Taiping Yulan “Calligraphy”: An Annotated Translation (3)

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This paper is the third and last part of an annotated English translation of the section “Calligraphy 書” of the Taiping Yulan 太平御覽.

Keywords: Taiping Yulan, Calligraphy, Brushmanship

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Ancient script 古文

96. The Book of Jin 曕書 by Wang Yin 王隱 says: When Xun Xu 荀勗 was installed as the Supervisor of the Archives Secretariat 祕書監 he learned the styles of Zhong Yao 鍾 and Hu Zhao 胡 at first. When bamboo slip documents written in ancient script were found in a mound of Ji Commandery 汲郡 in the second year of the Taikang 太康 era, Xu added an annotation to them by himself, transcribed a set as the inner scripture 中經, stored it in the archives, compared the text with that of common books, and clarified many lacunas.

Notes: Book of Jin 曕書: a history of the Western and Eastern Jin dynasty written by Wang Yin (c. 3rd–4th centuries). Now lost. It is different from the Book of Jin written by Fang Xuanling 房玄齡 (578–648), et al. Xun Xu 荀勗 (d. 289): a statesman from Yingyin 漳陰 County of Yingchuan 頓川 Commandery. His courtesy name was Gongzeng 公曾. His highest title in life was Imperial Secretariat Director 尚書令 of the Western Jin dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Minister of Education 司徒. His posthumous name is Cheng 成. Inner scripture 中經: authorized text of scriptures stored in the imperial archives. Zhong Yao 鍾繇: see art. 14. Hu Zhao 胡昭: see art. 11. Taikang 太康 era: 280–289. Cf. 書書・荀勗傳, vol. 39.

97. The Judgements on Calligraphy 書斷 says: Ancient script was invented by Cangjie 荀變, who served the Yellow Thearch 黃帝 as the Archivist. His head had four eyes, and he was well versed in natural law, observed upward the round and curved shape of the Legs mansion 奎, looked downward at the patterns on turtles and the

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traces of birds, adopted different merits of the images, and integrated them into characters—they are what is called ancient script. The *Xiaojing yuanshenqi* 孝經援神契 says with the same intention: “The Legs mansion ruled figures, therefore Cangjie imitated its image.” *Wenzi* 文字 is a generic and comprehensive name for characters. If they are named analytically, *wen* 文 are the ancestors, and *zi* 字 are the descendants. Characters that imitate the nature and possess the figure, such as pictographic 象形 characters, are called *wen*; those that are procreated just as mothers bear children, such as signific-phonetic 形聲 and associative 會意 characters, are called *zi*. *Zi* represents nurturing living beings and letting them increase more and more. Characters written on bamboo slips or silk are called *shu*. *Shu* represents *ru* 如 “to be alike,” *shu* 舒 “to stretch,” and *ji* 纪 “to record.”

《書斷》曰：古文者，黃帝史蒼頡所造也。顓首有四目，通於神明，仰觀奎星圜曲之勢，俯察龜文鳥跡之象，採乎衆美，合而為字，是曰古文。《孝經援神契》云 “奎主文章，蒼頡造象”，是也。夫文字者，撿而為言，包以名事也。分而為義，則文者祖先，字者子孫。得之自然，備其文理，象形之屬，則為之一文；因而滋蔓，母子相生，形聲、會意之屬，則謂之字。字者，言孳乳浸多也。題於竹帛，謂之書。書者，如也，舒也，紀也。

Notes: 

98. It also says: Wei Qi 衛覇 of the Cao Wei dynasty, whose courtesy name was Boru 伯儒, was from Anding 安定 County of Hedong 河東 Commandery, and his highest title was Palace Attendant 侍中. He was especially good at ancient script, and his writing was refined and superb. The ancient script text transcribed in the early years of the Cao Wei dynasty was derived from Handan Chun 邯鄲淳. Boru transcribed Chun’s *Shangshu in Ancient Script* 古文尚書 and showed it to Chun, yet he could not identify it.

又曰：魏衛覇，字伯儒，河東安定人，官至侍中。尤工古文，筆跡精絕。魏初傳（原作淳，據《法書要錄》改）古文者，出於邯鄲淳。伯儒寫淳《古文尚書》以示淳，淳不能別。

Notes: *Wei Qi* 衛覇: see art. 11. *Handan Chun* 邯鄲淳: see art. 70. *Shangshu in Ancient Script* 古文尚書: a text of the *Shangshu*, i.e., the *Book of Documents* 書經, one of the *Five Classics* 五經. Cf. *法書要錄*, vol. 9.

Seal script 篆書

99. The *Book of Han* 漢書 says: Emperor Yuan 元帝 was good at clerical writing. (Original annotation: This refers to large seal script 大篆 created by Shi Zhou 史籀. 畲 is pronounced zhou 封.)

《漢書》曰：元帝善史書（原注：史籀所作大篆。籀音封）。

Notes: *Book of Han* 漢書: see art. 6. *Emperor Yuan* 元帝 of Han (74–33 BCE, r. 49–33 BCE): the tenth
emperor of the Western Han dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Shi 夏. His posthumous name is Xiao yuan 孝元, and his temple name is Gao zong 高宗. Shi Zhou 史籀: a part of the title of the book Shizhou pian 史籀篇 (see art. 104), which was believed to be the name of the archivist who served King Xuan of Zhou 周宣王 (d. 782 BCE, r. 828–782 BCE). Cf. 漢書・元帝紀, vol. 9.

100. The Sequel to Book of Han 續漢書 says: When Emperor Ling 聖帝 established the Hongdu Gate 鴻都門 Academy, there gathered a thousand students, who were examined on composition of a rhapsody on the large jade, or on their writing skill of bird seal script 烏篆.

Notes: Sequel to Book of Han 續漢書: a history of the Eastern Han dynasty written by Sima Biao 司馬彪 (d. 306). Now partially lost. Emperor Ling 聖帝 of Han (156–189, r. 168–189): the twelfth emperor of the Eastern Han dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Hong 宏. His posthumous name is Xiaoling 孝靈. Hongdu Gate 鴻都門 Academy: an academy for literature and arts established by Emperor Ling. It was located at the Hongdu Gate of the Imperial Palace. Cf. Later Book of Han 後漢書・靈帝紀, 本紀 8.

101. The Brief History of Wei 魏略 says: Handan Chun 邯鄲淳 was well versed in the Cangjie 蒼頴, worm seal script 蟲篆, and the meanings of characters in Mr. Xu’s 許氏 dictionary.

Notes: Brief History of Wei 魏略: a history of the Cao Wei dynasty written by Yu Huan 魏叡 (c. 3rd century). Now lost. Handan Chun 邯鄲淳: see art. 70. Cangjie 蒼頴, i.e., the Cangjie pian 蒼頴篇: a primer and glossary used in the Qin and Han dynasties. Mr. Xu’s 許氏 dictionary: refers to the Shuowen jiezi 説文解字 written by Xu Shen 許慎 (see art. 2). Cf. Records of Three Kingdoms 三國志・魏書・王粲傳, vol. 21.

102. The Later Book of Wei 後魏書 says: Dou Zun 封遵 was good at normative seal script 楷篆, thus most of the steles and building gate plates in the Northern Capital 北京 were written by him.

Notes: Later Book of Wei 後魏書, i.e., the Book of Wei 魏書: see art. 26. Dou Zun 封遵 (c. 5th century): an official from Weiguo 衛國, County of Dunqiu 延丘 Commandery. His highest titles were Gentleman of the Secretariat 尚書郎 and Governor of Puyang Commandery 漢陽太守 of the Northern Wei dynasty. Northern Capital 北京: refers to the Pingcheng 平城 Capital of the Northern Wei dynasty. Cf. 魏書・宜珍傳, vol. 46; 北史・宜珍傳, vol. 27.

103. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Li Si 李斯 of the Qin dynasty excelled in seal script 篆, then simplified it into small seal script 小篆 and composed the seven chapters of the Cangjie pian 蒼頴篇. Although every generation changes its customs according to the ruler’s tendency towards simplicity or
refinement, it will shift from simplicity to refinement finally and become diluted gradually; this is analogous with changes in the method of ruling—the Three Sovereigns 三皇 knotted string, the Five Thearches 五帝 painted pictures on clothes, and the Three Kings 三王 used corporal punishment. Ancient script can be called upper ancient, large seal script middle ancient, and small seal script lower ancient. These three ancient types of script can be compared to seed, and cursive and clerical scripts 草隶 to flowers. Wang Xizhi 王羲之 and Xianzhi 習志 were the most excellent of all the flowers, and Shi Zhou 施zhou, and Li Si 斯 were the finest of all the seeds. First Emperor 始皇 polished Mr. He’s jade 和氏之璧 into the imperial seal, and had Si inscribe the words. The steles that remain today on Mount Taishan 泰山, Yishan 習山, and Qinwang 秦望 were all written by him. People praise them as national precious treasures and as eternal models. Si is graded divine 神 in small seal script, and excellent 妙 in large seal script.

