

Preface 1

The researches of Bruce and Taeko Brooks on the classical Chinese texts gained a wider forum in 1993 with the creation of the Warring States Project at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The “Warring States Working Group” (WSWG) dialogue includes postal Notes and Queries, Conferences, and electronic discussions. Warring States Papers makes portions of this material available in easily citable form.

Arrangement. First come papers from an AAS panel which introduced the Project to the field in 1995. Other papers are grouped under: (1) Language, Ambience, and Methodology; (2) Texts; and (3) Historical Studies. Order within groups is roughly chronological, except that papers on non-Sinological and general topics are at the end of each group. Dates of papers are those of first appearance in the Project dialogue; most papers have been revised for the present publication.

References. Short citations (eg Surname **Keyword**) are expanded at the end of each paper; for abbreviations; see Texts (p255) and Journals and Monographs (p256). Reader familiarity with standard references (eg Morohashi, OCD) is assumed.

Dates. As a more universal convention, we use a leading zero in place of the linguistically parochial BC(E). 479 BC thus becomes 0479, while AD 218 is simply 218. Similarly, the “03rd century” is the 3rd BC, and “3rd” is the 3rd AD; “03rd century” may be shortened to “03c.” The advantages of zero over a minus sign are that it allows hyphenation of dates in spans (as, Confucius, 0549-0479) and avoids a conflict with the usage of astronomers (whose “-479” is *not* the “-479” of historians). We suggest that dates be given as precisely as possible, perhaps as spans (0345/0339) or centered ranges (0342 ± 3). We avoid the term “Eastern Jōu” as implying an effective Jōu dominance after 0771. *In those years*, 東周 denoted the eastern half of the Lwò River enclave (JGT #4, #19). The several states saw themselves as living in a power vacuum (MC 7B38) and strove for Jōu-type dominion, universally (MC 1A6) or regionally (LY 17:4, “in the East”). Scholarly usage might as well conform. Several major social and cultural changes in the early 05c suggest the usefulness of continuing to distinguish Spring and Autumn (0770-0479) from the Warring States (0478-0221). For the entire period 0770-0221, the standard term is “pre-Chín” 先秦.

Common Alphabetic. The pleas of Kennedy (1953) for a pronounceable, and Boodberg (1959) for a humanistically intelligible, Chinese romanization remain unmet by current systems. To be “guessable” by readers with English alphabetic reflexes, a spelling should respect the mnemonic “consonants as in English, vowels as in Italian.” For vowels *not* in Italian, we use: æ as in cat, v (the linguist’s inverted v, or ʌ, but *uninverted*) as in cut, r as in fur, z as in adz, and yw (after l and n, simply w) for “umlaut u.” An equivalence table between this “Common Alphabetic” Romanization and two other systems frequently encountered is given on p251-254.

Textual Emendations are given as [請 > 謂] “for 請 read 謂,” [-也] “也 is to be omitted,” and [+其] “其 is to be supplied.” Difficultly readable characters are given in brackets [然]; illegible ones have been replaced by the usual squares: □ □ 王. Simplified characters have been standardized throughout the journal.

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Dedication. Profound thanks for their long support are due, and this first volume of Warring States Papers is accordingly dedicated, to the Warring States Project's first University sponsors: Dean Lee R Edwards of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and Vice Chancellor for Research Frederick W Byron.

Envoi. On behalf of the Project, I am pleased to be able to introduce these papers to a wider scholarly audience. The Project hopes that they will stimulate further debate on the nature and significance of the Warring States centuries, the most constitutive of all Chinese historical periods, and the classical age of China's intellectual and political tradition. May they serve to suggest as well that the basic methodology for studying this and other literate civilizations is the same, and that, at these deep levels, humanity is ultimately one.

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