

玉 编

名誉主编 张公瑾 黄建明

- 中央民族大学中国少数民族语言与古籍研究所○ 国家民委少数民族古籍保护与资料信息中心



名誉主编 张公瑾 主编 黄建明 张铁山

# 珍稀典籍汇编 文字

册

王世英 郑菊英 李欣欣

编

○ 中央民族大学中国少数民族语言与古籍研究所○ 国家民委少数民族古籍保护与资料信息中心

编



福建人民步級社

### 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编/中央民族大学中 国少数民族语言与古籍研究所,国家民委少数民族古籍保 护与资料信息中心编;黄建明,张铁山主编.一福州: 福建人民出版社,2017.8

ISBN 978-7-211-07731-1

Ⅰ.①中… Ⅱ.①中… ②国… ③黄… ④张… III. ①少数民族—民族语—古籍—汇编—中国 <math>IV. ②G256.1中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2017) 第 159610 号

### 中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编

ZHONGGUO SHAOSHU MINZU WENZI ZHENXI DIANJI HUIBIAN

主 编: 黄建明 张铁山 责任编辑: 史霄鸿 陈稚瑶

特约编辑:田成海 美术编辑: 白 玫 封面设计:一世文化

出版发行:海峡出版发行集团

福建人民出版社

XX 址: http://www.fjpph.com 址:福州市东水路76号

邮政编码: 350001 销:福建新华发行(集团)有限责任公司

印刷:雅昌文化(集团)有限公司 址:深圳市南山区深云路19号 地 开 本: 889 毫米×1194 毫米 1/16

张: 580.5 ED

字 数: 10723 千字

版 次: 2017年8月第1版 2017年8月第1次印刷

电 话: 0591-87533169(发行部)

电子邮箱: fjpph7211@126.com

号: ISBN 978-7-211-07731-1 定 价: 16800,00元 (共28册)

本书如有印装质量问题,影响阅读,请直接向承印厂调换

版权所有,翻印必究

在中华民族文化宝库中,丰富多彩、各式各样的少数民族文字及其典籍,犹 如一颗颗璀璨的明珠,闪烁着耀眼的光芒。

中国不仅是文明古国,同时也是文字的泱泱大国。中国历史上曾出现过佉卢字、焉耆-龟兹文、于阗文、突厥文、粟特文、回鹘文、察合台文、西夏文、藏文、傣文、彝文、东巴文、尔苏沙巴文、古壮字、水书、方块白文、契丹文、女真文、蒙古文、八思巴文、满文等多种少数民族文字。中国少数民族典籍就是历代各族人民在特定的地理与自然环境、社会历史文化、生产生活方式以及思维方式背景下,用自己的语言文字写成的一种书面文献。中国少数民族典籍是中华民族大团结的产物,是文化大交流的结晶,是中华民族文化多元一体的具体体现。

中国少数民族典籍不仅涉及众多的文种,文献藏量也十分庞大。以藏文为例, 一个寺院收藏上百万卷典籍的不为个案。又如满文文献,仅中国第一历史档案馆 就藏有满文档案 320 余万件。除寺院或官方机构收藏外,还有相当大数量的少数 民族文献藏于民间,至今无法统计出具体的藏书数目。各民族的典籍共同汇成了 中华民族文献的大海,是中华民族宝贵的历史文化遗产,更是中华民族极为珍贵 的历史记忆!

丰富多彩的各种少数民族文字及其典籍凝结着历代各民族人民集体的智慧,记录了中国各少数民族的社会历史发展轨迹,蕴含着少数民族特有的精神价值、思维方式和想象力、创造力,是中华民族在数千年历史发展进程中创造的重要文明成果,也是人类文明的瑰宝,具有极高的认知价值和学术研究价值。

### (一) 哲学价值

在中国少数民族典籍中,涉及哲学问题的主要为宇宙的起源和人类的起源等。

前言

如使用藏缅语、苗瑶语的诸民族都有创世纪类的典籍,对大地、山川、河流、日 月、星辰以及动植物的产生与演变都做出了各自的解释。其方法大都以对大自然 的观察,以自然辩证的方法进行解读。其中有些是唯物的,有些是唯心的。无论 是唯物的解读或是唯心的诠释,都体现了中华民族先民的哲学思考。