Notes: Li Si 李斯 (d. 208 BCE): a statesman from Shangcai 上蔡 of the Chu 楚 kingdom. He served First Emperor of Qin as the Chancellor 丞相. Cangjie pian 仓颉篇: see art. 101. First Emperor 始皇 of Qin (260–210 BCE): the sixth king of the Qin kingdom (r. 247–221 BCE) and the first emperor of the Qin dynasty (r. 221–210 BCE). His family name was Ying 赢, and his given name was Zheng 政. Three Sovereigns 三皇: the three legendary rulers of the world in the ancient times. It represents Fu Xi 伏羲, Nüwa 女娲, and Shennong 神農 according to “Basic Annals of the Three Sovereigns 三皇本纪,” which Sima Zhen 司馬遷 (679–732) added into the Records of the Grand Historian 史記. Five Thearches 五帝: the rulers in the ancient times next to the Three Sovereigns. This represents Yellow Thearch 黄帝, Zhuanxu 炎帝, Ku 蠻, Yao 嫘, and Shun 尧 according to the Records of the Grand Historian “Basic Annals of the Five Thearches 五帝本紀.” Three Kings 三王: the kings who founded their dynasty in the ancient times, namely, Yu 禹 of the Xia dynasty, Tang 汤 of the Shang dynasty, and King Wen 文王 or King Wu 武王 of the Zhou dynasty. Mr. He’s jade 和氏之璧: a large and precious piece of jade discovered by a man named Bian He 卞和 and later presented to the king of Chu. It is also said that the king of Qin once demanded the jade from the king of Zhao 趙 in the Warring States period. Mount Taishan 泰山 and Yishan 習山: mountains located in present day Shandong 山東 Province. First Emperor made stone inscriptions on them when he climbed them in 219 BCE. Mount Qinwang 秦望, i.e., Mount Kuaiji 會稽山: see art. 69. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 8.

104. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Large seal script was created by Shi Zhou 史籀, who served King Xuan of Zhou 周宣王 as the Grand Archivist 太史. One says: Palace Archivist 柱下史 changed ancient script into a new script, with some characters the same as ancient script and others different, and called it zhuan 篆 “seal script.” Zhuan represents chuan 傳 “to transmit,” namely, to transmit the law in things and express it
permanently. The third of the six kinds of script defined by Zhen Feng 甄逢 was seal script. The first of the eight styles of script was large seal script. The Monograph on Literature, Book of Han 漢書·藝文志 records “Shizhou 史籀, fifteen volumes.” These terms all refer to that script.

Notes: Shi Zhou 史籀: see art. 99. King Xuan of Zhou 周宣王 (d. 782 BCE, r. 828–782 BCE): the eleventh king of the Zhou dynasty. Palace Archivist 柱下史: refers to Laozi. Six kinds of script: refers to ancient script 古文, odd variant 奇字, seal script 篆書, clerical script 佐書, seal carving script 繡篆, and bird and worm script 鳥蟲書 according to the postface of the Shuowen jiezi 説文解字. Zhen Feng 甄逢 (d. 10 CE) was a right-hand man of Wang Mang 王莽 (45 BCE–23 CE) and Duke of Guangxin 廣新公 of the Xin dynasty. Eight styles of script 八體: refers to the eight styles of script used in the Qin dynasty, namely, large seal script 大篆, small seal script 小篆, tally script 剃符, worm script 蟲書, seal carving script 篆印, plate script 署書, weapon script 戟書, and clerical script 隸書. It is also mentioned in the postface of the Shuowen jiezi. Monograph on Literature, Book of Han 漢書·藝文志: a bibliography edited by Ban Gu 班固 (32–92). It was based on the Abstracts 別錄 by Liu Xiang 劉向 (77–6 BCE) and the Seven Catalogs 七略 by Xiang’s son Liu Xin 劉歆 (d. 23 CE). Shizhou 史籀, i.e., the Shizhou pian 史籀篇: a primer and glossary used in the Zhou dynasty. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7.

105. It also says: It is false what the Spring and Autumn Annals ofMaster Lü 吕氏春秋 says: “Cangjie 蒼颉 invented large seal script.” If Cangjie invented large seal script, where can we place ancient script? It is true “Seal script 括篆 is its descendant.”


106. It also says: Small seal script was created by Li Si 李斯, the Chancellor 丞相 of the Qin dynasty. He made additions or reductions to the characters, thus some became different from large seal script and others remained the same. That was called small seal script or Qin seal script 秦篆.

Notes: Li Si 李斯: see art. 103. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7.
107. The *Shape of Seal Script* 篆勢  by Cai Yong 蔡邕 says: There is a style named large seal script, and the excellent skill is almost divine. One looks like the patterning on a turtle, another resembles the scales of a dragon. A tail reaches out from the curved body, which has long feathers and a short torso. The neck is extended, and the wings are folded—a posture invoking flight above the clouds.

Notes: Cai Yong 蔡邕: see art. 70. Cf. 法書要録, vol. 7; 昔書・衛瓘傳, vol. 36.

Eight-point script 八分書

108. The *Book of Tang* 唐書 says: Zhang Tinggui 張廷珪 was on familiar terms with the Inspector of Chen Prefecture 陈州刺史 Li Yong 李邕, and frequently submitted documents to recommend him. Every time Yong composed an epitaph, he requested that Tinggui write it in eight-point script, and people at that time valued it very highly.

Notes: Book of Tang 唐書, i.e., the Old Book of Tang 舊唐書: see art. 28. Zhang Tinggui 張廷珪 (658–734): an official from Jiyuan 濁源 County of Henan Prefecture 河南府. His courtesy name was Wenyu 温玉. His highest titles in life were Supervisor of the Household of the Crown Prince 太子詹事 and Viscount of Fanyang County 范陽縣子 of the Tang dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Minister of Works 工部尚書. His posthumous name is Zhenmu 贞穆. Li Yong 李邕 (674–746): an official and calligrapher from Jiangdu 江都 County of Yang Prefecture 揚州. His courtesy name was Taihe 泰和. His highest title in life was Governor of Beihai Commandery 北海太守 of the Tang dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Supervisor of the Archives Secretariat 祕書監. Cf. 舊唐書・張廷珪傳, vol. 101.

109. *Reputations of the Present World* 世論 says: Liang Hu 梁鴻 from Anding 安定 Commandery, whose courtesy name was Menghuang 孟皇, was good at eight-point script, thus Emperor Taizu 太祖 made him write on tallies, banners, and the plates on the gates of the palace.

Notes: Reputations of the Present World 世論, i.e., Wei-Jin Accounts of the World 魏晉世論: see art. 55. Liang Hu 梁鴻 (c. 2nd–3rd centuries): an official and calligrapher from Wuzhi 魏氏 County of Anding Commandery. His highest title was Minister of Personnel 選部尚書 of the Eastern Han dynasty. Emperor Taizu 太祖 of Wei, i.e., Cao Cao 曹操: see art. 40.

110. The *Judgements on Calligraphy* 说書 says: Eight-point script was created by the feathered man 羽人 Wang 王.
Cizhong 王次仲 from Shanggu 上谷 Commandery.

Notes: Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7.

111. It also says: Shiyi Guan 師宜官 of the Later Han dynasty was from Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. Emperor Ling 靈帝 loved calligraphic art, so he summoned those who were good at calligraphy at the Hongdu Gate 鴻都門 Academy, and hundreds of applicants from all over the world gathered there. Guan was praised as being the best at eight-point script, being able to write not only a character as large as a zhang square, but also a thousand characters the size of one cun square. He was very proud of his own skill, and it was in his nature to love drinking. He sometimes went to a pub empty-handed, wrote on the wall, and then rented the work to the publican. Many people gathered like clouds to behold it, allowing the pub sell much liquor.

Notes: Shiyi Guan 師宜官: see art. 70. Emperor Ling 靈帝: see art. 100. Hongdu Gate 鴻都門 Academy: see art. 100. Zhang 丈: a zhang approximately equaled 231 cm in the Han dynasty. Cun 寸: a cun approximately equaled 2.31 cm in the Han dynasty. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 8.

Clerical script 隸書

112. Records of Wu 吳志 says: Zhang Zhao 張昭, whose courtesy name was Zibu 子布, was good at clerical script.

Notes: Records of Wu 吳志, i.e., the Book of Wu 吳書 in Records of Three Kingdoms 三國志: the standard history of the Wu dynasty written by Chen Shou 陳壽 (233–297). Zhang Zhao 張昭 (156–236): a statesman from Pengcheng 彭城 Principality. His highest titles were General Who Assists Wu 輔吳將軍 and Marquis of Lou County 魯侯 of the Wu dynasty. His posthumous name is Wen 文. Cf. 三國志・吳書・張昭傳, vol. 52.

113. The Book of Jin 晉書 says: Wang Xizhi 王羲之 was especially good at clerical script, being the crown of all ages. Critics praise his brushwork as looking light as a moving cloud, and as strong as a jumping dragon. His calligraphy was valued very high by his uncles Dun 敦 and Dao 導.

114. The Book of Jin Restored 《晉中興書》 says: Li Chong’s 李充 的 courtesy name was Hongdu 弘度. His mother Lady Wei 衛氏 was a younger sister to Zhan 展, the Chamberlain for Law Enforcement 廷尉. Although Chong lost his father early, his mother was intelligent, able to educate children, and good at regular script, thus he learned well and excelled at the calligraphy of Zhong Yao 仲 and Suo Jing 索, and was highly valued by all people. His elder cousin Shi 張 was also good at calligraphy.

Notes: Book of Jin Restored 《晉中興書》: a history of the Eastern Jin dynasty written by He Fasheng 何法盛 (c. 5th century). Now lost. Li Chong 李充 (c. 4th century): a scholar from Jiangxia 江夏 Commandery. His highest title was Vice Director of the Secretariat 中書侍郎 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. Lady Wei 衛氏: see art. 31. Wei Zhan 衛展 (c. 3rd–4th centuries): an official from Anyi 安邑 County of Hedong 河東 Commandery. His courtesy name was Daoshu 道舒. His highest title in life was Chamberlain for Law Enforcement of the Eastern Jin dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Grand Master for Splendid Happiness 光禄大夫. Zhong Yao 仲繇: see art. 14. Suo Jing 索靖: see art. 19. Li Shi 李式 (c. 4th century): an official. His highest title was Palace Attendant 侍中 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. Cf. 晉書・李充傳, vol. 92.

