

Contents

Acknowledgements	IX
List of Illustrations	XI
Abbreviations	XIII
About the Contributors	XIV

Introduction: The Study of Chinese Letters and Epistolary Culture	1
<i>Antje Richter</i>	

PART 1

Material Aspects of Chinese Letter Writing Culture

- 1 Reconstructing the Postal Relay System of the Han Period** 17
Y. Edmund Lien
- 2 Letters as Calligraphy Exemplars: The Long and Eventful Life of Yan Zhenqing's (709–785) Imperial Commissioner Liu Letter** 53
Amy McNair
- 3 Chinese Decorated Letter Papers** 97
Suzanne E. Wright
- 4 Material and Symbolic Economies: Letters and Gifts in Early Medieval China** 135
Xiaofei Tian

PART 2

Contemplating the Genre

- 5 Letters in the *Wen xuan*** 189
David R. Knechtges
- 6 Between Letter and Testament: Letters of Familial Admonition in Han and Six Dynasties China** 239
Antje Richter

- 7 **The Space of Separation: The Early Medieval Tradition of Four-Syllable “Presentation and Response” Poetry** 276
Zeb Raft
- 8 **Letters and Memorials in the Early Third Century: The Case of Cao Zhi** 307
Robert Joe Cutter
- 9 **Liu Xie’s Institutional Mind: Letters, Administrative Documents, and Political Imagination in Fifth- and Sixth-Century China** 331
Pablo Ariel Blitstein
- 10 **Bureaucratic Influences on Letters in Middle Period China: Observations from Manuscript Letters and Literati Discourse** 363
Lik Hang Tsui

PART 3

Diversity of Content and Style

SECTION 1

Informal Letters

- 11 **Private Letter Manuscripts from Early Imperial China** 403
Enno Giele
- 12 **Su Shi’s Informal Letters in Literature and Life** 475
Ronald Egan
- 13 **The Letter as Artifact of Sentiment and Legal Evidence** 508
Janet Theiss
- 14 **Infinite Variations of Writing and Desire: Love Letters in China and Europe** 546
Bonnie S. McDougall
- 15 **Writing from Revolution’s Debris: Shen Congwen’s Family Letters in the Mao Era** 582
Jie Li

SECTION 2

Literary Letters

- 16 **Captured in Words: Functions and Limits of Autobiographical Expression in Early Chinese Epistolary Literature** 621
Matthew Wells
- 17 **Civil Examinations and Cover Letters in the Mid-Tang: Dugu Yu's (776–815) "Letter Submitted to Attendant Gentleman Quan of the Ministry of Rites"** 643
Alexei Ditter
- 18 **The Inscription of Emotion in Mid-Tang Collegial Letters** 675
Anna M. Shields
- 19 **Halves and Holes: Collections, Networks, and Epistolary Practices of Chan Monks** 721
Natasha Heller
- 20 **Letters as Windows on Ming-Qing Women's Literary Culture** 744
Ellen Widmer
- 21 **Epistolary Networks and Practice in the Early Qing: The Letters Written to Yan Guangmin** 775
David Pattinson

SECTION 3

Open Letters

- 22 **Aid and Comfort: Lu Zhaolin's Letters** 829
Paul W. Kroll
- 23 **She Association Circulars from Dunhuang** 853
Imre Galambos
- 24 **Between Writing and Publishing Letters: Publishing a Letter about Book Proprietorship** 878
Suyoung Son

- 25 **Opinions Going Public: Letters to the Editors in China's Earliest
Modern Newspapers** 900
Natascha Gentz

**Scholarship on Chinese Epistolary Literature and Culture:
A Select Bibliography** 933

Index 942