

This collection of valuable Chinese Classics which enjoys long history, including a amount of original editions and their easily available versions reprinted in existing facsimile-form, block-prints, transcripts and lithographs.

Preface: Chinese classic texts or **canonical texts** refers to the Chinese texts which originated before the imperial unification by the Qin dynasty in 221 BC, particularly the “Four Books and Five Classics” of the Neo-Confucian tradition, themselves a customary abridgment of the “Thirteen Classics”. All of these pre-Qin texts were written in classical Chinese. All three canons are collectively known as the **classics**.

Chinese classic texts may more broadly refer to texts written either in vernacular Chinese or in the classical Chinese that was current until the fall of the last imperial dynasty, the Qing, in 1912. These can include *shi* (詩, historical works), *zi* (子, philosophical works belonging to schools of thought other than the Confucian but also including works on agriculture, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, divination, art criticism, and other miscellaneous writings) and *ji* (記, literary works) as well as *jing*. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Four Books and Five Classics were the subject of mandatory study by those Confucian scholars who wished to take the imperial exams to become government officials. Any political discussion was full of references to this background, and one could not be one of the literati (or, in some periods, even a military officer) without having memorized them. Generally, children first memorized the Chinese characters of the “Three Character Classic” and the “Hundred Family Surnames” and then went on to memorize the other classics. The literate elite therefore shared a common culture and set of values.

Scholarship on these texts naturally divides itself into two periods, before and after the burning of the books during the fall of the Qin dynasty, when many of the original pre-Qin texts were lost.

List of Free Sources:

World Digital Library

The **World Digital Library (WDL)** is an international digital library operated by UNESCO and the United States Library of Congress.

The WDL has stated that its mission is to promote international and intercultural understanding, expand the volume and variety of cultural content on the Internet, provide resources for educators, scholars, and general audiences, and to build capacity in partner

institutions to narrow the digital divide within and among countries. It aims to expand non-English and non-western content on the Internet, and contribute to scholarly research. The library intends to make available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from cultures around the world, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, architectural drawings, and other significant cultural materials.

The WDL opened with 1,236 items. As of late 2015 it lists more than 12,000 items from nearly 200 countries, dating back to 8,000 BCE.

Source: <http://www.wdl.org/zh/>

Internet Archive

Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more.

Source: <https://archive.org/>

Forgotten Books

Forgotten Books is the world's largest online library with 484,473 books available on demand. This website has been designed using the very latest technologies to provide our members with many features never seen before. Its flagship technology Intelligent Bookshelf™ is a world leader in book recommendation and uses artificial intelligence to determine exactly the books you'd most like to read from our vast library.

More than just books; **Forgotten Books** also features advanced analytical data. Every single word, page and image inside each and every one of our 484,473 books have been analyzed, indexed and classified. With this valuable research information, we can tell you virtually anything about anything, from the most commonly used word in fiction books published in 1765, to the book with the most images of cats in the first 20 pages. Or perhaps some more useful information, such as a list of every word in the English language in order of usage frequency.

Source: <http://www.forgottenbooks.com>

Chinese Text Project

The **Chinese Text Project** is an online open-access digital library that makes pre-modern Chinese texts available to readers and researchers all around the world. The site attempts to make use of the digital medium to explore new ways of interacting with these texts that are

not possible in print. With over twenty thousand titles and more than three billion characters, the **Chinese Text Project** is also one of the largest databases of pre-modern Chinese texts in existence.

You may wish to read more about the project, view the pre-Qin and Han, post-Han or Wiki tables of contents, or consult the instructions, FAQ, or list of tools. If you're looking for a particular Chinese text, you can search for texts by title across the main textual sections of the site.

Source: <http://ctext.org>

Internet Sacred Text Archive

Sacred texts went live on March 9th, 1999. This site is a freely available archive of electronic texts about religion, mythology, legends and folklore, and occult and esoteric topics. Texts are presented in English translation and, where possible, in the original language.

Source: <http://www.sacred-texts.com>

Online Books by Legge, James (1815-1897)

James Legge (Chinese: 翟理斯; 20 December 1815 - 29 November 1897) was a noted Scottish sinologist, a Scottish Congregationalist, representative of the London Missionary Society in Malacca and Hong Kong (1840-1873), and first Professor of Chinese at Oxford University (1876-1897). In association with Max Müller he prepared the monumental *Sacred Books of the East* series, published in 50 volumes between 1879 and 1891.

Source:

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Legge%2C%20James%2C%201815-1897>

Sacred Books of the East, PDF ebooks at holybooks.com

Sacred Books of the East, at sacred-texts.com

Scanned pdfs of complete set of Sacred Books of the East

CHINAKNOWLEDGE - a universal guide for China studies

Chinaknowledge.de provides information about Chinese history and culture to a wide public, from academicians and highschool pupils to the interested "layman". The **Chinaknowledge** encyclopedia contributed by Dr. phil. Ulrich Theobald (翟理斯) and his team, systematically use the modern *Hanyu pinyin* 汉语拼音 transcription, except for some names which are commonly known with other transcriptions in the West (like Chiang Kai-shek,

Taipeh or Hong Kong. Beijing is Peking.). Except in tables concerning the People's Republic of China they consistently use the correct traditional characters (*fantizi* 繁體).