115. The Book of Song 《宋書》 by Shen Yue 沈約 says: Emperor Wen 文帝 was good at clerical script.

Notes: Book of Song 《宋書》: see art. 20. Emperor Wen 文帝 of Song (407–453, r. 424–453): the third emperor of the Liu Song dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Yilong 義隆. His posthumous name is Wen 文, and his temple name is Taizu 太祖. Cf. 宋書・文帝紀, vol. 5; 南史・宋本紀中, vol. 2.

116. It also says: Yang Xin 羊欣, whose courtesy name was Jingyuan 敬元, was proficient at clerical script. When his father Buyi 不疑 had just begun to serve as the Magistrate of Wucheng County 烏程令, he was twelve years old, and Wang Xianzhi 王獻之, who was the Governor of Wuxing Commandery 吳興太守 then, favored Xin very much. When Xianzhi once visited Wucheng in summer, Xin was napping in a new silk skirt. Xianzhi wrote on the skirt, filling several fu 幅 of cloth before leaving. Although Xin’s calligraphy was originally good, it became much better after he obtained the writing left by Xianzhi.

Notes: Yang Xin 羊欣: see art. 54. Yang Buyi 羊不疑 (c. 4th–5th centuries): an official from Nancheng 南城 County of Taishan 泰山 Commandery. His highest title was Governor of Guiyang Commandery 桂陽太守 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. Wucheng 烏程 County: present day Huzhou 湖州 City, Zhejiang 浙江 province.
Province. The capital of Wuxing 吳興 Commandery was located there. **Wang Xianzhi** 王獻之: see art. 16.  
**Fu** 幡: a unit to measure cloth. A fu, which equals two chi 尺 and two cm 寸, approximately equaled 53.9 cm in the Eastern Jin dynasty. Cf. 宋書・羊欣傳, vol. 62; 南史・羊欣傳, vol. 36.

117. The *Book of Qi* 齊書 says: Wang Sengqian 王僧虔 was good at clerical script. When Emperor Wen of Song 宋文帝 looked at his calligraphy on the silk fan, Emperor said with admiration: “Not only his calligraphy but also his caliber surely surpasses that of Zijing 子敬.”

Notes: *Book of Qi* 齊書, i.e., the *Book of Southern Qi* 南齊書: see art. 21. **Wang Sengqian** 王僧虔: see art. 157. **Emperor Wen of Song** 宋文帝: see art. 115. **Zijing** 子敬: see Wang Xianzhi (art. 16). Cf. 南齊書・王僧虔傳, vol. 33; 南史・王曇首傳, vol. 22.

118. The *Book of Qi* says: Zhou Yong 周顥, in youth, once visited the house of his maternal descendant, the Chariots and Horse General 車騎將軍 Zang Zhi 戰質, where he obtained Wei Chang’s 衛常 loose clerical calligraphy, and learned it very well. Crown Prince Wenhui 文惠太子 made Yong write on the wall of his cottage in the Xuanpu 玄圃 Garden. The Libationer of the Directorate of Education 國子祭酒 He Yin 何胤 requested Yong exchange it for his reversed chive script 倒薤書 calligraphy. Yong answered with laughter: “I would not exchange it so long as the righteous Way prevails under heaven!”

Notes: **Zhou Yong** 周顥 (d. 493): an official and scholar from Ancheng 安城 County of Runan 汝南 Commandery. His courtesy name was Yanlun 彦倫. His highest title was Palace Steward 給事中 of the Southern Qi dynasty. **Zang Zhi** 戰質 (400–454): a general from Ju County 蓁縣 of Dongguan 東莞 Commandery. His courtesy name was Hanwen 含文. His highest titles were Chariots and Horse General 車騎將軍, Inspector of Jiang Region 江州刺史, and Duke of Shixing Commandery 始興郡公 of the Liu Song dynasty. **Wei Chang** 衛常, i.e., Wei Heng 衛恆: see art. 18. **Crown Prince Wenhui** 文惠太子 (458–493): the first son of Emperor Wu 武帝 of Qi (440–493, r. 482–493). His family name was Xiao 蕭, and his given name was Changmao 長懋. He was installed as the Crown Prince in 482. His posthumous name is Wenhui.  
**Xuanpu** 玄圃 Garden: a garden built in the Crown Prince’s Palace of the capital city of Jiankang 建康. **He Yin** 何胤 (446–531): a scholar from Qian 潛 County of Lujiang 廬江 Commandery. His courtesy name was Ziji 子季. His highest title was Libationer of the Directorate of Education 國子祭酒 of the Southern Qi dynasty. I would not exchange it…. These words, which were originally uttered by Confucius, are cited from the *Analects* 諏語. Cf. 南齊書・周顥傳, vol. 41; 南史・周朗傳, vol. 34.

119. The *Brief History of Three Kingdoms* 三國典略 says: Baron of Baishi County 白石縣男 Zhao Wenshen 趙文深 of the Zhou dynasty was installed as the Governor of Weixing Commandery 魏興郡守 because of his
accomplishment in writing on plates. Wenshen, whose courtesy name was Deben, was from Wan 宛 County of Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. He learned normative clerical 楷書 script in youth, and acquired the styles of Zhong Yao 鍾 and Wang Xizhi 王. Wenshen and Ji Jun 冀儼 were only two good calligraphers in those years. When Wang Bao 王褒, who was especially good at calligraphy, came along in later years, Wenshen’s words and face expressed his shame and envy. He later realized it was difficult to go against the favor of the world, so he learned anew Bao’s calligraphy, yet he could not achieve success, and was criticized for learning the Handan 豹鄴 walk in vain. As for steles and plates, his calligraphy was the best, and was thus commended by Bao. Those in the palaces and buildings were all written by him. Emperor Shizong 世宗 made him go to Jiangling 江陵, where he wrote the Stele of the Jingfusi temple 景福寺碑, which was praised by Xiao Cha 蕭察.

Notes: Brief History of Three Kingdoms 三國典略: a history of the Northern and Southern dynasties written by Qiu Yue 丘悦 (c. 7th–8th centuries). Now lost. “Three kingdoms 三國” refers to the following three divisions of China: the northwest division ruled by the Western Wei and Northern Zhou dynasties, the northeast division ruled by the Eastern Wei and Northern Qi dynasties, and the southeast division ruled by the Liang and Chen dynasties. Zhao Wenshen 趙文深, i.e., Zhao Wenyuan 趙文縑 (c. 6th century): an official and calligrapher. According to the Book of Zhou 周書 and the History of Northern Dynasties 北史, his highest title was not Governor of Weixing Commandery but Governor of Zhaoxing Commandery 趙興郡守 of the Northern Zhou dynasty. In the histories written in the Tang dynasty, his given name Wenyuan is changed to Wenshen to avoid naming taboos due to Emperor Gaozu 高祖 of Tang (r. 618–626), whose given name was Yuan 元. His posthumous name is Ming 明, and his temple name is Shizong. Xiao Cha 蕭察 (519–562, r. 555–562): the first emperor of the
Western Liang dynasty, who controlled the city of Jiangling as a puppet monarch of the Western Wei and Northern Zhou dynasties. The character cha 蘇 is usually used for his given name. His posthumous name is Xuan 宣, and his temple name is Zhongzong 中宗. Cf. 周書 • 趙文深傳, vol. 47; 北史 • 趙文深傳, vol. 82.

120. The Book of Chen 陳書 says: Xiao Yin 蕭引 was good at clerical script, and was highly valued at that time. When Emperor Gaozong 高宗 once inspected a report, he pointed at Yin’s signature and said: “These characters are written with light brushwork, and look like birds that are going to fly.” Yin appreciatively replied: “It is because Your Majesty lent me the feathers.”

Notes: Book of Chen 陳書: the standard history of the Chen dynasty written by Yao Silian 姚思廉 (557–637). Xiao Yin 蕭引 (c. 6th century): an official from Lanling 閩陵 County of Southern Lanling 南蘭陵 Commandery. His highest title was Inner Mentor 中庶子 of the Chen dynasty. Emperor Gaozong 高宗, i.e., Emperor Xuan 宣帝 of Chen (530–582, r. 569–582): the fourth emperor of the Chen dynasty. His family name was Chen 陳, and his given name was Xu 璟. His posthumous name is Xiaoxuan 孝宣, and his temple name is Gaozong. Cf. 陳書 • 蕭引傳, vol. 21; 南史 • 蕭引傳, vol. 18.

121. The Book of Tang says: Xue Ji 薛稷 loved old things, was erudite, and especially good at clerical script. After the Zhengu 慕和 Yonghui 永徽 eras, people respected and learned the calligraphy of Yu Shinan 虞世南 and Chu Suiliang 褚遂良, yet few calligraphers succeeded in acquiring it thereafter. There was much old calligraphy of Yu Shinan and Chu Suiliang in the library of the house of Ji’s maternal grandfather Wei Zheng 魏徵. Ji imitated it earnestly, his brushwork thus became strong and beautiful, no one could equal him at that time.


122. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Clerical script was created by Cheng Miao 程邈 of the Qin dynasty, from Xiagui 下邽 County. Miao, whose courtesy name was Yuancen 元岑, was a jailer of his county at first, and afterward, he was criminated by First Emperor 始皇 and imprisoned at Yunyang 雲陽 County. In prison, he pondered over how to improve the square and round shapes of small seal script for ten years, and created a set of three thousands characters of clerical script. When he submitted it to Emperor, the latter recognized its merits and installed him as the Censor 御史. Since there were so many documents to submit clerks could not
write completely in seal script, so they began to use clerical script. It was named clerical script because it helped clergers write easily.

