

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* 晉書 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. 王隱《晉書》曰: 荀勗領祕書監, 始書師鍾、胡(原作朗, 據《晉書》改)法。太康二年, 得汲郡冢中古文竹書, 勗自撰次注, 寫以爲中經, 列(原作別, 據《晉書》改)在祕書, 以較經傳, 闕文多所證明。

Notes: **Book of Jin** 晉書: 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 潁陰 County of Yingchuan 潁川 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. 晉書・荀勗傳, vol. 39.

97. The *Judgements on Calligraphy* 書斷 says: Ancient script was invented by Cangjie 蒼頡, 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* 書. *Shu* represents *ru* 如 “to be alike,” *shu* 舒 “to stretch,” and *ji* 紀 “to record.”

《書斷》曰：古文者，黃帝史蒼頡所造也。頡首有四目，通於神明，仰觀奎星圓曲之勢，俯察龜文鳥跡之象，採乎衆美，合而爲字，是曰古文。《孝經援神契》云“奎主文章，蒼頡放象”，是也。夫文字者，摠而爲言，包意以名事也。分而爲義，則文者祖父，字者子孫。得之自然，備其文理，象形之屬，則爲之文；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: **Judgements on Calligraphy** 書斷: see art. 85. **Legs mansion** 奎: one of the Chinese asterisms. **Xiaojing yuanshenqi** 孝經援神契: one of the weft books 緯書. **Wen** 文 and **zi** 字: see arts. 2 and 18. **Pictographic** 象形, **signific-phonetic** 形聲, and **associative** 會意: see art. 18. Cf. *Fashu yaolu* 法書要錄, vol. 7.

98. It also says: Wei Qi 衛覬 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：魏衛覬，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** 衛覬: 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. 籀 is pronounced *zhou* 紂.)

《漢書》曰：元帝善史書（原注：史籀所作大篆。籀音紂）。

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 奭. His posthumous name is Xiaoyuan 孝元, and his temple name is Gaozong 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. *Han Shu* 漢書 • 元帝紀, vol. 9.

100. The *Sequel to Book of Han* 續漢書 says: When Emperor Ling 靈帝 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 鳥篆.

《續漢書》曰：靈帝置鴻都門，諸生能爲尺璧賦，及以工書鳥篆相課試，至千人焉。

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** 靈帝 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* 蒼頡, worm seal script 蟲篆, and the meanings of characters in Mr. Xu's 許氏 dictionary.

《魏略》曰：邯鄲淳善《蒼頡》、蟲篆、許氏字指。

Notes: Brief History of Wei 魏略: a history of the Cao Wei dynasty written by Yu Huan 魚豢 (c. 3rd century). Now lost. **Handan Chun** 邯鄲淳: see art. 70. **Cangjie** 蒼頡, i.e., the *Cangjie pian* 蒼頡篇: a primer and glossary used in the Qin and Han dynasties. **Mr. Xu's** 許氏 **dictionary**: refers to the *Shuowen jiezi* 說文解字 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 竇遵 was good at normative seal script 楷篆, thus most of the steles and building gate plates in the Northern Capital 北齊 were written by him.

《後魏書》曰：竇遵善楷篆，北齊諸碑及臺殿樓觀門題，多其書也。

Notes: Later Book of Wei 後魏書, i.e., the *Book of Wei* 魏書: see art. 26. **Dou Zun** 竇遵 (c. 5th century): an official from Weiguo 衛國 County of Dunqiu 頓丘 Commandery. His highest titles were Gentleman of the Secretariat 尚書郎 and Governor of Puyang Commandery 濮陽太守 of the Northern Wei dynasty. **Northern Capital** 北齊: refers to the Pingcheng 平城 Capital of the Northern Wei dynasty. Cf. *魏書* • 竇瑾傳, vol. 46; *北史* • 竇瑾傳, 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* 蒼頡篇. 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 草隸 to flowers. Wang Xizhi 羲 and Xianzhi 獻 were the most excellent of all the flowers, and Shi Zhou 籀 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 繹山, 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.

