

CONTENTS

Introductory Remarks vii

Acknowledgments xi

PART ONE

1 The Sun Zi Suanjing (The Mathematical Classic of Sun Zi)	3
1.1 The text in perspective	3
1.2 Author and date	4
1.3 Existing versions	7
1.4 The translation	9
2 Numbers and Numerals	11
2.1 Why the need for a detailed study of numbers and numerals?	11
2.2 The written numbers	12
2.2.1 Structure and concept	12
2.2.2 Number word and number symbol are identical	14
2.2.3 Numerical ranks are indicated	15
2.2.4 Large numbers	16
2.2.5 Summary	19
2.2.6 On the translation of numbers in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>	20
2.3 The rod numerals	20
2.3.1 Description	20
2.3.2 Historical background	21
2.3.3 The intrinsic properties	25
2.3.4 Summary	27
3 The Fundamental Operations of Arithmetic	29
3.1 Were the operations simple?	29
3.2 Manipulating rod digits	30
3.3 Multiplication	32
3.3.1 The method in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>	32

3.3.2	The Chinese method and the earliest method in Islam	36
3.4	Division	38
3.4.1	The method in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>	38
3.4.2	The earliest method in Islam	42
3.5	Addition and subtraction	45
3.6	The multiplication table	47
3.7	Conclusion	51
4	The Common Fraction	53
4.1	Concept, notation and rules	53
4.2	The reduction of a fraction	54
4.3	The addition and subtraction of fractions	56
4.4	The averaging of fractions	58
4.5	Other rules	61
4.6	The subject in general	62
5	On Extracting Roots of Numbers	65
5.1	The background	65
5.2	The method in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>	65
5.3	An analysis of the method	73
5.3.1	A comparison with the method of division	73
5.3.2	An approximation for an irrational root	75
5.3.3	The geometrical derivation and its arithmetization	77
5.4	Significance of the method	80
5.5	Conclusion	82
6	Tables of Measures	83
6.1	Introduction	83
6.2	Measures of length	84
6.3	Measures of weight	86
6.4	Measures of capacity	86
6.5	A common set of decimal fractional units	87
6.6	Densities	88
7	The Various Problems	89
7.1	The problems in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>	89
7.2	Rule of Three	90
7.3	Geometrical configurations	93
7.3.1	Length	93
7.3.2	Square and rectangle	94
7.3.3	Circle and spherical segment	95

7.3.4	Volume	95
7.4	Partnership and sharing	96
7.5	The remainder problem	104
7.6	Rule of False Position	106
7.7	<i>Fang cheng</i> method	110
7.8	Miscellaneous problems	118
7.9	Listing the early mathematical methods	123
8	Socioeconomic Aspects in Sun Zi's China	127
8.1	The period	127
8.2	Buddhism	128
8.3	<i>Wei qi</i> and the nobility	128
8.4	Taxation	129
8.5	The barter trade	131
9	Did the Hindu-Arabic Numeral System have its Origins in the Rod Numeral System?	133
9.1	The background leading to such an investigation	133
9.2	The rod numeral system and the Hindu-Arabic numeral system have the same concept	134
9.3	On the significance of the concept of an invention	135
9.4	No other numeral systems of antiquity share the same concept as the rod numeral system	136
9.5	On the hypothesis that the Hindu-Arabic numeral system has an Indian origin	140
9.6	Evidence of a Chinese origin	141
9.7	Other identical conventions	144
9.8	On the question of transmission	146
9.9	Conclusion	147
 PART TWO		
Translation of <i>Sun Zi Suanjing</i>		149
	Preface	151
	Chapter 1	153
	Chapter 2	163
	Chapter 3	173
Appendix 1: Table of reference for problems in <i>Sun Zi suanjing</i>		183

Appendix 2: Chronology of dynasties	185
Bibliography	187
Supplementary bibliography for books in Chinese	193
Index	195