Notes: Cheng Miao 程邈 (c. 3rd century BCE): an official who is said to have created clerical script. The oldest record about his creation is seen in the postface of the Shuowen jiezi 論文解字 by Xu Shen 許慎 (see art. 2). First Emperor 始皇 of Qin: see art. 103. Cf. 法書要録, vol. 7.

123. It also says: In the reign of Emperor He 和帝, Jia Fang 賈鲂 composed the Pangxi pian 漳喜篇, and integrated the Cangjie 蒼颉 as the first part, the Xunzuan 訓纂 as the second part, and the Pangxi as the third part into one book called the Sancang 三苍. The characters in the book were all written in clerical script, and the clerical style spread widely thereafter. The Commentary on the Water Classic 水經注 by Li Shanchang 鄭善長 says: “A man from Linzi 臨淄 unearthed an old tomb, where found a coffin, and on the outside of its front jut it was inscribed in convex characters of clerical script stating that it was the coffin of Duke Hu 胡公 of Qi, the sixth generation descendant of Duke Tai 太公. Only three characters were written in ancient style, and others were the same as today. Thus it is proved that clerical script derives from older times, not from the Qin dynasty.”

又曰: 和帝時, 賈鲂作《滂喜篇》, 以《蒼颉》為上篇, 《訓纂》為中篇, 《滂喜》為下篇, 所謂《三蒼》也。皆是隸字寫之, 隸法由茲而廣。鄭善長《水經注》曰: “臨淄人發古冢得棺, 前後壁隱起為隸字,言齊太公六代孫胡公之棺也。唯三字是古, 餘同今書。證知隸字出古, 非始於秦也。”

Notes: Emperor He 和帝 of Han (79–105, r. 88–105): the fourth emperor of the Eastern Han dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Zhao 趙. His posthumous name is Xiaohe 孝和, and his temple name is Muzong 穆宗. Jia Fang 賈鲂 (c. 1st century): According to the Book of Sui “Monograph on Bibliography” 隋書·經籍志, he held the title Court Gentleman 郎中 of the Eastern Han dynasty. Cangjie 蒼颉: see art. 101. Xunzuan 訓纂, i.e., the Xunzuan pian 訓纂篇: a primer and glossary compiled by Yang Xiong 扬雄 (53 BCE–18 CE). Commentary on the Water Classic 水經注: a geography written by Li Daoyuan 郭道元 (d. 527), whose courtesy name was Shanchang. Linzi 臨淄: the capital city of the State of Qi, located in present day Shandong 山東 Province. Duke Hu 胡公 of Qi (d. 860 BCE, r. 862–860 BCE): the sixth monarch of the State of Qi in the Western Zhou dynasty. Duke Tai 太公 of Qi (c. 11th century BCE): the first monarch of the State of Qi. He is also called Lü Shang 呂尚. Cf. 法書要録, vol. 7.

124. The Shape of Clerical Script 隸勢 by Chenggong Sui 成公綬 says: Worm seal script 龜篆 is complicated, while cursive script 草藁 is nearly erroneous. Clerical script is the best mean between those two styles.

成公綬《隸勢》曰: 龜篆既繁, 草藁近僞。適之中庸, 莫尚於隸。
Notes: Chenggong Sui 成公綏 (231–273): an official and author from Baima 白馬 County of Dong Commandery 東郡. His courtesy name was Zi’an 子安. His highest title was Secretariat Gentleman 中書郎 of the Western Jin dynasty. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 7); Records for Early Learning 初學記, vol. 21.

Cursive script 草書

125. Han Records from the Eastern Library 東觀漢記 says: Prince Jing of Beihai Mu 北海靜王穆 was good at cursive script. When he fell into a critical condition, Emperor Ming 明帝 sent him a message by post horses ordering him write ten epistles in cursive script.

Notes: Han Records from the Eastern Library 東觀漢記: see art. 10. Prince Jing of Beihai Mu 北海靜王穆 (d. 74): a grandnephew of Emperor Guangwu 光武帝 of Han (6 BCE–57 CE, r. 25–57 CE). His family name was Liu 劉, his given name was Mu 穆, and he succeeded the title Prince of Beihai from his father Prince Jing of Beihai Xing 北海靖王興. His posthumous name is not Jing 靜 but rather Jing 敬 according to the Later Book of Han. Emperor Ming 明帝 of Han (28–75, r. 57–75): the second emperor of the Eastern Han dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Zhuang 莊. His posthumous name is Xiaoming 孝明, and his temple name is Xianzong 顯宗. Cf. 後漢書·北海靖王興傳, 列傳 4.

126. The Later Book of Han 後漢書 by Fan Ye 范曄 says: Zhang Chao 張超 was good at cursive script, and was the most excellent at that time.

Notes: The Later Book of Han 後漢書: the standard history of the Eastern Han dynasty written by Fan Ye 范曄 (398–445). Zhang Chao 張超 (c. 2nd century): an author from Mao 鄴 County of Hejian 河間 Commandery. His courtesy name was Zibing 子並. His highest title was Major with a Separate Command 別部司馬 of the Eastern Han dynasty. Cf. 後漢書·張超傳, 列傳 70 bot.

127. Records of Wei 魏志 says: Liu Yi 劉廙 was transferred to be the Instructor to the Leader of Court Gentlemen for Miscellaneous Uses 五官將文學. Emperor Wen 文帝 valued him highly, and allowed Yi to write to him in cursive script.

Notes: Records of Wei 魏志, i.e., the Book of Wei 魏書 in Records of Three Kingdoms 三國志: see art. 11. Liu Yi 劉廙 (180–221): a statesman from Anzhong 安衆 County of Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. His courtesy name was Gongsì 恭嗣. His highest titles were Palace Attendant 侍中 and Marquis of Guannei 閔內侯 of the Cao Wei dynasty. Emperor Wen 文帝 of Wei (187–226, r. 220–226): the first emperor of the Cao Wei dynasty. His family name was Cao 曹, and his given name was Pi 丕. His posthumous name is Wen 文. Before enthroned, he was installed as Leader of Court Gentlemen for Miscellaneous Uses 五官中郎將

161

128. The Book of Jin says: 王獻之 王獻之 was reviewed by contemporary critics as follows: Xizhi’s 義之 cursive script has no equal in the Jin dynasty after its transfer to Jiangdong; Xianzhi is far inferior in power to his father, yet excels in beauty.

《晉書》曰：王獻之，時議者以爲：羲之草書，江左中朝，莫有及者；獻之骨力遠不及父，而媚趣過之。


129. It also says: Wei Guan 衛瓘, whose courtesy name was Boyu 伯玉, as well as the Gentleman of the Secretariat 尚書郎 Suo Jing 索靖 from Dunhuang 燕然 Commandery, was good at cursive script, and they were called two masters at the Secretariat. Zhang Zhi 張芝 (Original annotation: Zhi’s courtesy name was Boying 伯英.) in the last years of the Han dynasty was good at cursive script, and critics reviewed that Guan acquired Boying’s muscle, while Jing acquired his flesh.

又曰：衛瓘，字伯玉，與尚書郎燉煌索靖俱善草書，時人號之一臺二妙。漢末張芝（原注：芝字伯英）善草書，論者謂瓘得伯英之筋，靖得伯英之肉。

Notes: Wei Guan 衛瓘: see art. 27. Suo Jing 索靖: see art. 19. Cf. 晉書・衛瓘傳, vol. 36.

130. The Book of Northern Qi 北齊書 says: Zhao Zhongjiang 趙仲將 was good at cursive and clerical scripts, and he always wrote normative characters even when he wrote to his younger brother. He said: “Cursive script must be written clearly. If I send a letter written in cursive script to someone, I would seem to despise him. Furthermore, I am afraid of misunderstanding when the receiver is immature.”

《北齊書》曰：趙仲將（原作舒，據《北齊書》改）善草隸，雖與弟書，字皆楷正。云： “草不可不解。若施（原作放，據《北齊書》改）之於人，即似相輕易。若當家卑幼，又恐其疑。”

Notes: Book of Northern Qi 北齊書: the standard history of the Northern Qi dynasty written by Li Baiyao 李百藥 (565–648). Zhao Zhongjiang 趙仲將 (c. 6th century): an official from Wan 宛 County of Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. His highest title was Inspector of An Prefecture 安州刺史 of the Sui dynasty. Cf. 北齊書・趙仲將傳, vol. 38; 北史・趙仲將傳, vol. 55.

131. The Brief History of Three Kingdoms 三國典略 says: Xiao Ziyun 蕭子雲, the son of Prince Wenxian of Yuzhang 豫章文獻王 of the Southern Qi dynasty, was sophisticated, good at cursive script, and famous along with his elder brothers Zixian 子顯 and Zizhao 子昭. His youngest son Te 特 was also good at calligraphy, and Emperor Wu of Liang 梁武帝 praised him: “Zijing’s 子敬 calligraphy was inferior to that of Yishao 逸少, yet that of Xiao Te almost equals that of his father.”

《三國簡略》曰： 蕭子雲，齊豫章文獻王之子，有文學，工草書，與兄子顯、子昭齊名。少子特，又善書，梁武帝稱之曰： “子敬之跡，不及逸少；特之書，遂逼其父。”
Notes: Brief History of Three Kingdoms 三國典略: see art. 119. Xiao Ziyun 蕭子雲: see art. 24. Xiao Zixian 蕭子顯 (487–537): the eighth son of Prince Wensian of Yuzhang Ni 誥章文獻王窻 (444–492) of the Southern Qi dynasty. His courtesy name was Jingyang 景陽. His highest title was Minister of Personnel 史部尚書 of the Liang dynasty. Xiao Zizhao 蕭子昭: details unknown. Xiao Te 蕭特 (c. 6th century): the second son of Xiao Ziyun. His courtesy name was Shida 世達. His highest title was Magistrate of Haiyan County 海鹽令 of the Liang dynasty. Emperor Wu of Liang 梁武帝: see art. 24. Zijing 子敬: see Wang Xianzhi (art. 16). Yishao 逸少: see Wang Xizhi (art. 12). Cf. 梁書·蕭子雲傳, vol. 35; 南史·蕭子雲傳, vol. 42.