《書斷》曰：秦李斯妙篆，始省改之爲小篆，著《蒼頡篇》七章。雖帝王質文，世有損益，終以文代質，漸就澆醜；則三皇結繩，五帝畫象，三王肉刑，斯可況也。古文可爲上古，大篆爲中古，小篆爲下古。三古謂之實，草隸謂之華。妙極於華者羲、獻，精窮於實者籀（原注：籀，史籀）、斯。始皇以和氏之璧（原作壁，據《法書要錄》改）琢而爲璽，令斯書其文。今泰山、繹山及秦望等碑，並其遺迹。謂國之偉寶，百世之法式。斯小篆入神，大篆入妙。

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** 蒼頡篇: 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 嬴, 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 女媧, and Shennong 神農 according to “Basic Annals of the Three Sovereigns 三皇本紀,” which Sima Zhen 司馬貞 (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 黃帝, Zhuanxu 顓頊, Ku 嚳, Yao 堯, and Shun 舜 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 湯 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** 繹山: 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 甄豐 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.

《書斷》曰：大篆者，周宣王太（原作大，據《法書要錄》改）史史籀所作也。或云：柱下史始變古文，或同或異，謂之爲篆。篆者，傳也，傳其物理，施之無窮。甄（原作郵，據《法書要錄》改）豐定六書，三曰篆書。八體書法，一曰大篆。又《漢書・藝文志》：“《史籀》十五篇。”蓋此也。

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 繆篆, and bird and worm script 鳥蟲書 according to the postface of the *Shuowen jiezi* 說文解字. **Zhen Feng** 甄豐 (d. 10 CE): a right-hand man of Wang Mang 王莽 (45 BCE–23 CE, r. 8–23 CE) from Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. His courtesy name was Changbo 長伯. He held the titles Grand Minister of Works 大司空 of the Western Han dynasty 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 刻符, worm script 蟲書, seal carving script 摹印, plate script 署書, weapon script 殳書, 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 of Master Lü* 呂氏春秋 says: “Cangjie 蒼頡 invented large seal script.” If Cangjie invented large seal script, where can we place ancient script? It is true “Seal script 籀篆 is its descendant.”

又曰：《呂氏春秋》云：“蒼頡造大篆。”非也。若蒼頡造大篆，則置古文何地？即“籀篆蓋其子孫”，是也。

Notes: Spring and Autumn Annals of Master Lü 呂氏春秋: an encyclopedic book compiled by Lü Buwei 呂不韋 (d. 235 BCE), a statesman and scholar of the Qin kingdom. **Seal script is its descendant**: words seen in the *Shapes of Four Styles of Script* 四體書勢 by Wei Heng 衛恆, cited in the *Book of Jin* 晉書・衛瓘傳, vol. 36 (see art. 18). **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 7.

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.

又曰：小篆者，秦丞相李斯所作也。增損大篆，異同籀文。謂之小篆，亦曰秦篆。

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.

蔡邕《篆勢》曰：體有大（原作六，據《法書要錄》改）篆，妙巧入神。或象龜文，或比（原作化，據《法書要錄》改）龍鱗。紆體放尾，長翅短身。延頸脅翼，勢似凌雲。

Notes: **Cai Yong** 蔡邕: see art. 70. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7; 晉書 • 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 陳州刺史 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.

《唐書》曰：張廷珪與陳州刺史李邕親善，屢上表薦之。邕所撰碑碣之文，必請廷珪八分書之，甚為時人所重。

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 濟源 County of Henan Prefecture 河南府. His courtesy name was Wenyu 溫玉. 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 貞穆. **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 梁鵠 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.

《世論》曰：安定梁鵠，字孟皇，善八分書，太祖使書信、幢（原作幢，以意改）、宮門榜題。

Notes: **Reputations of the Present World** 世論, i.e., *Wei-Jin Accounts of the World* 魏晉世語: see art. 55. **Liang Hu** 梁鵠 (c. 2nd–3rd centuries): an official and calligrapher from Wuzhi 烏氏 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* says: Eight-point script was created by the feathered man 羽人 Wang

Cizhong 王次仲 from Shanggu 上谷 Commandery.

《書斷》曰：八分書者，秦羽人上谷王次仲所作也。

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.

又曰：後漢師宜官，南陽人也。靈帝好書，徵天下工書於鴻都門，至數百人。八分稱宜官爲（原作焉，據《法書要錄》改）最，大則一字徑丈，小則方寸千言。甚矜其能，而性嗜酒。或時空至酒家，因書壁以雇之。觀者雲集，酤酒多售。

Notes: **Shiyi Guan** 師宜官: see art. 70. **Emperor Ling** 靈帝 of Han: 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.

《吳志》曰：張昭，字子（原無子字，據《三國志》補）布，善隸書。

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 婁侯 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.