### (二) 宗教学价值

中国少数民族典籍的一个重要特征是宗教类的典籍数量众多。如纳西东巴文典籍绝大多数都与宗教有关。另外,中国少数民族典籍涉及的宗教领域也相当广泛,与世界各大宗教都有密切联系。如涉及佛教的有:藏文典籍、回鹘文典籍、蒙古文典籍、满文典籍、傣文典籍、韩规文典籍、西夏文典籍等。涉及道教的有:古壮字典籍、古布依文典籍、苗文典籍、瑶文典籍等。涉及伊斯兰教的有:察合台文典籍、小经文典籍等。涉及基督教的有:老傈僳文典籍、老拉祜文典籍、柏格理苗文典籍等。涉及原始宗教的有:纳西东巴文典籍、彝族的毕摩典籍等。

### (三) 历史学价值

少数民族史学文献对少数民族史学研究具有特殊的意义。少数民族典籍中涉及史学方面的著作也极为丰富,如彝文《彝族源流》、藏文《青史》、西夏文《天盛旧改新定律令》、察合台文《拉施德史》、蒙古文《蒙古秘史》、满文《满文老档》、回鹘文《玄奘传》等。虽然少数民族典籍对民族史研究具有重要的史料价值,但由于语言文字的障碍或资料利用的习惯,学界对少数民族文献史料的利用,还不及汉文《史记》、《华阳国志》等普遍,少数民族典籍史料的开发与利用还有很大的提升空间。对少数民族史学学科而言,利用少数民族文字史料,具有极为重要的突破意义。

## (四)语言文字学价值

人类文字起源于刻木记事,然后沿着图画文字—象形文字—表意文字—音节文字—拼音文字的轨迹向前发展。中国少数民族典籍,如同一幅人类文字发展史的画卷,各种类型都有涉及。如尔苏沙巴文典籍用属于图画文字的尔苏沙巴文写成,纳西东巴文典籍用属于图画象形文字的纳西东巴文写成,西夏文典籍用属于表意文字的西夏文写成,纳西哥巴文典籍用属于音节文字的哥巴文写成,藏文典籍用属于拼音文字的藏文字母写成。

中国少数民族典籍中有不少语言文字学方面的专著,表明该民族对语言文字的研究已经有了相当高的水平,如傣文《萨普阐提》、彝文《彝文字集》、西夏文《文海》等。

中国少数民族典籍中,不像汉文有《尔雅》等专门记录古代词汇的专书,研 究少数民族古语及方言主要从文献中发掘语料。如成书于唐代的藏文文献,使用 的是藏族吐蕃时期的藏语,明清时期的藏文文献使用的是明清时的藏语。从书面文献中发掘与采集而来的古语言资料,其可靠度毋庸置疑。

### (五) 文献学价值

中国少数民族典籍在中国古典文献学中具有独特的地位和作用。少数民族典籍大多用本民族制作的纸制成,如藏纸、东巴纸、壮纸、苗纸、和田纸等。其中有些纸作为文献用纸具有明显的优越性。如藏纸是用一种带有毒素的植物根茎制作而成,因而藏纸不会被虫蛀,再加上藏纸厚实、韧性强,所以藏文典籍一般能保存数百年。此外,藏族还有写在桦树皮上的文献,傣族有贝叶经,这些独特的载体形式极大地丰富了中国古典文献学的内容。

活字印刷术是中华民族的一项伟大发明,但汉文典籍中已难找到北宋时期的活字印刷实物标本,因而有学者对中华民族发明活字印刷术之说产生了质疑。幸运的是在宁夏的考古发掘中,发现了西夏文活字印刷本,是目前所见世界最古老的活字印刷标本。从而证明中华民族的活字印刷术至晚出现于宋代。为中华民族文明史研究、文献发展史研究提供了可靠的依据。

### (六) 文学价值

少数民族文学的传世佳作大都以书面形式流传下来,成了少数民族典籍的重要组成部分。如藏文典籍《格萨尔》、蒙古文典籍《江格尔》、柯尔克孜文典籍《玛纳斯》、彝文典籍《阿诗玛》、傣文典籍《召树屯》等都是世界知名的文学名著。世界上最古老的戏剧脚本《弥勒会见记》也是用回鹘文写成。

各少数民族不仅创作了大量脍炙人口的文学作品,还对文学创作原理与理论 进行了深入的研究,并将思考、研究成果录于笔端。由此少数民族文学典籍中, 出现了文艺理论专著,如傣族《论傣族诗歌》、彝族《彝族诗文论》等。

# (七) 考古学价值

中国的许多文物古迹都留有少数民族文字。如故宫里不少殿名用满文写成,敦煌莫高窟中的一些壁画,用回鹘文写了题记。记有少数民族文字的文物不仅丰富了我国的文物宝库,而且在考古发掘中,它们往往是确定出土文物的民族属性和具体时代的重要依据,是打开历史文物真相的一把钥匙。

