REFERENCES ON THE TWENTY-FOUR HISTORIES

“Twenty-Four Histories” were a Manchu Qing Dynasty state-sanctioned list of orthodox anthologized history annals dating to A.D. 1775, when Emperor Qianlong concurrently sanctified the compilation of the encyclopedia book *Si-ku Quan Shu* (complete collection of books of the four library vaults), which could be termed the second last ‘book burning’ in Chinese history. The Manchu rulers, who did not sanctify *Ming Shi* (History of the Ming Dynasty) until after over two hundred years of revision, systematically destroyed or revised thousand years of the Chinese books that contained references to the northern barbarians.

The whole set of “Twenty-Four Histories” contains 3213 volumes. During the Republic of China time period, Ke Shaomin’s *Xin Yuan Shi* (New History of the [Mongol] Yuan Dynasty) and Zhao Erxun’s *Qing Shi Gao* ([Manchu] Qing Dynasty’s History Manuscripts) were counted either individually or both among the set, for which the anthology was termed “Twenty-Five Histories” or “Twenty-Six Histories”.

“Twenty-Four Histories” are listed below in the order of the dynasties covered by the books (not the order of production of the books).

   Annotation and collation:
   Xu Guang of the Eastern Jinn dynasty. *Shi-ji Yin-yi* (“the sounds and meaning of the words”).
   Sima Zhen of the Tang dynasty. *Shi-ji Suo-yin* (“to search for the hidden”).
   Zhang Shoujie of the Tang dynasty. *Shi-ji Zheng-yi* (“to rectify the true meaning”).
   Liang Yushen of the Qing dynasty. *Shi-ji Zhi-yi* (“annotating on the dubious”).
   Takigawa Kametaro (1865-1946). *Shiki Kaichiyu Kosho* (collected annotation and collation on *Shi-ji*).

   Annotation and collation:
   Chen Zan (Fu Zan/Xue Zan/Pei Zan) of the Jinn dynasty. *Han Shu Ji-jie Yin-yi* (“collected annotation and the sounds and meaning of the words”).
   Yan Shigu of the Tang dynasty. *Han Shu Zhu* (annotation).
   Qian Dazhao of the Qing dynasty. *Han Shu Bian-yi* (“arguing about the questionable”).
   Wang Xianqian of the Qing dynasty. *Han Shu Bu-zhu* (“supplementary annotation”).

   Annotation and collation:
Ban Gu, to Liu Zhen to Bian Shao to Cai Yong. *Dong-guan Han Ji* (the Han annals from the eastern Dong-guan palace).
Sima Biao (A.D. ?-306) of the Jinn dynasty. *Xu Hou Han Shu* (continuum to *Hou Han Shu*).
Yuan Hong (A.D. 328-376) of the Jinn dynasty. *Hou Han Ji* (annals of the Latter Han dynasty).
Liu Zhao of the Southern Liang dynasty. *Zhu-bu Hou Han Shu* (“supplementary annotation on *Hou Han Shu*”).
Li Xian (Tang Dynasty ætheling Zhang-huai-tai-zi, A.D. 654-684). Annotation on *Hou Han Shu*.

Wang Yin of the Eastern Jinn dynasty. *Jinn Ji*.
Shen Yue of the Liu-Soong dynasty. *Jinn Shu*.


11. Li Baiyao. *Bei Qi Shu* (History of the Northern Qi Dynasty). Written by Li Baiyao in the 7th century A.D.


14. Li Yanshou. *Nan Shi* (History of the Southern Dynasties). Written by Li Baiyao in the 7th century A.D.

15. Li Yanshou. *Bei Shi* (History of the Northern Dynasties). Written by Li Baiyao in the 7th century A.D.

16. Liu Xu. *Jiu Tang Shu* (Old History of the Tang Dynasty). Edited and compiled by Liu Xu in the 10th century A.D. (*Jiu Tang Shu* was edited during the Posterior Jinn dynasty when Shi Jingtang, a barbarian-origin emperor, in A.D. 941, ordered Zhang Zhaojun and Jia Wei, and prime minister Zhao Ying, to compile the history annals for the Tang dynasty, which was completed in A.D. 945 and credited under the new prime minister Liu Xu.)