《晉書》曰：王羲之尤善隸書，爲古今之冠。論者稱其筆勢，以爲飄若遊雲，矯若驚龍。深爲從伯敦、導之所器重。

Notes: **Book of Jin** 晉書: see art. 12. **Wang Xizhi** 王羲之: see art. 12. **Wang Dun** 王敦: see art. 82. **Wang Dao** 王導: see art. 82. Cf. 晉書 • 王羲之傳, vol. 80.

114. The *Book of Jin Restored* 晉中興書 says: Li Chong's 李充 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 鍾 and Suo Jing 索, and was highly valued by all people. His elder cousin Shi 式 was also good at calligraphy.

《晉中興書》曰：李充，字弘度。母衛氏，廷尉展之妹也。充少孤，母聰明有訓，又善楷書，妙參鍾、索，世咸重之。充從兄式（原作咸，據《晉書》改），亦善書。

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 光祿大夫. **Zhong Yao** 鍾繇: 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. 沈約《宋書》曰：文帝善爲隸書。

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.

又曰：羊欣，字敬元，長隸書。父不疑初爲烏程令，欣年十二，時王獻之爲吳興太守，甚知愛之。獻之嘗夏月入縣，欣着新絹裙晝寢。獻之書裙，數幅而去。欣本工書，因此彌善。

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. The capital of Wuxing 吳興 Commandery was located there. **Wang Xianzhi** 王獻之: see art. 16. **Fu** 幅: a unit to measure cloth. A *fu*, which equals two *chi* 尺 and two *cun* 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.”

《齊書》曰：王僧虔善隸書。宋文帝見其書素扇，歎曰：“非唯跡逾子敬，又當器雅過之。”

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. 21. **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 周顒, in youth, once visited the house of his maternal ascendant, the Chariots and Horse General 車騎將軍 Zang Zhi 臧質, where he obtained Wei Chang’s 衛常 loose clerical 散隸 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!”

《齊書》曰：周顒少往外氏車騎將軍臧質家，得衛常散隸書法，學之甚能。文惠太子使顒書玄圃茅齋壁。國子祭酒何胤以倒薤書求就顒換之。顒笑曰：“天下有道，丘不與易也。”

Notes: **Zhou Yong** 周顒 (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** 臧質 (400–454): a general from Ju County 莒縣 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* 論語. **Cf.** 南齊書 • 周顒傳, 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 德本, was from Wan 宛 County of Nanyang 南陽 Commandery. He learned normative clerical 楷隸 script in youth, and acquired the styles of Zhong Yao 鍾 and Wang Xizhi 王. Wenshen and Ji Jun 冀儁 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 邯鄲 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.

《三國典略》曰：周白石縣男趙文深，以題榜之功除魏興郡守。文深字德本，南陽宛人也。少學楷隸，有鍾、王之則。當時書唯文深及冀儁而已。王褒尤善書，文深慙恨，形於言色。後知好尚難反（原作及，據《周書》改），改習褒書，竟無所成，轉被譏誚，謂之學步邯鄲焉。至於碑榜，人莫之逮，褒亦推之。宮殿樓閣，皆其迹也。世宗令至江陵，書《景福寺碑》，蕭察觀而美之。

Notes: Brief History of Three Kingdoms 三國典略: a history of the Northern and Southern dynasties written by Qiu Yue 丘悅 (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 Wenyan 趙文淵 (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 Wenyan is changed to Wenshen to avoid naming taboos due to Emperor Gaozu 高祖 of Tang (r. 618–626), whose given name was Yuan 淵. **Ji Jun** 冀儁 (c. 6th century): an official and calligrapher from Yangyi 陽邑 County of Yaiyuan 太原 Commandery. His courtesy name was Sengjun 僧儁. His highest titles were General-in-Chief of the Cavalry 驃騎大將軍, Inspector of Hu Prefecture 湖州刺史, and Marquis of Changle County 昌樂縣侯 of the Northern Zhou dynasty. **Wang Bao** 王褒 (c. 6th century): an official and author from Linyi 臨沂 County of Langya 琅邪 Commandery. His courtesy name was Ziyuan 子淵. His highest title was Vice-Minister of Works 小司空 of the Northern Zhou dynasty. He originally served the Liang dynasty at the Jiangling 江陵 capital, later was captured by the Western Wei army and moved to Chang'an in 554. **Learning the Handan walk** 學步邯鄲: an allegory originating in the *Zhuangzi* 莊子. A man from the Yan 燕 kingdom went to the Handan capital of the Zhao 趙 kingdom to learn the way of walking in which people there walked. Not only did he fail to learn the Handan walk, but he also forgot his own original walk. **Emperor Shizong** 世宗, i.e., Emperor Ming 明帝 of Zhou (534–560, r. 557–560): the second emperor of the Northern Zhou dynasty. His family name was Yuwen 宇文, and his given name was Yu 毓. 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* 瞿 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."

