

Chapter 5: Introductions, Questions, and Activities

Excerpts from *Bamboo Annals*

SOURCE: *The Riddle of the Bamboo Annals*, translated by David S. Nivison (Taipei: Airiti Press, 2009), 140, 142.

Introductory Note:

In these selections from the *Bamboo Annals*, we see evidence that suggests how elites understood the relationship between natural phenomena and political transitions. However, there is much more to these materials, which have been a source of spirited debate among experts for decades. Claims about the Xia dynasty draw largely from the realm of myth. Understandings of the Shang dynasty are based on interpretations of the oracle bones, but more recently experts have decoded inscriptions on many of the surviving bronze artifacts that date to the period of Shang rule.

These selections purport to address a major transition dated to 1556 BCE, when the Xia dynasty was supplanted by the Shang. They also provide evidence of how this transition may have been understood by people at the time—as a consequence of natural disasters, environmental changes, portents read in the sky, and the failures of Xia rulers to interpret these portents and respond to them properly.

These selections also point to developments that occurred much later, such as the coining of money, which has been dated to the seventh century BCE. While this material cannot be interpreted literally, it remains a rich source of information about how that earlier period (roughly 1550–300 BCE) was remembered. It reminds us that the concerns of the present—in this case the period in which the text was reconstructed (likely around c. 300 BCE)—shape how the past will be remembered.

Short-Answer Question:

How did the recording of events purported to have occurred sometime around 1550 BCE express the concerns and anxieties about politics, society, and the power of the natural world c. 300 BCE?

Discussion Questions:

In passages 119, 130, and 132, there are references to major engineering projects, the power of metal, and the coining of money. How do these passages express the relationship between humans and the environment?

Why do you think there are so many references to drought? How are natural phenomena connected to political transitions in this document?

Identify references that appear to point to “supernatural” events. Why might the original authors have described these events this way?

Activity Idea:

Chapter 5 Introduction To The Latin Text

Robert Henry Charles



Chapter 5 Introduction To The Latin Text:

Alhacen on Refraction: Introduction and Latin text Alhazen, A. Mark Smith, 2010 Alhacen's treatment of light and sight in the *De aspectibus* culminates with the analysis of refraction in book 7. Far briefer than his account of reflection which occupies three books, Alhacen's study of refraction follows essentially the same pattern of analysis starting with various experiments designed to establish or confirm the governing principles of refraction empirically and proceeding to the application of those principles to specific cases according to the shape of the refracting surface. In many respects, in fact, reflection and refraction are side of the same coin according to Alhacen. Contents of this two volume set: 1. Intro Alhacen's Analysis of Refraction: An Overview; 2. The Prolemaic Underpinnings of Alhacen's Refraction Analysis; 3. The Fate of Alhacen's Refraction Analysis in the Latin West; 4. Putting Alhacen in His Proper Place; 5. Manuscripts and Editing; 6. Latin Text; 7. English Translation; 8. Glossary and Bibliography.

De Quatuordecim Partibus Beatitudinis Anselm (Canterbury, Erzbischof, Heiliger), Avril Henry, D. A. Trotter, 1994

Alhacen on the Principles of Reflection: Introduction and Latin text Alhazen, A. Mark Smith, 2006 This two volume set is a continuation of A. Mark Smith's publication of Ibn al-Haytham's *De aspectibus*, the most important treatise on optics of the Middle Ages, indeed the most important treatise prior to the 17th century. This edition of Alhacen's text will appeal to those who are interested in medieval scientific developments but also to others for whom the study of optics in particular forms part of the cultural development of the later Middle Ages. The understanding of vision continues to gain importance in the historiography of intellectual life in this period. Prof. Smith's work will be an important contribution to this scholarship. His translation of the Latin text accurately represents a challenging technical original. Illustrations.

The Role of History in Latin American Philosophy Arleen Salles, Elizabeth Millán, 2012-02-01 This book brings the history of Latin American philosophy to an English speaking audience through the prominent voices of Mauricio Beuchot, Horacio Cerutti Guldberg, María Luisa Femenías, Jorge J. E. Gracia, Oscar R. Martínez Olivé, Carlos Pereda and Eduardo Rabossi. They argue that Spanish is not a philosophically irrelevant language and that there are original positions to be found in the work of Latin American philosophers. Part I of the book looks at why the history of philosophy has not developed in Latin America. A range of theoretical issues are explored, each focusing on specific problems that have hindered the development of a solid history. Part II details the complex task of writing a history of philosophy for a region still haunted by the specter of colonialism.

Women and the Law in the Roman Empire Judith Evans Grubbs, 2002-09-11 It is widely recognized that Roman law is an important source of information about women in the Roman world and can present a more rounded and accurate picture than literary sources. This sourcebook fully exploits the rich legal material of the imperial period from Augustus (31 BCE - 14 CE) to the end of the western Roman Empire (476 CE), incorporating both pagan and Christian eras and explaining the rights women held under Roman law, the restrictions to which they were subject and legal regulations on marriage, divorce and widowhood.

Surrealism in Latin American Literature M. Nicholson, 2013-01-07 Charting surrealism

in Latin American literature from its initial appearance in Argentina in 1928 to the surrealist inspired work of several writers in the 1970s Melanie Nicholson argues that surrealism has exercised a significant and positive influence over twentieth century Latin American literature particularly poetry

A Companion of Classical Texts Frederick William Hall,1913
The assumption of Moses Robert Henry Charles,1897 **The Assumption of Moses, Translated from the Latin Sixth Century MS., the Unemended Text of which is Published Herewith, Together with the Text in Its Restored and Critically Emended Form** Robert Henry Charles,1897 The Old Latin Texts of the Heptateuch Albert Victor Billen,1927 **Alhacen's Theory of Visual Perception: Introduction and Latin text** Alhazen,2001 *Early English Text Society* ,1898 **The uncanonical and apocryphal scriptures, with introductions to the several books and fragments, an a general intr. to the Apocrypha, by W.R. Churton** William Ralph Churton (the younger),1884 The Nebraska Educational Journal ,1924 **The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English** Robert Henry Charles,1913 **A biblical dictionary** James Austin Bastow,1876 **The Classical Review** ,1928 Alhacen on Image-formation and Distortion in Mirrors: Introduction and Latin text Alhazen,A. Mark Smith,2008 **The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English** ,1913 *The Uncanonical and Apocryphal Scriptures* ,1884

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