



The World of Wu Zhao

Annotated Selections from Zhang Zhuo's Court and Country

By N. Harry Rothschild

Pub Date: 14 February 2023

Binding: Hardback

Price: £80.00 / \$110.00

ISBN: 9781839983528

Extent: 318 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm / 6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: HISTORY / Asia / China HISTORY / Women, RELIGION / Confucianism

BISAC CODE: HIS008000

BIC CODE: HBJF

RIGHTS

Exclusive: WORLD

An annotated translation of Zhang Zhuo's *Court and Country* offering a lively perspective on the empire of China's first and only female emperor Wu Zhao

This annotated translation of Zhang Zhuo's collection of miscellany, *Court and Country*, offers a lively, folksy, and novel perspective on the empire of Wu Zhao, China's first and only female emperor, that will amuse and shock readers, prompting them to recalibrate everything they think they know about medieval China. *The World of Wu Zhao* includes separate chapters on a number of different themes and topics: Buddhist and Daoist monks, the female emperor's male favorites (who dressed up in rainbow feathered garments and pranced around her court astride wooden red-capped cranes), cruel officials (bloodthirsty henchmen who took an aesthetic delight in their vocation), as well as sections on flora and fauna, the common folk, artisans and craftsmen, the military, spirits and the supernatural, the borderlands, and local officials.

Key selling points

- Offers a fun, at times racy and irreverent, eminently readable account of medieval China that will prompt readers to fundamentally reassess and rethink their preconceptions of imperial Chinese empire
- Offers a slew of fresh, never-before-translated untold stories from an idiosyncratic eighth-century primary source
- Zhang Zhuo provides a galaxy of stories and anecdotes that he has seen or heard, ranging from comic to salacious to otherworldly to bizarre; the annotation couches these tales, anecdotes, songs, and gossip, in a relatable framework

Contents

Acknowledgments; Figures; Map; Tables; Weights and Measures; Introduction; Chapter 1 Wu Zhao: her inner palace, her inner circle; Chapter 2 The culture of the court; Chapter 3 "Cruel officials": Wu Zhao's "teeth and horns"; Chapter 4 Beyond court and capital: local officials; Chapter 5 The common people; Chapter 6 Relationships: men, women, and family in the time of Wu Zhao; Chapter 7 Generals and military men; Chapter 8 The frontier and beyond: foreigners and others during Wu Zhao's reign; Chapter 9 Religion and the supernatural world; Chapter 10 Flora, fauna, and the natural world; Afternote; Appendix: People and Places; Notes; Bibliography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Harry Rothschild is Professor of Chinese History at the University of North Florida, USA. He specializes in early Tang history and the study of women and gender in China and East Asia.

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