《陳書》曰：蕭引善隸書，爲當時所重。高宗嘗披奏事，指引署名，曰：“此字筆勢翩翩，似鳥之欲飛。”引謝曰：“此乃陛下假其羽毛耳。”

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 蘭陵 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 瑱. 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 Zhenguan 貞觀 and 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.

《唐書》曰：薛稷好古博雅，尤工隸書。自貞觀、永徽之際，虞世南、褚遂良，時人宗其書跡，自後罕能繼者。稷外祖魏徵家圖籍多有虞、褚舊跡，稷銳精模倣，筆能道麗，當時無及之者。

Notes: **Xue Ji** 薛稷: see art. 76. **Zhenguan** 貞觀 era: 627–649. **Yonghui** 永徽 era: 650–655. **Yu Shinan** 虞世南: see art. 29. **Chu Suiliang** 褚遂良: see art. 28. **Wei Zheng** 魏徵: see art. 28. Cf. 舊唐書・薛稷傳, vol. 73.

122. The *Judgements on Calligraphy* says: Clerical script was created by Cheng Miao 程邈 of the Qin dynasty, from Xiagui 下邳 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 clerks write easily.

《書斷》曰：隸書者，秦下邳人程邈所作也。邈字元岑，始爲縣獄吏，得罪始皇，幽繫雲陽。獄中覃思十年，益小篆方圓，而爲隸書三千字。奏之，始皇善之，用爲御史。以奏事煩多，篆家難成，乃用隸書。爲隸人佐書，故曰隸書。

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* 說文解字 by Xu Shen 許慎 (see art. 2). **First Emperor** 始皇 of Qin: see art. 103. **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 7.

123. It also says: In the reign of Emperor He 和帝, Jia Fang 賈魴 composed the *Pangxi pian* 滂喜篇, and integrated the *Cangjie* 蒼頡 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* 三蒼. 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 酈善長 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，賈魴撰《滂喜篇》，以《蒼頡》爲上篇，《訓纂》爲中篇，《滂喜》爲下篇，所謂《三蒼》也。皆是隸字寫之，隸法由茲而廣。酈善長《水經注》曰：“臨淄人發古冢得棺，前和外隱起爲隸字，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 肇. His posthumous name is Xiaohe 孝和, and his temple name is Muzong 穆宗. **Jia Fang** 賈魴 (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** 蒼頡: see art. 101. **Xunzuan** 訓纂, i.e., the *Xunzuan pian* 訓纂篇: a primer and glossary compiled by Yang Xiong 揚雄 (53 BCE–18 CE). *Commentary on the Water Classic* 水經注: a geography written by Li Daoyuan 酈道元 (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.** 法書要錄, vol. 7.

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

成公綏《隸勢》曰：蟲篆既繁，草篆近僞。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 北海靜王睦 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.

《東觀漢記》曰：北海靜王睦，善草書。臨病，明帝驛馬令作草書尺牘十首焉。

Notes: **Han Records from the Eastern Library** 東觀漢記: see art. 10. **Prince Jing of Beihai Mu** 北海靜王睦 (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 睦, 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.

范曄《後漢書》曰：張超，並善於草書，妙絕時人。

Notes: **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 鄭 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.

《魏志》曰：劉廙轉五官將文學（原作士，據《三國志》改）學。文帝器之，命廙通草書。

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 關內侯 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

of the Eastern Han dynasty in 211. Cf. 三國志・魏書・劉廙傳, vol. 21.

128. The *Book of Jin* says: Wang Xianzhi 王獻之 was reviewed by contemporary critics as follows: Xizhi's 羲之 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。

Notes: **Wang Xianzhi** 王獻之: see art. 16. **Wang Xizhi** 王羲之: see art. 12. Cf. 晉書・王獻之傳, vol. 80.

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 燉煌 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字，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・趙彥深傳, vol. 38; 北史・趙彥深傳, 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."

