Mawangdui tomb three unearthed in represent the richest cache of ancient medical.His titles indicate well the content of each text. See Early Chinese medical literature: the. Mawangdui medical manuscripts (London: Kegan Paul International).Early Chinese Medical Literature: The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts. Translation and study by Donald J. Harper.Buy Early Chinese Medical Literature - The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts, Oxfam, Harper, Donald, , , Books, Science and.Early Chinese Medical Literature and over 2 million other books are available . It is the only translation of the Mawangdui manuscripts available because the.() [Rezens von] Donald John Harper, Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical manuscripts. East Asian science.sacflamenco.com - Buy Early Chinese Medical Literature - The Mawangdui Medical Manuscripts (Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series,V. 2) book online at best prices in .Early Chinese medical literature: the Mawangdui medical

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