132. The Book of Chen says: In the reign of Emperor Wen 文帝, a soldier robbed the tomb of Chi Tan 馔殷 of the Jin dynasty at Dantu 丹徒 County, and obtained calligraphy of the Right General Wang Xizhi of the Jin dynasty and other famous people. When the theft was discovered, those calligraphy works were confiscated by the county office, and were finally stored in the imperial archive. Emperor Wen gave most of them to Bomao 伯茂 because he loved old things. Afterward, Bomao became very good at ancient cursive script, and acquired the style of Right General very well. (Original annotation: Bomao refers to Prince of Shixing 始興王.)

《陳書》曰: 文帝時, 人於丹徒盜發晉郗曄墓, 獲晉右軍將軍王羲之書及諸名賢遺跡。事覺, 其書並沒縣官, 藏於秘府。文帝以伯茂好古, 多以賜之。由是伯茂大工章草, 甚得右軍之法。(原注: 伯茂, 始興王也。)

Notes: Emperor Wen 文帝 of Chen (522–566, r. 559–566): the second emperor of the Chen dynasty. His family name was Chen 陳, and his given name was Qian 蜀. His posthumous name is Wen 文, and his temple name is Shizhu 世祖. Chi Tan 馔殷 (320–361): a statesman from Jinxiang 金鄉 County of Gaoping 高平 Commandery. His courtesy name was Chongxi 重熙. He was the second son of Chi Jian 馌堅, and was a brother of Wang Xizhi’s wife Chi Xuan 鄺暄 (see art. 138). His highest titles were Leader of Court Gentlemen of the North 北中郎將, Inspector of Xu and Yan Regions 徐兪二州刺史, and Earl of Dong’an 東安縣伯 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. His posthumous name is Jian 简. Chen Bomao 陳伯茂 (551–568): the second son of Emperor Wen of Chen. His courtesy name was Yuzhi 鬱之. He received the title Prince of Shixing in 559. Cf. 陳書·始興王伯茂傳, vol. 28; 南史·始興王伯茂傳, vol. 65.

133. The Book of Tang says: He Zhizhang 賀知章 was good at cursive script. If his writing was found, every dilettante treasured it even though each paper only contained a few dozen characters. At that same time, Zhang Xu 張旭 from Wu Commandery 吳郡 was also on familiar terms with Zhizhang. Xu loved drinking, and every time he drank he shouted loudly, ran about madly, groped for a brush, and wielded it with brushwork so boundlessly varied as it was as if he was aided by a divine being. People at that time called him Zhang the Madman 張顛。

《唐書》曰: 賀知章, 善草書。好事者供其倉頡, 每紙不過數字, 共傳寶之。時有吳郡張旭, 亦與知章相善。而好酒, 每醉後, 號呼狂走, 素筆揮灑, 變化無窮, 若有神助。時人號為張顛。
Notes: He Zhizhang 賀知章 (659–744): an official and poet from Yongxing 永興 County of Yue Prefecture 越州. His courtesy name was Jizhen 季真. His highest title was Supervisor of the Archives Secretariat 祕書監 of the Tang dynasty. Zhang Xu 張旭 (c. 7th–8th centuries): an official and calligrapher from Wu County 吳縣 of Su Prefecture 蘇州. His highest title was Administrator of the Left Guard Command 左率府長史 of the Tang dynasty. Cf. 舊唐書 • 賀知章傳, vol. 190 mid.

134. Corrected Records of Three Guardians 三輔決錄 says: Zhao Xi 趙_EXPI_, whose courtesy name was Yuansi 逹, was the Governor of Dunhuang Commandery 燉煌太守. In earlier years, Du Bodu 杜伯度 and Cui Ziyu 崔子玉 had been praised for their skill at cursive script. Xi and Luo Hui 羅晦 were also good at cursive script, and were very proud of their calligraphy. Zhang Boying 張伯英 once wrote to the Chamberlain for the Imperial Stud 太僕 Zhu Ci 朱賜 from Xi’s native commandery: “I am inferior to Cui and Du upward, while superior to Luo and Zhao downward.”

《三輔決錄》曰：趙暹，字元嗣，為燉煌太守。先是杜伯度、崔子玉以工草稱於前世。暹與羅晦亦能草，頗自矜誇。故張伯英與暹同郡太僕朱賜書曰：“上比崔、杜不足，下比洛、趙（原作常，以意改）有餘。”

Notes: Corrected Records of Three Guardians 三輔決錄: see art. 53. Li Xian’s 李賢 annotation for the Later Book of Han cites this article as Zhi Yu’s 臧虞 annotation for the book. Zhao Xi 趙暹 (c. 2nd century): an official and calligrapher from Changling 長陵 County of Jingzhao 京兆 Capital Region. Zhao Qi 趙岐 (d. 201), the author of Corrected Records of Three Guardians, was his younger cousin. Du Bodu 杜伯度: see Du Du 杜度 (art. 19). Cui Ziyu 崔子玉: see Cui Yuan (art. 70). Luo Hui 羅晦 (c. 2nd century): an official and calligrapher from Duling 杜陵 County of Jingzhao 京兆 Capital Region. His courtesy name was Shujing 叔景. His highest title was Supervisor of the Palace Guards 羽林監 of the Eastern Han dynasty. Zhang Boying 張伯英: see Zhang Zhi (art. 14). Zhu Ci 朱賜: details unknown. Cf. 後漢書 • 趙岐傳, 列傳 54.

135. A Criticism against Cursive Script 非草書 by Zhao Yi 趙壹 says: Cursive script was created in the near ancient times. It was neither dropped down from heavenly bodies, nor disgorged from the Yellow River 河 and the Luo 洛 River, nor created by sages. In the last years of the Qin dynasty, clerical cursive script 隸草 was created by shifting towards rapidity because many official documents were being produced, many battles were happening, many military documents were coming and going, and many urgent commands were flying around. It represents the concept of ease, but not being the achievement of sages. Those who learn cursive script today do not think of its concept of ease, take it for granted that the models of Du Du 杜 and Cui Yuan 崔 are the embodiment of the turtle and dragon. All those who are capable of learning, after their adult teeth grow, abandon the Cangjie 剛頍 and the Shizhou 史籀, and only study Du and Cui as their models. When they have to write to people, they want to devote their attention to calligraphy and so write: “I am unluckily busy now, so I cannot write in cursive.” Cursive script was easy and rapid originally, but now conversely it is difficult and slow, and its
concept is heavily spoiled. Masters Du 杜, Cui 崔, and Zhang 張 each had distinguished talent, learned widely, and amused themselves in calligraphy at their leisure. People in later times admire the masters, only study calligraphy as their business, respect the masters more and more highly, forget their fatigue, do not rest in the evening, and have no time for a meal at nightfall. They exhaust one brush every ten days, and use up several cakes of ink every month; their collars and sleeves turn black as honey locust seeds, and their lips and teeth are always black. When they sit together with other people, they do not participate in the conversation, and just draw on the ground with their finger, continuing even after injuring the finger and baring the bone. However, their calligraphy makes no progress just as a woman imitating the grimace of a beauty seems uglier, or just as a man learning another way of walking forgets his own rhythm.

Notes: Zhao Yi 趙壹 (c. 2nd century): a scholar and author from Xi County 西縣 of Hanyang 漢陽 Commandery. His courtesy name was Yuanshu 元叔. He held the title Senior Treasurer 上計 of Hanyang Commandery. Du Du 杜度: see art. 19. Cui Yuan 崔瑗: see art. 70. Cangjie 堂閣, i.e., the Cangjie pian 蒼頌篇: see art. 101. Shizhou 史籀, i.e., the Shizhou pian 史籀篇: see art. 104. Master Zhang 張子: see Zhang Zhi (art. 14). Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 1.

136. Right General Wang 王右軍 wrote Shape of Cursive Script 草書勢 as follows: In the Qin dynasty, kings competed for supremacy, documents were dispatched, and commands were issued with beacons and post horses. Since seal and clerical scripts were difficult to write rapidly, they created a rapid style of script, which is called cursive script today. It derives from the ancestor Du Du 杜氏, Zhang Zhi 張 is the grandfather, Wei Guan 威 is the father, Suo Jing 索 and Fan Ye 范 are the uncles, and the Two Wangs 二王父子 can be called the brothers, Bo Shaozhi 博 being the illegitimate son, and Yang Xin 羊 being the servant. My description above will not be contrary to the concept in which Cangjie observed the traces of birds. It has sparse and dense bodies, and holds an outstanding sense; it shows shapes of flying, running, and flowing, an atmosphere of standing on a precipitous cliff, a mild and gentle look, and a prominent and free emotion. How can I sweepingly review the skill exhibited in a hundred styles and a thousand shapes!

王右軍自敘《草書勢》曰：昔秦時諸侯爭長，簡檄相傳，望烽走駟。正以篆隷之難，不敷其速，遂作赴急之書，蓋今草書也。其先出自杜氏，以張為祖，以衛為父，索、范者伯叔也，二王父子可謂兄弟，薄為庶息，羊為僕僕。自而敘之，亦不失會公觀鳥跡之意。抅體有膠密，意有侷侷：或有飛走流注之勢，
Notes: **Right General Wang** 王右軍: see Wang Xizhi (art 12). **Du Du** 杜度: see art. 14. **Wei Guan** 衛瓘: see art. 27. **Suo Jing** 索靖: see art. 19. **Fan Ye** 范曄: see art. 70. **The Two Wangs** 二王父子: refers to Wang Xizhi and his seventh son Xianzhi (art. 16). **Bo Shaozhi** 薄紹之: see art. 70. **Yang Xin** 羊欣: see art. 54. **Cf.** 法書要録, vol. 7; *Mochi bian* 墨池編, vol. 2.

