

DOCTORAL THESIS

「中國早期經類文獻的生成與演變」

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中國早期經類文獻的生成與演變
The Formation and Development of Canonical
Literature (Jing 經) in Early China

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摘要

經學是基於經這種文獻的經典性而得以成立的一類學術範疇，其所依憑的「經」指的是儒家的經典。其他思想流派如道家、佛家等也各有經典，一般認為，這些流派的典籍之所以也稱作「經」，是受到儒家文獻稱「經」的影響。但是這種傳統的觀點不能解釋為什麼早期的儒家重要文獻並不稱作「經」，而一些其他學派的文獻中卻頻繁出現自稱為「經」的文獻——尤其是隨著出土文獻的數量日益充盈，自稱為「經」的文獻越來越多。這意味著在經學得以確立的初期及之前，存在一種「經類」的文獻，它並不完全等同於「儒家經典」，甚至未必具有經典性，但它又是「經」這個詞彙發展出「經典」或「經典性」含義的必經之路，為經學之所以稱之為經學鋪平了道路。

早期的經指的是事物的核心理念，具有一定的指導性，而對這種理念的文獻記錄也就具有了經的性質，進而形成了經類文獻的雛形。從整體的文獻結構來看，早期的經類文獻往往篇幅較短，是一部整體文獻的一部分，也有一些其他文獻是經的從屬，負責對經進行闡釋和補充說明。但也存在單獨流傳的經。有一些文獻起初並不稱作「經」，但在流傳過程中會依照已有的經類文獻的格式進行改造，並冠之以「經」的稱呼。於此同時，儒家也開始將那些由本學派繼承下來的古代文獻稱作「經」——也就是所謂「五經」。

本文通過比較「經」這一概念在中文、梵文和英文中的演變，發現了經類文獻在生成過程中，應該有一個並不具有經典性的前置階段，並以此為基點，從形式上對先秦兩漢時稱「經」的文獻進行了全面考察，並揭示了儒家經典之所以用「經」來稱呼的歷史動因。

關鍵詞：經 五經 六藝 簡帛

Abstract

The study of Confucian canons is called *jingxue* 經學 in Chinese, which means the study of *jing* 經. This character is usually translated as canon or classic, and specific reference to Confucian canons or classics. Other schools of thought in China like Taoism and Buddhism also name their major works as *jing* 經, which is thought to be borrowed from Confucianism. However, the claim that the name *jing* 經 originated from Confucianism cannot explain why Confucian canons were not titled *jing* 經 initially, and why is there so many pieces of work from outside Confucianism that were self-titled as *jing* 經 even earlier than Confucian canons. This is becoming increasingly evident especially along with a huge growth in the amount of unearthed literature. This means there are a bunch of literature can be categorized in to the type named *jing* 經 even before confucian jings 經. Although this type cannot be equated with the Confucian canon, it paved the way for it.

The early meaning of *jing* 經 is the core concept of certain things, the writing form of which became the prototype of the literary *jing* 經. Most early jings 經 were just short works that were subordinate to a collection, and there were other articles that played the role of explaining or giving additional information. On the other hand, some literature was not born as *Jing* 經, but was titled as such in a later period and was retrofitted to be formally like a *Jing* 經. Meanwhile, Confucians began to call the Five Classics 五經, the ancient canons they had inherited, *jing* 經.

By comparing the concept of canon in Chinese, Sanskrit and English, this dissertation found that there should be a prototype of *jing* 經 that was not sacred. We comprehensively studied the form of literature from the pre-Qin to the early and late Han dynasties, and revealed the historical motivation why Confucian canons were called *jing* 經.

Key Words : canon, the Five Classic, the Six Arts, bamboo book, silk copied book