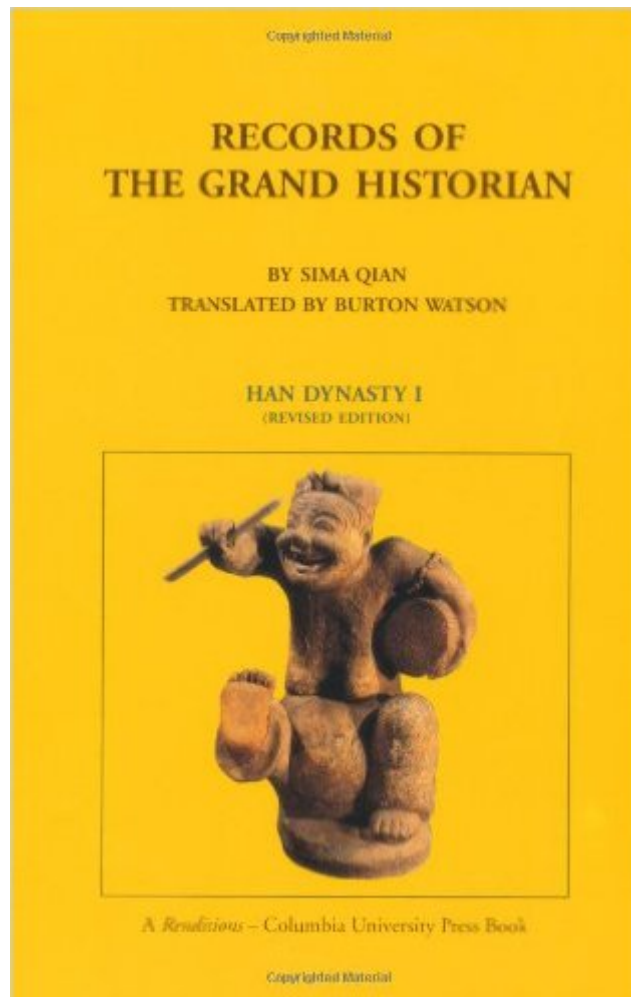


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Records Of The Grand Historian: Han Dynasty I (Volume 1)



Synopsis

Sima Qian (145?-90? BCE) was the first major Chinese historian. His Shiji, or Records of the Grand Historian, documents the history of China and its neighboring countries from the ancient past to his own time. These three volumes cover the Qin and Han dynasties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Considering how powerful and influent China was during most of its history and how powerful and influent again it became during those last 35 years or so, it is actually surprising how LITTLE we know about the history of this mighty giant. The general knowledge is especially limited when ancient Chinese history is concerned - but as it turns out it is not exactly for lack of sources. Some important ancient Chinese texts ARE available in English (and sometimes also other western languages) - and none of them is as precious and powerful as the "Shi Ji" or "Records of the Grand Historian". This is by no means the integrality of "Shi Ji" (not even close). This book contains only a selection of chapters from Sima Qian's Opus Magnum, in a very pleasant and elegant translation by the great Burton Watson, a very renowned translator of ancient Japanese and Chinese texts. Those chapters are however crucially important, because they treat of following people:- those who between 209 and 202 BC destroyed the Qin regime and then waged a titanic struggle for domination, which ended with the establishment of possibly the most important of all Chinese dynasty - the Western Han.- the first four rulers of Western Han: Emperor Gaozu, Empress Lu, Emperor Wen and Emperor Jing- the most important people such as empresses, vassal kings, chancellors, ministers, generals, concubines, etc. who from 202 until 141 BC all played a part in

creating the Western Han mighty state- last but not least - the most important and powerful rebels...As I already said it in the title, this is NOT an easy read, at least not immediately - but please believe me, it is WORTH persevering.

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