Source: <http://www.chinaknowledge.de/>

CHANT (CHinese ANcient Texts) / 簡體

CHANT (CHinese ANcient Texts) / 繁體, Chinese University of Hong Kong - Large corpus of texts, all carefully entered and proofread, but requires paid subscription. Now uses Unicode for characters wherever possible.

Established in April 2005, forerunner of the Research Centre for Chinese Ancient Texts is the Chinese Ancient Texts (CHANT) Database Project that began in 1988 at the Institute of Chinese Studies. Its goals are to build up an electronic database of the entire corpus of traditional and excavated ancient Chinese texts, to conduct relevant researches, and to publish the findings via different media.

Source: <http://www.chant.org/>

Scripta Sinica / 繁體

Scripta Sinica / 繁體, Academia Sinica (Taiwan) - Uses nonstandard fonts to display rarely used characters. Accessing most of the content requires paid subscription; access restrictions can be frustrating for non-subscription users as these are either poorly documented or unreliable, and in some cases limit access to less than a single chapter of even a single text - even for those texts included in the free version.

Source: <http://hanji.sinica.edu.tw/>

Thesaurus Linguae Sericae

Thesaurus Linguae Sericae, University of Oslo - Subtitled "An Historical and Comparative Encyclopaedia of Chinese Conceptual Schemes". Ambitious site which includes much information about words and their semantic and syntactic properties. Extensive and powerful, it has a steep learning curve.

General Editor: Christoph Harbsmeier 簡體; Associate Editor: Jiang Shaoyu 簡體

Source: <http://tls.uni-hd.de/>

China the Beautiful

Initial publication date of **China the Beautiful** is 2-15-1994. It covers *Classical Chinese Art, Calligraphy, Poetry, History, Literature, Painting and Philosophy*, edited by a Board of Advisers and Contributing writers.

for musicians, students, and everyone who appreciates music.

The Harvard Dictionary of Music has long been admired for its wide range as well as its reliability. This treasure trove includes entries on all the styles and forms in Western music; comprehensive articles on the music of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Near East; descriptions of instruments enriched by historical background; and articles that reflect today's beat, including popular music, jazz, and rock. Throughout this Fourth Edition, existing articles have been fine-tuned and new entries added so that the dictionary fully reflects current music scholarship and recent developments in musical culture.

Encyclopedia-length articles by notable experts alternate with short entries for quick reference, including definitions and identifications of works and instruments. More than 220 drawings and 250 musical examples enhance the text. This is an invaluable book that no music lover can afford to be without.

Source:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=02rFSecPhEsC&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+harvard+dictionary+of+music&hl=zh-CN&sa=X&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAGoVChMlyfeg4pLsyAIVV0tjCh3Rbge6#v=onepage&q=the%20harvard%20dictionary%20of%20music&f=false>

Recommended List

春秋(左傳)(***Tso Commentary / Zuo Zhuan / Zuo Tradition / Commentary of Zuo / Chunqiu Zuo zhuan***):

Bilingual text of *Zuo Zhuan* with side-by-side Chinese original and Legge's English translation

<http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/saxon/servlet/SaxonServlet?source=xwomen/texts/chunqiu.xml&style=xwomen/xsl/dynaxml.xml&chunk.id=tpage&doc.view=tocc&doc.lang=bilingual>

Fully searchable text (Chinese):

<http://ctext.org/chun-qiu-zuo-zhuan>

前漢書(***The History of the Former Han Dynasty***):

Bilingual text with side-by-side Chinese original and Homer H. Dubs's English translation

(Digitized text does not retain volume or page numbers and alters Dubs' footnote numbering.)


<http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/saxon/servlet/SaxonServlet?source=xwomen/texts/hanshu.xml&style=xwomen/xsl/dynaxml.xml&chunk.id=tpage&doc.view=tocc&doc.lang=bilingual>

Fully searchable text (Chinese):

<http://ctext.org/han-shu>

John Barrow (1804). ***Travels in China: Containing Descriptions, Observations, and Comparisons, Made and Collected in the Course of a Short Residence at the Imperial Palace of Yuen-Min-Yuen, and on a Subsequent Journey Through the Country from Peking to Canton.*** London: T. Cadell and W. Davies.

Sir John Barrow (19 June 1764 – 23 November 1848):

Bibliography:  Sir John Barrow, Bart., F. R. S.

The **earliest known music notation of Guci with Old Baban style** may appeared in the English statesman and writer Sir John Barrow's travel notes in 1804. John Barrow was attached on the first British embassy to China from 1792 to 1794 as comptroller of the household to Lord Macartney. With the help of "an English gentleman in Guangzhou", he recorded the variant of popular *Guci* in relatively complete Neume.