《三國典略》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：“子敬之迹，不及逸少；蕭特之書，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 Wenxian of Yuzhang Ni 豫章文獻王嶷 (444–492) of the Southern Qi dynasty. His courtesy name was Jingyang 景陽. His highest title was Minister of Personnel 吏部尚書 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 郗曇 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，軍人於丹徒盜發晉郗曇墓，獲晉右軍將軍王羲之書及諸名賢遺跡。事覺，其書並沒縣官，藏于祕府。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 蒨. His posthumous name is Wen 文, and his temple name is Shizu 世祖. **Chi Tan** 郗曇 (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 郗鑒, and was a brother of Wang Xizhi's wife Chi Xuan 郗璿 (see art. 138). His highest titles were Leader of Court Gentlemen of the North 北中郎將, Inspector of Xu and Yan Regions 徐兗二州刺史, and Earl of Dong'an County 東安縣伯 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. His posthumous name is Jian 簡. **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。好事者供其牋翰，每紙不過數十字，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，索筆揮灑，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 趙襲, whose courtesy name was Yuansi 元嗣, 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 羅暉 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：趙襲，字元嗣，爲燉煌太守。先是杜伯度、崔子玉以工草稱於前世。襲與羅暉亦能草，頗自矜誇。故張伯英與襲同郡太僕朱賜書曰：“上比崔、杜不足，下方羅、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 摯虞 annotation for the book. **Zhao Xi** 趙襲 (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** 羅暉 (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 雒 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* 倉頡 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.

趙（原作張，據《法書要錄》改）壹《非草書》曰：夫草書之興也，其於近古乎。上非文象所垂，下非河、雒所吐，中非聖人所造。蓋秦之末，官書煩冗，戰攻並作，軍書交馳，羽檄分飛，故隸草趣急速耳。示簡易之指，非聖人之業也。今之學草者，不思其簡易之旨，直以爲杜、崔之法，龜龍所見也。齟齬以上，苟任涉學者，廢《倉頡》、《史籀》，竟以杜、崔爲楷。私書相與，庶獨就書，云：“適迫遽，故不及草。”草本易而速，今反難而遲，失指多矣。夫杜、崔、張子，皆有超俗絕世之才，博學餘暇，遊手于斯。後世慕焉，專用爲務，鑽堅仰高，忘其罷勞，夕惕不息，晷不暇食。十日一筆，月數丸墨，領袖如皁，脣齒常黑。雖處衆坐，不遑談戲，展指畫地，見鯁（原注：蘇來切，角中骨也）出血，猶不休輟。然其爲字，無益工拙，亦效嘖者之增醜，學步者之失節也。

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** 倉頡, i.e., the *Cangjie pian* 蒼頡篇: 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 衛 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 薄 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。正以篆隸之難，不救其速，遂作赴急之書，蓋今草書也。其先出自杜氏，以張爲祖，以衛爲父，索、范者伯叔也，二王父子可謂兄弟，薄爲庶息，羊爲僕隸。自而敘之，亦不失倉公觀鳥跡之意。抑體有疎密，意有倜儻；或有飛走流注之勢，

驚竦峭絕之氣，滔滔閑雅之容，卓犖調宕之志。百體千形，而呈其巧，豈可一槩而論哉！

Notes: **Right General Wang** 王右軍: see Wang Xizhi (art 12). **Du Du** 杜度: see art. 19. **Zhang Zhi** 張芝: 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.* 法書要錄, vol. 7; *Mochi bian* 墨池編, vol. 2.

137. The *Judgements on Calligraphy* says: Ru Chun 如淳 says: “*Gao* 藁 represents making a draft.” Yao Cha 姚察 says: “*Cao* 草 is just as *cu* 麓 ‘rough.’ *Gao* 藁 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：“作起草爲藁。”姚察曰：“草，猶麓。麓（下麓字原無，據《法書要錄》重之）書爲本曰藁。”蓋舛文議出於此。草書之先，因於起草。

Notes: **Ru Chun** 如淳 (c. 3rd century): a scholar from Pingyi 馮翊 Commandery. His highest title was Aide of Chen Commandery 陳郡丞 of the Cao Wei dynasty. 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 吳興 Commandery. His courtesy name was Boshen 伯審. His highest titles were Secretary of the Crown Prince 太子內舍人 and Duke of Northern Jiang Commandery 北絳郡公 of the Sui dynasty. He also created annotated works on the *Book of Han*. *Cf.* 法書要錄, vol. 7.