碑铭是中国少数民族古文献的重要组成部分,少数民族文字碑铭对考古学的意义非同一般。如著名的藏文、汉文合璧的《唐蕃会盟碑》,西夏文、汉文合璧的《凉州重修护国寺感通塔碑》和刻有梵、藏、汉、回鹘、西夏、八思巴六体文字的居庸关刻石都是具有重要历史价值的文物。

### (八) 医学价值

中国少数民族医学具有悠久的历史,各族人民在与大自然和疾病的抗争中,

逐渐摸索出了适应本民族情况的医疗理论和方法,产生了各具特色的民族医学典籍。如藏文中保存有始纂于8世纪的关于藏族传统医学的记载。今日的藏医正是由于有大量的典籍文献作支撑,已发展成为有理论、有实践的独立医学学科。在中国少数民族典籍中,医药文献是科学技术含量极高的一种。能造福于人类的许多少数民族珍贵医药文献,目前尚未得到开发与利用。

### (九) 天文历法价值

中国各民族先民很早就开始了对天文历法的研究,有着系统的理论建构。如藏族到9世纪初已通用六十年循环纪年,以五行阴阳与十二生肖相配合,年分四季,季有三月,月分大小。彝文《宇宙人文论》记载了天体运行一周为三百六十五度又四分,以此定出年界、月界,分出大月、小月,推算闰年、闰月,已达到相当精确的程度。傣族的天文历法发展很早,并将汉族的干支纪时法与中南半岛通行的小历纪元纪时法融为一体,形成了别具一格的傣族天文历法。中国古代天文学建树非凡,是中华民族的骄傲,中国少数民族的天文历法典籍,是中华民族探索自然奥秘的结晶,是中华文明的重要标志之一。

中华文化兼容并包,汇细流而成大海,少数民族文字典籍是中华文化极为重要的组成部分。《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》全书共28册,分别收入纳西东巴文、彝文、水书、西夏文、契丹文、女真文、古壮字、古布依文、藏文、八思巴文、傣文、察合台文、蒙文、满文等14种文字的少数民族典籍,基本反映了我国少数民族文字典籍的整体性,体现了中华民族文化多元一体的特征和丰富多彩的文化遗产。

《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》立项后,我们对入选典籍的条件、标准进行了充分讨论,确定将珍稀性、民间性和代表性作为选择典籍的三项主要原则。

### (一) 珍稀性

所谓珍稀性,是指入选的典籍既要有珍贵性,又要有稀有性。珍贵性包括题 材内容的珍贵或版本形式的珍贵。本书入选的典籍有些已列入国家珍贵古籍名录, 如彝文《摩史苏》《彝汉教典》《百乐书》《尼苏》,水书《胜益》《通用大吉》,古 布依文《接魂大全》《献酒备用》,察合台文《医药处方书》等,其价值不言而明。

稀有性,指孤本类文献。事实上中国少数民族典籍稀有性的特征非常突出。 少数民族典籍多为手抄本,因而即使同一种文献典籍,也很少有完全相同的版本。 如彝文《指路经》,虽然书名相同,内容与形式相近,但每一个祭师都是从自己所 在的村寨开始"指路",这样,不同地方的《指路经》形成了不同的版本。从这一点看,中国少数民族典籍中的手抄本,大多为孤本,具有稀有性。本书所收典籍即以抄本为主,纳西东巴文、水书、藏文、满文等典籍均为抄本。如《壁勤襄公列传》《职方志》等四部满文抄本典籍,不仅为北京地区满文文献中的孤本,而且品相相当完好,文献价值很高。

### (二) 民间性

在诸文种少数民族典籍中,除藏文、蒙古文、傣文典籍多数藏于寺院,满文藏于国家档案馆,西夏文藏于相关博物馆之外,其余文种的典籍大部分散存于民间。此次汇编,我们把收集重点放在民间,像藏文、蒙古文、傣文虽然在寺院中也能收集到相应的典籍,但我们仍然选择从民间选录。因为散存于民间的典籍,从珍稀性来说,不比寺院收藏或馆藏的少数民族典籍逊色。而且,由于它们很少甚至从未进入过研究者的视野,因此具有特殊的研究价值。

