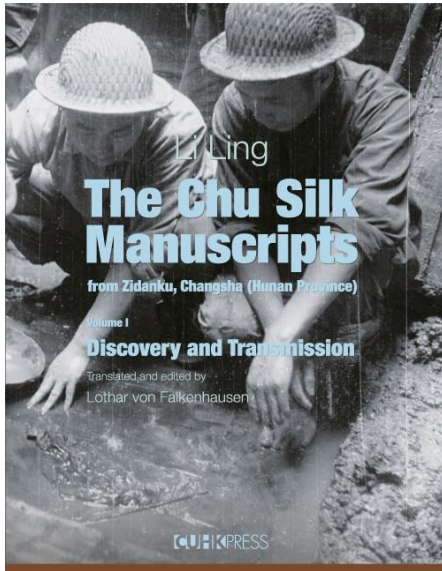


Jan 11, 2019



Complete Account of the Legendary Chu Silk Manuscripts

The Silk Manuscripts from Zidanku, Changsha (Hunan), are the only pre-Imperial Chinese manuscripts on silk found to-date. Dating to the turn of the 4th to 3rd centuries BC (Late Warring States period), they contain texts concerning basic cosmological concepts, including a manuscript (Manuscript 1) with a diagrammatic arrangement and surrounded by pictorial illustrations. As such, they constitute a unique source of information complementing and going beyond what is known from transmitted texts.

This is the first in a two-volume monograph on the Zidanku manuscripts, reflecting almost four decades of research by **Professor Li Ling** of Peking University. While the philological study and translation of the manuscript texts is the subject of Volume Two, the first volume presents the archaeological context and history of transmission of the physical manuscripts. Superseding previous efforts, this is the definitive account that will set the record straight and establish a new basis for future research on these uniquely important artifacts.

“This book is the collaborative effort of Li Ling, China’s foremost paleographer, and Lothar von Falkenhausen, the unrivalled expert on Chinese epigraphy in the US—a felicitous example of Sino-American cooperation.”

—**Lothar Ledderose** Senior Professor, Institute of East Asian Art History,
Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

“This volume compiles and assesses with immaculate accuracy and critical acumen all extant relevant material that Li Ling uncovered during his over thirty-year pursuit for answers in and out of China among archaeologists, historians, paleographers, and conservation scientists—a true model of interdisciplinary and international research, and an inspiration to all scholars in early China studies.”

—**Jenny F. So** Senior Curator for Early Chinese Art (1990–2000),
Freer|Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution

Li Ling is a distinguished Chinese historian, a towering figure in the study of classical Chinese civilization today. He is Chair Professor of Humanities in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking University and has published prolifically in the areas of Chinese archaeology, paleography, classical philology, intellectual history, historical geography, the history of science and technology, as well as material culture

and art history (with special emphasis on Chinese bronzes). He is especially interested in the connections between China and other parts of Eurasia in antiquity. In 2016, he was named Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAAS).

Lothar von Falkenhausen is Professor of Chinese Archaeology and Art History at UCLA, where he has taught since 1993. He also heads the East Asian Laboratory at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, and served as Associate Director of that Institute from 2004–2014. His research concerns the archaeology of the Chinese Bronze Age, focusing on large interdisciplinary and historical issues about which archaeological materials can provide significant new information. His *Chinese Society in the Age of Confucius (1000–250 BC): The Archaeological Evidence* (2006) received the Society for American Archaeology Book Award.

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