138. It also says: Lady Chi 郗氏, the wife of Wang Yishao 王逸少 of the Jin dynasty, was very good at calligraphy, and his seventh son Xianzhi 獻之 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 謝蕓 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 張 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，妻郗氏甚工書，七子獻之最知名。玄之、凝之、徽之、操之並工草書。凝之妻謝蕓，有才華，亦善書，甚爲君舅重焉。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** 郗氏, i.e., Chi Xuan 郗璠 (c. 4th century): a daughter of Chi Jian 郗鑒 (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** 王獻之: see art. 16. **Wang Xuanzhi** 王玄之 (326–357): the first son of Wang Xizhi. His courtesy name was Boyuan 伯遠. **Wang Ningzhi** 王凝之 (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 會稽內史 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. **Wang Huizhi** 王徽之 (338–386): the fifth son

of Wang Xizhi. His courtesy name was Ziyou 子猷. His highest title was Gentleman Attendant at the Palace Gate 黃門侍郎 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. **Wang Caozhi** 王操之 (c. 4th century): the sixth son of Wang Xizhi. His courtesy name was Zizhong 子重. His highest title was Governor of Yuzhang Commandery 豫章太守 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. **Xie Yun** 謝蘊, i.e., Xie Daoyun 謝道韞 (c. 4th century): a daughter of Xie Yi 謝奕 (d. 358), the Inspector of Yu Region 豫州刺史 of the Eastern Jin dynasty from Yangxia 陽夏 County of Chen Commandery 陳郡. **Zhang Zhi** 張芝: see art. 14. **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 8.

139. Xie Tiao 謝朓 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.

齊謝朓，字玄暉，風華翻藻，當時獨步。書甚有聲，草殊流美。亦猶薄暮川上，則餘霞照人；晚春林中，則飛花滿目。

Notes: **Xie Tiao** 謝朓 (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 蕭思話 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.”

宋蕭思話，工書，學於羊欣，得其草妙。崗連盡望，勢不斷絕，雖無奇峯壁立之秀，可謂有巧矣。袁昂云：“羊真孔草，蕭行范篆，各一時之妙也。”

Notes: **Xiao Sihua** 蕭思話: 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** 范曄: 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.

《宋書》曰：王僧虔爲尚書令，嘗爲飛白書題尚書壁，曰：“圓行方止，物之定質。修之不已則溢，高

之不已則躡，引之不已則遺，是故去之宜疾。”當時嗟賞，以比《座右銘》。

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* 座右銘: a verse written by Cui Yuan 崔瑗 (see art. 70). **Cf.** 南史・王曇首傳, 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：劉洎除散騎常侍。洎性疎俊敢言。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：“昔聞婕妤辭輦（原作輦，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 馬周 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 馬周 (601–648): a statesman from Chiping 荏平 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.

高宗爲飛白書以賜侍臣，賜戴至德曰：“泛洪源，俟舟楫。”賜郝處俊曰：“飛九霄，假六翮。”賜李敬玄（原作玄敬，據《舊唐書》改）曰：“資啓沃，罄丹誠。”

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 恭. **Hao Chujun** 郝處俊 (607–681): a statesman from Anlu 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 荊州大都督. **Li Jingxuan** 李敬玄 (615–682): a prime minister in the reign of Emperor Gaozong, from Qiao 譙 County of Bo Prefecture 亳州. 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 兗州都督. 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 煬帝 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 vied 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.”

《大業拾遺》曰：大業年，煬帝將幸江都，命越王侑留守東都。宮女半不隨駕，爭泣留帝，攀車惜（原作借，以意改）別，指血染鞅。帝不迴，因飛白題二十字，留賜宮妓，云：“我夢江都好，征遼亦偶然。但留顏色在，離別只今年。”

Notes: *Gleanings of the Daye Era* 大業拾遺: collected stories about Emperor Yang’s private life at Jiangdu in the Daye 大業 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* 南部煙花錄. **Emperor Yang** 煬帝 of Sui: see art. 92. **Jiangdu** 江都: present day Yangzhou 揚州 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* 鸞, *feng* 鳳, *qiu* 虬, 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 楊師道: “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.”

《唐會要》曰：貞觀十八年五日（原注：端午日），太宗爲飛白書作鸞鳳虬龍等字，筆勢驚絕。謂司徒長孫無忌、吏部尚書楊師道曰：“五日舊俗必用服翫相賀。朕今各賀君飛白扇二枚，庶動清風，以增美德。”

Notes: ***Institutional History of Tang*** 唐會要: historic records of the Tang dynasty compiled by Wang Pu 王溥 (922–982). **Zhengan** 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** 楊師道 (d. 647): a prime minister in the reign of Emperor Taizong, from Huayin 華陰 County of Hongnong 弘農 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 并州都督. His posthumous name is Yi 懿. 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 王隱 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 熹平 era, Emperor Ling of Han 漢靈帝 ordered Cai Yong 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。王隱、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），字宜輕微不滿。名爲飛白。”王僧虔云：“飛白，八分之輕者。”雖有此說，案漢靈帝熹（原作嘉，據《法書要錄》改）平年詔蔡邕作《聖皇篇》，篇成，

