



**The Qinshi 琴史 (History of the Qin)
by Zhu Changwen 朱長文 (1041 – 1098)**

Translated and annotated by Luca Pisano
Bilingual edition

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The *Qinshi* (History of the Qin), written by the Song scholar Zhu Changwen (1041–1098), may justly be considered as the earliest diachronic collection of biographies of persons closely related to the *qin* zither. The work comprises altogether six chapters, five of which are devoted to *qin* players, their life stories and the *qin* pieces they have composed, and the sixth chapter provides a more systematic approach to various aspects of the *qin*, such as the construction of the instrument, the techniques of playing and the aesthetics related to it.

This is the first translation of the *Qinshi* into a Western language, and it is richly annotated and introduced by the author who is an accomplished *qin* player himself.

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Dr. Martin Hanke
Wohlbacher Straße 4
D-96269 Großheirath

Tel. 09569-188057, Fax 03222-1360347
Email: martinhanke@t-online.de
Web: www.ostasien-verlag.de