Chinese Popular Airs. No. III. *In*: John Barrow (1804). *Travels in China: Containing Descriptions, Observations, and Comparisons, Made and Collected in the Course of a Short Residence at the Imperial Palace of Yuen-Min-Yuen, and on a Subsequent Journey Through the Country from Peking to Canton.* p. 319. London: T. Cadell and W. Davies. The related sound material in MIDI format could be downloaded from <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/28729/28729-h/music/popair3.mid>.

Fully searchable text:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=UNcMAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=editions:f-Fvnxa5waQC&hl=zh-CN&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwim8-u52ajjAhUOxWMKHahD7kQ6AEIHTAA#v=onepage&q&f=false>

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<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/28729/28729-h/28729-h.htm>

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<http://manybooks.net/titles/barrows2872928729-8.html#>

All sound files of music in MIDI format could be freely downloaded:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/28729/28729-h/music/>

All images could be freely downloaded:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/28729/28729-h/images/>

□□□□**The Rites of Zhou**□

The **Rites of Zhou** (周禮), originally known as “Officers of Zhou” (周官, *Zhouguan*) is actually a work on bureaucracy and organizational theory. It was renamed by Liu Xin to differentiate it from a chapter in the Book of History by the same name. Such purely administrative texts are usually referred to as Legalist, but the text’s governmental model is one of co-governance, with the ruler’s family holding in hand a particularly aristocratic-bureaucratic state, as opposed to the absolutist administration of Han Fei. To replace a lost work, it was included long with the Book of Rites and the Etiquette and Ceremonial – becoming one of three ancient ritual texts (the “Three Rites”) listed among the classics of Confucianism.

The work consists mainly of schematic lists of Zhou dynasty bureaucrats, stating what the function of each office is and who is eligible to hold it. Sometimes though the mechanical listing is broken off by pieces of philosophical exposition on how a given office contributes to social harmony and enforces the universal order. The division of chapters follows the six departments of the Zhou dynasty government. The bureaucrats within a department come in five ranks: minister (*qing*), councilor (*da fu*), senior clerk (*shang shi*), middle clerk (*zhong shi*) and junior clerk (*xia shi*). There is only one minister per department -the department head-, but the other four ranks all have multiple holders spread across various specific professions.

The book is divided into six chapters:

Offices of the Heaven (天官, *Tianguan Zhongzai*) on general governance;

Offices of Earth (地官, *Diguan Situ*) on taxation and division of land;

Offices of Spring (春官, *Chunguan Zongbo*) on education as well as social and religious institutions;

Offices of Summer (夏官, *Xiaguan Sima*) on the army;

Office of Autumn (秋官, *Qiuguan Sikou*) on justice;

Office of Winter (冬官, *Dongguan Kaogongji*) on population, territory, and agriculture.

Sources:

Chinese:

<http://ctext.org/rites-of-zhou>

French:

http://classiques.uqac.ca/classiques/chine_ancienne/auteurs_chinois.html


Commentaries on the Rites of Zhou

http://www.npm.gov.tw/exh99/southernsong/en_02.html#04

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周禮 (1193-1271) 周禮 1235 The Rites of Zhou 1650-1727 周禮 1420-1474

The Rites of Zhou 206 - 卷 8 20 “周禮 1317” 1872-1949 “周禮”

Source: <http://www.wdl.org/zh/item/15113/#q=%E5%91%A8%E7%A4%BC&qia=zh>
 free download:  <http://dl.wdl.org/15113/service/15113.pdf>


A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China


Charles O. Hucker (June 21, 1919 – November 18, 1994), was a professor of Chinese language and history at the University of Michigan. He was regarded as one of the foremost historians of Imperial China and a leading figure in the promotion of academic programs in Asian Studies during the 1950s and 1960s.

“Obituary: Charles O. Hucker (1919-1994)”. *Journal of Asian Studies* 54 (2): pp. 656–657. May 1995. doi:10.1017/S0021911800039978.

Taylor, Romeyn (1998). “Some Observations on the Life and Career of Charles Oscar Hucker 1919–1994: A Personal Note”. *Ming Studies* 1998 (1): 13–32.

Charles O. Hucker (1985). *A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China* (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

Source: 
http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1068612.files/Hucker%20Official%20Titles%20OCR%20Searchable_All%20Pages.pdf

Harvard online version:  Charles O. Hucker (1985). *A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China* (Stanford: Stanford University Press) (7 downloads) (Note: Members only. Only logged in users will be able to access the file via this download link.)

All ancient books which have once been called sacred by man, will have their lasting place in the history of mankind, and those who possess the courage, the perseverance, and the self-denial of the true miner, and of the true scholar, will find even in the darkest and dustiest shafts what they are seeking for,—real nuggets of thought, and precious jewels of faith and hope.

— Max Müller (*Introduction to the Upanishads Vol. II.*)

