

# Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
List of Figures	xiii
Chronology of the Ming Dynasty	li
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part One</b>	<b>Historical Perspectives</b>
<b>Chapter One</b>	<b>Imperial Ordinations</b> 11
	Pre-Ming Imperial Ordinations 12
	Daoist Ordinations of Tang Princesses 15
	Daoist Ordinations of Song Empresses 18
	Ming Imperial Ordinations 24
<b>Chapter Two</b>	<b>Empress Zhang</b> 33
	Biography 34
	The Agency of Ming Empresses 37
	Circa 1493 40
<b>Chapter Three</b>	<b>The Heavenly Masters</b> 51
	Ming Imperial Support 51
	Other Daoist Masters 56
	The Zhang Yuanji Scandal and Zhang Xuanqing 59

<b>Part Two</b>	<b>Analysis of the <i>Ordination Scroll</i></b>	
<b>Chapter Four</b>	<b>Aspects of the <i>Ordination Scroll</i></b>	67
	Production	68
	The Separate Image of Empress Zhang	72
	Color Notations	75
	Breaks in the Scroll	76
	Temporality	82
	Pictorial Format	84
<b>Chapter Five</b>	<b>Celestial Beings in the <i>Ordination Scroll</i></b>	87
	First Sequence	88
	Second Sequence (Pictorial Register)	105
	The Missing Mysterious Woman of the Nine Heavens	115
<b>Chapter Six</b>	<b>Inscriptions</b>	119
	Title and Auspicious Phrase	119
	Main Inscription	121
	Format of the Main Inscription	139
	Scriptures and Registers	140
<b>Conclusion</b>		153
Appendix A	Titles of the Celestial Beings	157
Appendix B	Translation of the Main Inscription	163
Appendix C	Transcription of the Main Inscription	175
Notes		183
Bibliography		227
Index		251