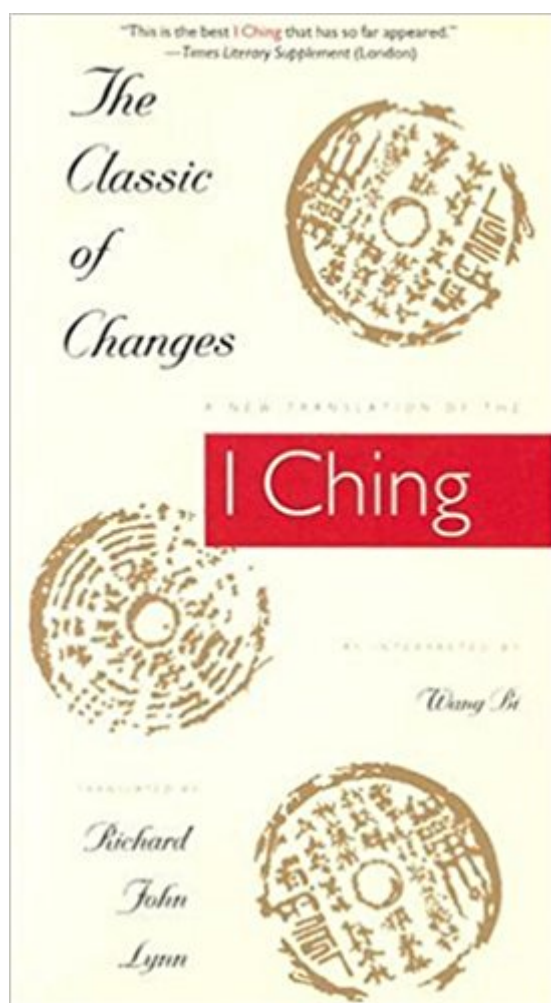


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The Classic Of Changes: A New Translation Of The I Ching As Interpreted By Wang Bi (Translations From The Asian Classic)



Synopsis

Used in China as a book of divination and source of wisdom for more than three thousand years, the I Ching has been taken up by millions of English-language speakers in the nineteenth century. The first translation ever to appear in English that includes one of the major Chinese philosophical commentaries, the Columbia I Ching presents the classic book of changes for the world today. Richard Lynn's introduction to this new translation explains the organization of The Classic of Changes through the history of its various parts, and describes how the text was and still is used as a manual of divination with both the stalk and coin methods. For the fortune-telling novice, he provides a chart of trigrams and hexagrams; an index of terms, names, and concepts; and a glossary and bibliography. Lynn presents for the first time in English the fascinating commentary on the I Ching written by Wang Bi (226-249), who was the main interpreter of the work for some seven hundred years. Wang Bi interpreted the I Ching as a book of moral and political wisdom, arguing that the text should not be read literally, but rather as an expression of abstract ideas. Lynn places Wang Bi's commentary in historical context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The I Ching or Book of Changes is a Chinese manual for divination (also called a book of wisdom), compiled in the ninth century B.C.E. A person consulting the I Ching is said to be able to see into the true nature of the universe, and, by acting according to its dictates, avoid personal failures and disasters. Most available editions of the I Ching are based on the James Legge translation, a work

produced over 140 years ago and characterized by romanticized and idiomatic Victorian English. Although not more accurate or revealing than the Legge, this new translation is welcome because of its crisp usage of modern-day English. Lynn supplies a chart of trigrams and hexagrams, a glossary, and a list of proper names. Of special interest to students of classical Chinese text is a commentary by Wang Bi, a third-century A.D. Chinese scholar. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the best I Ching that has so far appeared. (Times Literary Supplement (London)) This new translation is welcome because of its crisp usage of modern-day English... Highly recommended. (Library Journal) Familiar with current historical and textual research, having no truck with 'ageless wisdoms' and leery of spirituality, Richard Lynn's translation of the I Ching as retranslated, explicated and interpreted by the young scholar Wang Bi and his followers, feels a world apart from that of Wilhelm. (London Review of Books) [Lynn]'s provided us with the materials from which to reconstruct Wang Bi's vision of the text. The result is clearly written and presented -- the best entry into an I Ching world that we have so far. (Shambala Sun) Lynn has... produce[d] a translation of whose accuracy one can be optimally confident... [T]his is a solidly and attractively produced volume. (Religion) For beginners and devotees alike, Columbia's I Ching is the clearest and most authoritative translation of this ancient classic. (Kidder Smith, Bowdoin College Philosophy East & West)

The best resource I have found on interpreting the I Ching. Resonates with me more than Balkin, Dening, or Wilhelm (although those are all fine resources as well). There is a clarity captured in the Lynn / Wang Bi text that is missing in any other text I've read.

Excellent. Very interesting to read a translation of the classic Wang Bi interpretation.

If you are interested in Wang Bi's important work on the I Ching this is the book for you. Clear translation of the text as it is without any attempt to fit it into modern ideas of what a book of wisdom should be like.

a good translation from a classic annotated version

Awesome translation. Wang Bi now exists as a definitive source of the Dao alongside Wilhelm's still trustworthy version. Wang Bi provides a refreshing spring to Wilhelm's world-weariness. This is the I Jing from the heart - the way we were meant to see it![...]

thanks

Nothing short of a masterpiece that belongs in any serious scholar's collection. This translation differs from others in that instead of beginning with the imperial version as other translators have done the author took to the task of translating Wang Bi's interpretation of the I Ching for the first time in English. A reader familiar with other translations will find some departure from the familiar texts and new points to ponder. The pages are densely printed with very little white space. The type face is a little on the small side (I need a magnifying glass in addition to my reading glasses to get through the footnotes) and the text is organized well. All texts are referenced to their sources.

This is an outstanding blend of scholarship backed by a depth of research and expertise, melded with a sensitivity to what an oracle means to people, and how it is properly to be used. Lynn has recreated and organized the Wang Bi text of the I Ching (Wang Bi was a scholar and writer in ancient China who died at a tragically young age but accomplished extraordinary things on a truly Mozartean scale--his version of Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching is still the most read and cited version of that work, and his insight into the I Ching, thanks to Prof. Lynn, deserves as much study). For those who are drawn to the ancient oracle as an insight guide rather than a parlor game or fortune-telling tool, Prof. Lynn's presentation of the Wang Bi I Ching is an essential first step. I would further recommend the work of Carol Anthony ("Guide to the I Ching") and her latest exploration of the I Ching from the perspective of helping one's inner learning to inform and enrich one's outer life, which has been written with Hanna Moog: it is called "I Ching: The Oracle of the Cosmic Way."

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