詣鴻都門上。時方脩飾鴻都門，伯喈待詔門下，見役人以堊帚成字。心有悅焉，歸而爲飛白之書。漢末魏初，並以題署宮閣。其體有二：初法於八分，窮微於小篆。自非蔡公設妙，豈能詣此！可謂勝寄冥通，縹緲神仙之事也。

Notes: **Cai Yong** 蔡邕: see art. 70. His courtesy name was Bojie 伯喈. **Wang Yin** 王隱: see art. 96. **Wang Yin** 王愔 (c. 5th century): details unknown. The contents of his work *Records on Characters* 文字志 are cited in the *Fashu yaolu*, vol. 1. **Zhang** 丈: a *zhang* approximately equaled 231 cm in the Han dynasty. **Wang Sengqian** 王僧虔: see art. 21. **Xiping** 熹平 era: 172–178. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 7.

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. 《法書要錄》曰：飛白，本是宮殿八分之輕者，全用楷法。吳時張弘，好學不仕，常着烏巾，時人號爲張烏巾。此人特善飛白，能書者鮮不好之。

Notes: **Fashu yaolu** 法書要錄 (*Compendium of Calligraphy*): a series of works on calligraphy edited by Zhang Yanyuan 張彥遠 (c. 9th century). **Zhang Hong** 張弘: see art. 90. Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 7).

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 郗愔 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."

《晉書》曰：王羲之書，初不勝庾翼、郗愔，及其暮年方妙。嘗以章草答庾亮，而翼深歎伏，因與羲之書，云：“吾昔有伯英章草十紙，過江顛隤，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 鄢陵 County of Yingchuan 潁川 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** 郗愔 (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 郗鑒, and was a brother of Wang Xizhi's wife Chi Xuan 郗璿 (see art. 138). His highest titles in life were Inspector of Xu and Yan Regions 徐兗二州刺史 and General of Pacifying the North 平北將軍 of the Eastern Jin dynasty. He was posthumously

conferred the titles Palace Attendant 侍中 and Minister of Works 司空. His posthumous name is Wenmu 文穆. **Yu Liang** 庾亮 (289–340): a statesman, an elder brother of Yu Yi 庾翼. His courtesy name was Yuangui 元規. His highest titles in life were Inspector of Jiang, Jing, and Yu Regions 江荆豫三州刺史, 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 Defender-in-Chief 太尉. His posthumous name is Wenkang 文康. **Boying** 伯英: see Zhang Zhi (art. 14). Cf. 晉書 • 王羲之傳, vol. 80.

150. The *Judgements on Calligraphy* says: Ancient cursive script was created by Shi You 史游, the Director of Eunuch Attendants 黃門令 of the Han dynasty. Both Wei Chang 衛常 and Li Dan 李誕 say: “The cursive style originated in the early years of the Han dynasty, but we have no idea who created it.” Xiao Ziliang 蕭子良 says: “Du Cao 杜操, the Governor of the Principality of Qi 齊相 of the Han dynasty, changed the cursive style into ancient cursive script.” Those above interpretations are all false. It is true what Wang Yin 王愔 says: “In the reign of Emperor Yuan of Han 漢元帝, Shi You composed the *Jijiu zhang* 急就章, 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.”

《書斷》曰：章草書，漢黃門令（原有史字，據《法書要錄》刪）史游所作也。衛常、李誕並云：“漢初而有草法，不知其誰。”蕭子良云：“章草者，漢齊相杜操始變隸法。”非也。王愔云：“漢元帝時，史游作《急就章》，解散隸體，籀書之，漢俗簡惰，漸以行之。”是也。

Notes: **Shi You** 史游 (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** 衛常, i.e., Wei Heng 衛恆: see art. 18. **Li Dan** 李誕: details unknown. **Xiao Ziliang** 蕭子良 (460–494): the second son of Emperor Wu 武帝 of Qi (440–493, r. 482–493). His courtesy name was Yunying 雲英. He received the title Prince of Jingling 竟陵王 in 482. His highest title was Minister of Education 司徒. His posthumous name is Wenxuan 文宣. **Du Cao** 杜操, i.e., Du Du 杜度: see art. 19. **Wang Yin** 王愔: see art. 147. **Emperor Yuan** 元帝 of Han: see art. 99. *Jijiu zhang* 急就章: 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 索靖, whose courtesy name was You'an 幼安, was good at ancient cursive script. His calligraphy was derived from Wei Dan 韋誕, 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.