137. *The Judgements on Calligraphy* says: Ru Chun 如淳 says: “Gao 賴 represents making a draft.” Yao Cha 姚察 says: “Cao 草 is just as *cu* 草 ‘rough.’” *Gao* 賴 represents making a book written roughly.” The definition of creating sentences derives from those above interpretations. Cursive script originated from making drafts.

《書斷》曰: 如淳云: “作起草為書。”姚察曰: “草，猶草。羸（下羸字原無，據《法書要録》重之）書為本草鎔。”蓋訓文誠出於此。草書之先，因於起草。

Notes: **Ru Chun** 如淳 (c. 3rd century): a scholar from Pingyi 順義 Commandery. His highest title was Aide of Chen Commandery. He created an annotated work on the *Book of Han*. **Yao Cha** 姚察 (533–606): a scholar from Wukang 武康 County of Wuxing 武興 Commandery. His courtesy name was Boshen 伯審. His highest titles were Secretary of the Crown Prince 太子内舍人 and Duke of Northern Jiang Commandery 北鎔郡公 of the Sui dynasty. He also created annotated works on the *Book of Han*. **Cf.** 法書要録, vol. 7.

138. It also says: **Lady Chi 鄰氏**, the wife of **Wang Yishao 王逸少** of the Jin dynasty, was very good at calligraphy, and his seventh son **Xianzhi 献之** was the most famous. **Xuanzhi 玄之**, **Ningzhi 凝之**, **Huizhi 徽之**, and **Caozhi 操之** were all good at cursive script. **Ningzhi**’s wife **Xie Yun 謝蕴** was a woman of talent, good at calligraphy also, and valued very highly by her father-in-law. **Xianzhi**, who was also good at cursive script, first learned under his father in his childhood, studied **Zhang Zhi 楊之** afterward, thereby changing his style and creating another model. Finally, he wholly obeyed his own heart and coincided with the heavenly law, no one equaling him in free emotion.

又曰: 晉王逸少, 妻鄰氏甚工書, 七子獻之最知名。玄之、凝之、徽之、操之並工草書。凝之妻謝蕴，有才華，亦善書，甚為君舅重焉。獻之猶善草書，幼學於父，次習於張，爾後改變制度，別創其法。率爾師心，冥合天矩，觀其逸志，莫之與京。

Notes: **Lady Chi** 鄰氏, i.e., **Chi Xuan 鄰煑** (c. 4th century): a daughter of **Chiaian 鄰値** (269–339), the Defender-in-Chief 太尉 of the Eastern Jin dynasty from Jinxiang 金鄉 County of Gaoping 高平 Commandery. **Wang Yishao** 王逸少: see Wang Xizhi (art 12). **Wang Xianzhi** 献之: see art. 16. **Wang Xuanzhi** 玄之 (326–357): the first son of Wang Xizhi. His courtesy name was Boyuan 伯遠. **Wang Ningzhi** 凝之 (334–399): the second son of Wang Xizhi. His courtesy name was Shuping 叔平. His highest titles were Inspector of Jiang Region 江州刺史, Left General 左將軍, and Governor of the Principality of Kuaiji 会稽内史 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. **Wang Huizhi** 徽之 (338–386): the fifth son
139. Xie Tiao 謝眺 of the Southern Qi dynasty, whose courtesy name was Xuanhui 玄暉, was by far the most elegant and refined at that time. His calligraphy had a very good reputation, and that in cursive script was especially famous. It looks like a beauty standing beside a river being lit by the sunset clouds in the twilight; it is like flowers being blown about in the forest in late spring.

Notes: Xie Tiao 謝眺 (464–499): a poet from Yangxia 陽夏 County of Chen Commandery 陳郡. His highest title was Secretarial Court Gentleman at the Ministry of Personnel 尚書吏部郎 of the Southern Qi dynasty. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 8).

140. Xiao Sihua 蕭思@RequestParam of the Liu Song dynasty, who was good at calligraphy, learned under Yang Xin 羊欣 and acquired his cursive script calligraphy wonderfully. The shape of a mountain range does not seem to be split when viewed broadly, therefore, Sihua’s calligraphy can be called skillful although it has neither a strange peak nor a precipitous cliff. Yuan Ang 袁昂 says: “Yang Xin 羊, Kong Linzhi 孔, Xiao Sihua 蕭, and Fan Ye 范 excelled for a time in regular, cursive, running, and seal script respectively.”

Notes: Xiao Sihua 蕭思@RequestParam: see art. 70. Yang Xin 羊欣: see art. 54. Yuan Ang 袁昂: see art. 70. Kong Linzhi 孔琳之: see art. 70. Fan Ye 范: see art. 70. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 9).

Flying white script 飛白書

141. The Book of Song says: Wang Sengqian 王僧虔, who was the Secretariat Director 尚書令, once wrote in flying white script on the wall of the Secretariat office as follows: “It is the absolute law of things that a round object will move and a square object will stay. If a thing is decorated endlessly it will be excessive, if it is piled up endlessly it will collapse, and if it is carried endlessly it will be lost, that is why one ought to go promptly when it is time.” This verse was applauded and compared with the Inscription to the Right of the Seat 座右銘 at that time.

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Notes: 王僧虔: see art. 54. 袁昂: see art. 70. Kong Linzhi 孔琳之: see art. 70. Fan Ye 范: see art. 70. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 9).
Notes: *Book of Song*: this could be considered a clerical error—*Book of Southern Qi* is more appropriate.

Wang Sengqian 王僧虔: see art. 21. *Inscription to the Right of the Seat* 坐右銘: a verse written by Cui 崔瑗 (see art. 70). Cf. 南史·王僧首傳, vol. 22.

142. The *Book of Tang* says: Liu Ji 劉洎 was installed as the Cavalier Attendant-in-Ordinary 散騎常侍. Ji was by nature freehearted and able to speak straightforwardly. Emperor Taizong 太宗 was good at Wang Xizhi’s 王羲之 calligraphy, especially at flying white script. Emperor once invited his subjects within the third rank to the banquet held at the Xuanwu Gate 玄武門, where he took the brush and wrote some characters in flying white script to give his subjects. A servant snatched away that writing from Emperor’s hand under the influence of liquor, then Ji went up to the throne and took it in his hand. All other subjects proposed to Emperor: “It is a capital crime that Ji stepped on the imperial couch. Please punish him according to the law!” Emperor said with laughter: “We have heard that Consort declined to ride in imperial palanquin in the past, and now We see Attendant on Our couch.”

《唐書》曰: 刘洎除散騎常侍。洎性疏俊敢言。太宗工王羲之書，尤善飛白。嘗宴三品已上於玄武門，帝操筆作飛白字賜羣臣。或乘酒爭取於帝手，洎登御座引手得之。皆奏曰：“洎登御牀，罪當死。請付法。”帝笑而言曰：“昔閻婕妤辭輦（原作轡，據《舊唐書》改），今見常侍登牀。”

Notes: *Liu Ji*: 劉洎 (d. 645): a statesman from Jiangling 江陵 County of Jing Prefecture 荊州. His courtesy name was Sidao 思道. His highest title was Director of the Chancellery 侍中 of the Tang dynasty. *Consort Ban*: 班婕妤 (c. 1st century BCE): a concubine of Emperor Cheng 成帝 of Han (51–7 BCE, r. 33–7 BCE). She once declined Emperor’s invitation to ride in his palanquin because she feared distracting him from matters of state. Cf. 舊唐書·劉洎傳, vol. 74.

143. Ma Zhou 马周 was once given by Emperor Taizong a work of flying white script written in his imperial own hand, inscribed thus: “A phoenix needs its wings to fly above the clouds. Imperial attendants can be relied on as long as they are loyal.”

馬周，太宗嘗以神筆賜周飛白書，曰: “鸞鳳凌雲，必資羽翼。股肱之寄，誠在忠良。”

Notes: *Ma Zhou*: 马周 (601–648): a statesman from Chiping 潍平 County of Qinghe 清河 Commandery. His courtesy name was Binwang 賓王. His highest title in life was Secretariat Director 中書令 of the Tang dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Commander-in-Chief of You Region 幽州都督. Cf. 舊唐書·馬周傳, vol. 74.

144. Emperor Gaozong 高宗 wrote three works of flying white script and gave them to the attendants. In those works was written thus: “One who floats near the source of a great river waits for a rudder,” for Dai Zhide 戴至德; “One who flies all over the nine areas of the sky needs six wings,” for Hao Chujun 郝處俊; and “One who depends on good assistance keeps sincerity,” for Li Jingxuan 李敬玄.
Notes: **Emperor Gaozong** 高宗 of Tang: see art. 34. **Dai Zhide** 戴至德 (d. 679): a prime minister in the reign of Emperor Gaozong, from Anyang 安陽 County of Xiang Prefecture 相州. His highest titles in life were Right Vice Director of the Secretariat 右僕射, Advisor to the Crown Prince 太子賓客, and Duke of Dao State 道國公. He was posthumously conferred the title Superior Commander-in-Chief of Bing Region 并州大都督. His posthumous name is Gong 勃. **Hao Chujun** 郝處俊 (607–681): a statesman from Anhui 安陸 County of An Prefecture 安州. His highest title in life was Director of the Chancellery 侍中 of the Tang dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Superior Commander-in-Chief of Jing Prefecture 萊州大都督. **Li Jingxuan** 李敬玄 (615–682): a prime minister in the reign of Emperor Gaozong, from Qiao 賽 County of Bo Prefecture 毫州. His highest titles in life were Secretariat Director 中書令 and Duke of Zhao State 趙國公. He was posthumously conferred the title Commander-in-Chief of Yan Region 兖州都督. His posthumous name is Wenxian 文憲. Cf. 舊唐書 • 戴胄傳, vol. 70.

