

# Contents

Series Editors' Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
Conventions	xiii
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Chapter One</b>	17
The <i>Writ</i> in Early Medieval Southern China	
<b>Chapter Two</b>	49
The Religious Life of Objects: The Talismans of the <i>Writ</i> and Their Surviving Fragments	
<b>Chapter Three</b>	83
Beyond Talismans: Alchemy, Charts, and Meditation in Relation to the <i>Writ</i>	
<b>Chapter Four</b>	121
From Local Lore to Universal Dao: The Cavern of Divinity and the Early Daoist Canon	
<b>Chapter Five</b>	155
The <i>Writ</i> and Its Corpus: The Rise and Fall of the Cavern of Divinity in Institutional Daoism	
<b>Conclusion</b>	193

Appendix 1	215
List of Variant Titles for the <i>Writ of the Three Sovereigns</i> ( <i>Sanhuang wen</i> ) in Early Medieval Sources	
Appendix 2	219
Synopsis of the Principal Six Dynasties Sources Containing Fragments of the <i>Writ of the Three Sovereigns</i> ( <i>Sanhuang wen</i> ) and Its Oral Instructions	
Appendix 3	225
Comparative List of Talismans from the “Essential Instructions from the Western Citadel on the <i>Great Characters in Celestial</i> <i>Script of the Three Sovereigns</i> ” (Xicheng yaojue sanhuang tianwen dazi) and the “Essential functions of the Three Sovereigns” ( <i>Sanhuang yaoyong pin</i> )	
Appendix 4	231
Comparative Inventory of Transmission Gages Associated with the <i>Writ of the Three Sovereigns</i> ( <i>Sanhuang wen</i> )	
Notes	237
Works Cited	317
Index	355