又曰：索靖，字幼安，善章草。出韋誕，峻險過也。有若山形中裂，水勢懸流；雪嶺孤松，冰河危石。其堅勁則古今不逮。

Notes: **Suo Jing** 索靖: see art. 19. **Wei Dan** 韋誕: see art. 53. Cf. 法書要錄, vol. 8.

152. Xu Gan 徐幹, whose courtesy name was Bozhang 伯張, was good at ancient cursive script. Ban Gu 班

固 praised him in his letter to his younger brother Chao 超: “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.

後漢徐幹，字伯張，善章草書。班固與弟超書，稱之曰：“得伯張書藁。知識讀之，莫不歎息。實亦藝由己立，名自人成。”後有蘇班者，平陵人也，五歲能書，甚為伯張之所稱歎。

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 Adjutant 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（原作帝，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，質素之風，俱不逮其師也。然各（原作名，據《法書要錄》改）為今古之獨步。

Notes: **Zhang Boying** 張伯英: see Zhang Zhi (art. 14). **Bodu** 伯度: see Du Du (art. 19). **Yishao** 逸少: see Wang Xizhi (art. 12). **Yuanchang** 元常: see Zhong Yao (art. 14). **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 8.

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》，字皆一筆而成，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。”

Notes: **Jijiu zhang** 急就章: see art. 150. **Yang Xin** 羊欣: see art. 54. **Huang Xiang** 皇象: see art. 70. **Suo Jing** 索靖: see art. 19. **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 8.

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 韋仲將 called him the sage of cursive script!

張芝善章草書。崔瑗云：“龍驤豹變，青出於藍。”又勅爲今草，天縱尤異，率意超曠，無惜是非；若清間長源，流而無限，縈迴崖谷，任於造化。至於蛟龍駭獸，奔騰犖犖之勢，心手隨變，窈冥不知其所如也。精熟神妙，冠絕古今，則百世不易之法式，不可以智識，不可以勤求。若上士游乎沉默之鄉，鸞鳳翔乎大皇之野。韋仲將謂之草聖，豈徒言哉！

Notes: **Cui Yuan** 崔瑗: see art. 70. **Wei Zhongjiang** 韋仲將: 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.

又曰：後漢張昶，字文舒，伯英季弟。爲黃門侍郎，尤善章草。家風不墜，奕葉清華。書類伯英，時人謂之亞聖。

Notes: **Zhang Chang** 張昶 (c. 2nd century): an official of the Eastern Han dynasty. **Boying** 伯英: see Zhang Zhi (art. 14). Cf. 書斷 (法書要錄, vol. 8).

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 Yannian 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 崔氏 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.”

又曰：後漢杜度，字伯度，京兆杜陵人也。御史大夫延年曾孫，章帝時爲齊相，善章草書。雖史游始草書，傳不紀其能，又絕其跡。勅其神妙，其唯杜公乎。韋誕云（原無云字，據《法書要錄》補）：“杜氏傑有骨力，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 烜. 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 劉德升 of the Later Han dynasty from Yingchuan 潁川 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.

《書斷》曰：後漢潁川劉德升，字君嗣，造行書。即正書之小僞。務從簡易，相間流行，故謂之行書。王愔云：“晉世以來，工書者多。以行書著名，昔鍾元常善行狎書。”是也。爾後王羲之、獻之並造其極焉。

Notes: **Liu Desheng** 劉德升: see art. 85. **Wang Yin** 王愔: see art. 147. **Zhong Yuanchang** 鍾元常: see Zhong Yao (art. 14). **Cf.** 法書要錄, vol. 7.

159. It also says: Liu Desheng won a reputation by creating running script in the reigns of Emperors Huan 桓 and Ling 靈. 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.

又曰：劉德升，桓、靈之時以造行書擅名。以草勑亦豐妍，風流宛約，獨步當時。胡昭、鍾繇並師其法。而胡書體差瘦，亦各有德升之美也。

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 王子敬, every time he looked at his calligraphy, said: ‘He almost catches up with the forerunner.’”

又曰：晉王脩，字敬仁，善行書。嘗就右軍求書，乃寫《東方朔畫讚》與之。王僧虔云：“敬仁書殆窮其妙，王子敬每省之曰：‘咄咄逼人。’”

Notes: **Wang Xiu** 王脩 (334–357): an official from Jinyang 晉陽 County of Taiyuan 太原 Commandery.

His father was Wang Meng 王濛 (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.”