145. **Gleanings of the Daye Era** 大業拾遺 says: When Emperor Yang 暢帝 were about to visit Jiangdu 江都 in the Daye era, he ordered that Prince of Yue You 越王侑 be in charge of the Eastern Capital. Half of the ladies in the palace could not go along with Emperor, and they cried with one another in crying to prevent him from going, mourning their parting and clinging to the carriage, with their blood from their fingers staining the martingale. Emperor did not return, and left the ladies the following twenty characters written in flying white script: “I have dreamed of the beauty of Jiangdu, it was incidental that I went to Liaodong for conquest. Keep your complexions good, it is only this year that we will be apart.”

Notes: **Gleanings of the Daye Era** 大業拾遺 collected stories about Emperor Yang’s private life at Jiangdu in the Daye era (605–618). It is usually named Records Gleaned in the Daye Era 大業拾遺記, and also named Records on the Haze and Flowers of the South 南部煙花録. **Emperor Yang 暢帝** of Sui: see art. 92. **Jiangdu 江都**: present day Yangzhou 扬州 City, Jiangsu 江蘇 Province. In 616, Emperor Yang moved there because of the rebellions spreading throughout northern China. **Prince of Yue You 越王侑**: According to the Book of Sui 隋書, not Yang You 楊侑, i.e., Emperor Gong You 恭帝侑 (605–619, r. 617–618), the third and last emperor of the Sui dynasty, but his brother Yang Tong 楊侗 (604–619) received the title Prince of Yue in 607. Furthermore, when Emperor Yang escaped to Jiangdu, Prince of Dai You 代王侑 stayed at the Daxing 大興 capital, and Prince of Yue Tong was ordered to be responsible for defending the Eastern Capital Luoyang. Cf. 大業拾遺記, vol. top.

146. **The Institutional History of Tang** 唐會要 says: On the fifth day of the fifth month of the eighteenth year...
of the Zhenguan 貞觀 era (Original annotation: the day of the duanwu 端午 festival), Emperor Taizong wrote characters such as luan 鴻, feng 鳳, qiu 蛇, and long 龍 in flying white script, and the brushwork was amazingly excellent. Emperor told the Minister of Education 司徒 Zhangsun Wuji 長孫無忌 and the Minister of Personnel 吏部尚書 Yang Shidao 餘師道: “According to the custom of older times, people used to present one another ornaments or playthings on the fifth day of the fifth month. Now We present each of you two fans carrying flying white script, and We hope they will generate a fresh breeze that improves your virtue.”

Notes: Institutional History of Tang 唐會要: historic records of the Tang dynasty compiled by Wang Pu 王溥 (922–982). Zhenguan 貞觀 era: 627–649. Zhangsun Wuji 長孫無忌 (d. 659): a prime minister in the reigns of Emperors Taizong and Gaozong, from Luoyang 洛陽 County of Henan 河南 Commandery. His courtesy name was Fuji 輔機. His highest titles were Defender-in-Chief 太尉 and Duke of Zhao State 趙國公 of the Tang dynasty. Yang Shidao 餘師道 (d. 647): a prime minister in the reign of Emperor Taizong, from Huayin 華陰 County of Hongnong 洪農 Commandery. His courtesy name was Jingyou 景猷. His highest titles in life were Secretariat Director 中書令 and Duke of Ande Commandery 安德郡公. He was posthumously conferred the titles Minister of Personnel and Commander-in-Chief of Bing Region 井州都督. His posthumous name is Yi 齊. Cf. 唐會要, vol. 35.

147. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Flying white script was created by Cai Yong 蔡邕, the Leader of Court Gentlemen of the Left 左中郎 of the Later Han dynasty. Both Wang Yin 王隠 and Wang Yin 王愔 say: “Flying white script, which is a variation of the regular style, was used for the plates of palaces originally. Since the shape of characters was as large as a zhang square, it had better be light and sparse. Therefore it was named flying white script.” Wang Sengqian 王僧虔 says: “Flying white script is a lighter sort of eight-point script.” Despite such interpretations as above, in the Xiping 嘉平 era, Emperor Ling of Han 漢靈帝 ordered Cai Yong 蔡邕 to compose the Shenghuang pian 聖皇篇, and he went to the Hongdu Gate 鴻都門 when the work was complete. The Hongdu Gate was being repaired then, and Bojie 伯喈, waiting beside the gate for imperial order, found a workman drawing characters with a broom. He was delighted in his heart, and made flying white script after returning home. It was used for the plates of palaces and pavilions in the last years of the Han dynasty and the first years of the Cao Wei dynasty. It has two styles: one leans to the normativity of eight-point script, another leans to the lightness of small seal script. If Mr. Cai had not prepared the excellency, how could it improve so much! His creation can be deemed the achievement of a man who can communicate with the other world or the divine immortals.

《書斷》曰: 飛白書者, 後漢左中郎蔡邕所作也。王隠、王愔並云: “飛白, 變楷制也, 本是宮殿題署。勢既徑丈 (原作勁大, 據《法書要錄》改), 字宜輕側不滿。名為飛白。”王僧虔云: “飛白, 八分之輕者。”雖有此說, 今漢靈帝熹 (原作嘉, 據《法書要錄》改) 平年詔蔡邕作《聖皇篇》, 篇成,
Court Gentlemen of the Left

147. The amazing excellent. Emperor told the Minister of Education "Flying white script, which is a variation of the regular style, was used for the plates of palaces originally. Since found a workman drawing characters with a broom. He was delighted in his heart, and made flying white script complete. The Hongdu Gate was being repaired then, and Bojie to compose the much! His creation can be deemed the achievement of a man who can communicate with the other world or the leans to the lightness of small seal script. If Mr. Cai had not prepared the excellency, how could it improve so after returning home. It was used for the plates of palaces and pavilions in the last years of the Han dynasty and

86. His courtesy name was Fuji the reigns of Emperors Taizong and Gaozong, from Luoyang. His highest titles in life were Secretariat Director. His posthumous name is Yi Yang Shidao of the Tang dynasty.


148. The Fashu yaolu 法書要錄 says: Flying white script was a lighter sort of eight-point script for palaces originally, and wholly uses the regular style. Zhang Hong 張弘 of the Wu dynasty loved studying, never served as an official, and always wore a black hood, so people at that time called him Zhang the Black Hood 張烏巾. He was especially good at flying white script, and those who were good at calligraphy rarely disliked his work. The法書要錄曰：飛白，本是宮殿八分之輕者，全用楷法。呉時張弘，好學不仕，常着烏巾，時人號為張烏巾。此人特善飛白，能書者鮮不好之。


Ancient cursive script 章草書

149. The Book of Jin says: Wang Xizhi’s calligraphy was not as good as that of Yu Yi 庾翼 and Chi Yin 鄱愔 at first, but became excellent in his later years. When he once replied to Yu Liang 庾亮 in ancient cursive script, Yi deeply admired the writing, and wrote to Xizhi: “There used to be ten papers of Boying’s 伯英 ancient cursive script in my house, but we lost them because of confusion when passing over the Yangtze, and since then I often regret the excellent writing that disappeared forever. Now as I observe your reply to my brother, it is shining as if divine, and it instantly revives that sight I experienced in the past.”

The晋書曰：王羲之書，初不勝庾翼、鄱愔，及其暮年方妙，嘗以章草答庾亮，而翼深獻伏，因與羲之書，云：‘吾昔有伯英章草十紙，過江頒紙，遂乃亡失，常歎妙迹永絕。忽見足下答家兄書，煥若神明，頓還舊觀。’

Notes: Yu Yi 庾翼 (305–345): a statesman from Yanling 鄱陵 County of Yinchuan 順川 Commandery. His courtesy name was Zhigong 稚恭. His highest titles in life were Inspector of Jing Region 荊州刺史, Westward-subduing General 征西將軍, and Marquis of Duting 都亭侯 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. He was posthumously conferred the title Chariots and Horse General 車騎將軍. His posthumous name is Su 肅. Chi Yin 鄱愔 (313–384): a statesman from Jinxiang 金鄉 County of Gaoping 高平 Commandery. His courtesy name was Fanghui 方回. He was the first son of Chi Jian 鄱畿, and was a brother of Wang Xizhi’s wife Chi Xuan 鄱誕 (see art. 138). His highest titles in life were Inspector of Xu and Yan Regions 徐兖二州刺史 and General of Pacifying the North 平北將軍 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. He was posthumously
conferred the titles Palace Attendant and Minister of Works. His posthumous name is Wenmu. Yu Liang (289–340): a statesman, an elder brother of Yu Yi. His courtesy name was Yuanui. His highest titles in life were Inspector of Jiang, Jing, and Yu Regions, Westward-subduing General, and Marquis of Duting. He was posthumously conferred the title Defender-in-Chief. His posthumous name is Wenkang.


150. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Ancient cursive script was created by Shi You, the Director of Eunuch Attendants. Both Wei Chang and Li Dan say: “The cursive style originated in the early years of the Han dynasty, but we have no idea who created it.” Xiao Ziliang says: “Du Cao, the Governor of the Principality of Qi, changed the cursive style into ancient cursive script.” Those above interpretations are all false. It is true what Wang Yin says: “In the reign of Emperor Yuan of Han, Shi You composed the Jijiu zhang, in which the bodies of clerical script were dissolved and written roughly, and that script spread gradually because the Han customs tended to become easier.”

Notes: Shi You (c. 1st century BCE): a eunuch who held the title Director of Eunuch Attendants in the reign of Emperor Yuan of Han (r. 49–33 BCE). Wei Chang, i.e., Wei Heng: see art. 18. Li Dan: details unknown. Xiao Ziliang: the second son of Emperor Wu of Qi (440–493, r. 482–493). His courtesy name was Yunying. Du Cao: the Governor of the Principality of Qi. His posthumous name is Wenxuan. Du Dan: see art. 19. Wang Yin: see art. 147. Emperor Yuan of Han: see art. 99. Jijiu zhang: a primer and glossary used in the Han, Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern dynasties. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7.

151. It also says: Suo Jing, whose courtesy name was You’an, was good at ancient cursive script. His calligraphy was derived from Wei Dan, and surpassed him in severity. It looks as if the mountain was split at the center, the water was falling down; it looks like a lone pine tree on the snowy peak, and like an unstable rock in the icy river. Its hardness and strength has no equal in all ages.


152. Xu Gan, whose courtesy name was Bozhang, was good at ancient cursive script. Ban Gu
praished him in his letter to his younger brother Chao: “I obtained a piece of Bozhang’s draft of epistle. Every friend will surely be impressed if he reads it. It is quite true that one’s art is built by oneself, one’s fame is raised by others.” In later years, Su Ban 蘇班 from Pingling 平陵 was praised very much by Bozhang for his calligraphy when five years old.

Notes: Xu Gan 徐幹 (c. 1st century): an official from Pingling 平陵 County of Fufeng 扶風 Capital Region. His highest title was Adjudant 司馬 under Ban Chao’s army. Ban Gu 班固 (32–92): a historian and author from Anling 安陵 County of Fufeng 扶風 Capital Region. His courtesy name was Mengjian 孟堅. He wrote the Book of Han 漢書 as Director of the Orchid Pavilion 蘭臺令史. Ban Chao 班超 (32–102): an Eastern Han dynasty general who conquered the Western Regions 西域. His courtesy name was Zhongsheng 仲升. His highest titles were Protector General of the Western Regions 西域都護 and Marquis of Dingyuan 定遠侯. Su Ban 蘇班: details unknown. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 9).

153. It also says: Zhang Boying 張伯英 of the Later Han dynasty improved Bodu’s 伯度 ancient cursive script, just as Yishao 逸少 improved Yuanchang’s 元常 regular script. He and Yishao added more colors and let flowers bloom in the elaborate way of analysis, thus much beauty being produced, but they are both inferior to their master in high and deep taste and the plain and simple style. However, both of them are by far the best of all ages.

又曰：後漢張伯英損益伯度章草，亦猶逸少增減元常（原作省，據《法書要錄》改）真書。雖潤色開華，精於斷割，美則美矣，至若高深之致，質本之風，俱不逮其師也。然各（原作名，據《法書要錄》改）為今古之獨步。


154. It also says: Zhang Boying’s 張伯英 Jijiu zhang 急就章 in ancient cursive script, in which every character is written by one stroke, corresponds with nature, so it is what is called ultimate changeability. Yang Xin 羊欣 says: “Zhang Zhi 張芝, Huang Xiang 皇象, Zhong Yao 鍾繇, and Suo Jing 索靖 were all called sages of calligraphy in their own times.”

又曰：張伯英章草書《急就章》，字一筆而成，合於自然，可謂變化至極。羊欣云：‘張芝、皇象、鍾繇、索靖，時並號書聖。’


155. Zhang Zhi 張芝 was good at ancient cursive script. Cui Yuan 崔瑗 says: “A dragon rises up and a leopard changes its spots, blue dye comes from the indigo plant.” He also created modern cursive script—being allowed
anything by Heaven, especially unique, freehearted and detached, never caring about right or wrong; just like the water of a long river originating from the pure source flows endlessly, and goes round through the canyon; only the Creator can design a flow such as that. As for those shapes like dragons and animals running, jumping, and clutching, heart and hand go along with any change, it is impossible to predict where they will go. It is elaborate and excellent, being the crown of all ages; that is why the model permanent for hundreds of generations can neither be comprehended with intelligence nor be acquired with effort. It is just like a man of superiority who travels around in the silent country, or a phoenix that flies about in the field of heaven. Whoever could say it was meaningless that Wei Zhongjiang 韋忡將 called him the sage of cursive script!

Notes: Cui Yuan 崔瑗: see art. 70. Wei Zhongjiang 韋忡將: see Wei Dan (art. 53). Cf.法書要錄, vol. 8.

156. It also says: Zhang Chang 張昶, whose courtesy name was Wenshu 文舒, was the youngest brother of Boying 伯英. He was the Gentleman Attendant at the Palace Gate 黃門侍郎, and was especially good at ancient cursive script. He never spoiled the way of his family, and let new leaves and flowers grow. His calligraphy was similar to Boying, so people at that time called him a lesser sage.


157. It also says: Du Du 杜度 of the Later Han dynasty, whose courtesy name was Bodu 伯度, was from Duling 杜陵 County of Jiangzhao 京兆 Capital Region. He was a great-grandson of the Censor-in-Chief 御史大夫 延年, served as the Governor of the Principality of Qi 齊相 in the reign of Emperor Zhang 章帝, and was good at ancient cursive script. Although Shi You 史游 created cursive script, no book tells us of his skill, and no piece of his writing remains. It was Mr. Du who first realized that excellence. Wei Dan 韋誕 says: “Du Du is remarkably powerful, yet his strokes look a little thin. Cui Yuan 崔瑗 learned Du Du as his model, and the bodies are very dense, yet the skill of construction is sometimes worse. Zhang Zhi 張芝 liked and studied their calligraphy, and his skill became more and more elaborate. He can be called a sage of cursive script, being by far the best of all ages.”

Notes: Du Du 杜度, 京兆杜陵人也。御史大夫延年曾孫, 章帝時為齊相, 善章草書。雖史游始草書, 傅不紀其能, 又無其跡。唯杜公乎。韋誕云（原無雲字, 據《法書要錄》補）: “杜氏桀有骨力, 而字畫微瘦。崔氏法之, 書體甚濃, 結字工巧, 時有不及。張芝嘉而學焉, 轉精其巧。可謂草聖, 超前絕後, 獨步無雙矣。”
Notes: Du Du 杜度: see art. 19. Du Yannian 杜延年 (d. 52 BCE): an official of the Western Han dynasty.
Emperor Zhang 章帝 of Han (57–88, r. 75–88): the third emperor of the Eastern Han dynasty. His family name was Liu 劉, and his given name was Da 坦. His posthumous name is Xiaozhang 孝章, and his temple name is Suzong 肅宗. Shi You 史游: see art. 150. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 8.

Running script 行書

158. The Judgements on Calligraphy says: Liu Desheng 刘徳升 of the Later Han dynasty from Yingchuan 義川 Commandery, whose courtesy name was Junsi 君嗣, created running script. It is a minor simplification of regular script. It obeys the concept of ease, and allows the characters to flow and run, that is why it is named running script. It is true what Wang Yin 王愔 says: “After the Jin dynasty, many good calligraphers have appeared. It was Zhong Yuanchang 鍾元常 who won the reputation of being good at running script in the former ages.” Afterward, Wang Xizhi 王羲之 and Xianzhi 獻之 both reached the highest point.


159. It also says: Liu Desheng won a reputation by creating running script in the reigns of Emperors Huan 桓 and Ling 竟. His calligraphy was simple but also glamorous, being by far the most elegant and charming at that time. Hu Zhao 胡昭 and Zhong Yao 鍾繇 both studied his calligraphy as their model. Hu Zhao’s calligraphy looked a little thin, but each had some merits of Desheng’s calligraphy.

Notes: Emperor Huan 桓帝 of Han (132–167, r. 146–167): see art. 44. Emperor Ling 靈帝 of Han (156–189, r. 168–189): see art. 100. Hu Zhao 胡昭: see art. 11. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 8.

160. It also says: Wang Xiu 王脩 of the Jin dynasty, whose courtesy name was Jingren 敬仁, was good at running script. He once asked Right General 右軍 for his calligraphy, then he wrote the Encomium for the Portrait of Dongfang Shuo 東方朔畫讚 and gave it to Xiu. Wang Sengqian 王僧虔 says: “Jingren almost completely acquired the excellence of the model, that is why Wang Zijing 王敬, every time he looked at his calligraphy, said: ‘He almost catches up with the forerunner.’”

Notes: Wang Xiu 王脩 (334–357): an official from Jinyang 晉陽 County of Taiyuan 太原 Commandery.
His father was Wang Meng 王濬 (see art. 35). He held the titles Editorial Director 著作郎 and Instructor to Prince of Langya 琅邪王文學 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. **Right General 右軍:** see Wang Xizhi (art. 12). **Encomium for the Portrait of Dongfang Shuo 東方朔畫讚:** a regular script calligraphy work written by Wang Xizhi. Its text was originally written by Xiahou Zhan 夏侯湛 (243–291). **Wang Sengqian 王僧虔:** see art. 21. **Wang Zijing 王子敬:** see Wang Xianzhi (art. 16). **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 9.

**Correction**

In articles 21, 22, and 26 of this annotated translation, which were previously published, the title 侍中 in the Northern and Southern dynasties was incorrectly translated into “Director of the Chancellery.” The correct translation is “Palace Attendant.” Additionally, the translation “Mr. Director’s” in article 24 must likewise be corrected to “Mr. Attendant’s.”