如本书所收的藏文《迥孜卦图》是第一次面世的文献,其中保存着五行、九宫八卦、二十八宿、十二生肖、生死轮回、中阴等大量信息,许多本教(也称"苯教")大家也只是曾经听说过,而从未见过;《章松大曜堆经》《章松大曜卜舞堆经》《消除诸堵魔经》等是记载本教民间信仰仪式的经文,保留着大量古代藏族的习俗,是研究藏族古代民俗的重要资料;《火蛇年日历》《铁鸡年日历》融合了汉历内容,是研究汉藏历法交流的重要参考资料。以上典籍均来自于民间。

《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》将各民族珍稀典籍汇编在一起,具有中华 民族优秀文化集成的意义,充分体现出中华文化的多样性、丰富性;把散落于民 间的文献集结在一起,对少数民族文献以及少数民族文化更是起到了保存和积累 的作用。

### (三) 代表性

收入本书的典籍是经过学者们再三比较,深入研究以后才确定下来的,多为代表性的经典著作,内容方面博大精深,形制方面独具魅力。

首先,中国少数民族典籍涉及的相关学科内容在本书基本得到了体现。如哲学类的有彝文《玄通大书》、宗教类的有藏文《堆之要义及明示经》,民俗类的有水书《大旺书》,文学类的有古布依文《送花歌》,历史类的有满文《职方志》,教育类的有彝文《彝汉教典》、法律类的有傣文《芒莱法典》,医药类的有察合台文《医药处方书》,工艺类的有察合台文《手艺人手册集》,地理类的有满文《皇舆山河地名考》,天文类的有满文《天文图说》等。

其次,入选本书的有关典籍能基本体现少数民族典籍载体与版本形式,也具有较高的代表性。

中国少数民族典籍绝大部分以纸为载体,但不同民族往往使用的是本民族的特色纸张,各种纸的厚度、颜色、韧度有所不同,从而使少数民族典籍形式显得丰富多彩。入选本书文献涉及的纸有藏纸、纳西东巴纸、壮纸、布依纸、和田纸,此外,还有产于中原的宣纸和绵纸。

贝叶经是一种极具特色的文献。在中国少数民族典籍中,以贝叶为载体的文献有傣文、藏文等。本书第十九、二十册所收即为贝叶经。

中国少数民族大多有以金石为载体的文献。本书第九、十七册所收的契丹文、 女真文、八思巴文金石文献,基本代表了中国少数民族金石铭文水平。

收入本书的少数民族典籍在版本形式上也是多种多样。如西夏文《金光明最胜王经》为刻印本,纳西东巴文《赞颂东巴什罗》为手抄本。在手抄本中又分精抄本和简抄本,如满文《皇舆山河地名考》属于精抄本,古壮字《毛红》属于简抄本。根据抄写年代的不同,彝文《尼苏》属于明代抄本,《百乐书》属于清代抄本,《尼亥尼司》属于民国年间的抄本。此外,藏族、蒙古族的典籍为长的梵夹装,纳西族为短的梵夹装;彝文《玄通大书》是特大的开本,而察合台文《手艺人手册集》是袖珍式的开本;古壮字《鸡骨一宗》为毛装书,彝文《历算书》为线装书·······总之,本书在选择典籍时,充分考虑了文献形式的代表性。

另外,中国少数民族不仅在语言方面存在方言差异,文字和文献也具有一定的方言性或区域性。如彝文典籍存在东部、东南部、南部、北部方言差异。傣族有西双版纳和德宏两大方言差异。在本书中,我们力求把各方言代表性的典籍都收入其中,从而全面反映少数民族典籍的特性。

经千百年传承发展而形成的少数民族典籍是少数民族文化的精华与瑰宝。但是由于少数民族古籍多为手抄本,甚至是孤本,且大部分少数民族古籍散存于个人手中,随着时间的推移,这些珍贵的民族遗产、中华记忆,在保存和使用上面临着越来越大的局限,不少民族古籍处于濒危状态,损失任何一本,都意味着一件文化遗产的消失!

在现代科技条件下,以数码照相技术拍下原件,进行彩印,是最有效的古籍 抢救办法。这样可以把底本的纸色、斑点、破损处、改校处等信息全都如实地保 留下来。对文献再造而言,采用这种方式比重抄或重新排版印刷效果更好,更有 价值。

《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》全书采用全彩影印方式,完美、真实再现了收集极为不易的各民族珍稀典籍本来面目,能准确反映原有材料的全部信息,可不必再触动原件进行学术研究,更可解除孤本消失的安全问题。从这个意义上说,《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》的出版是一项对中国少数民族古籍进行抢

救性保护的文化工程。

典籍的作用在于交流共享、传播文化。但由于特殊的原因,中国少数民族典籍在很大的程度上失去了流通与共享的功能。既不作为商品进行流通,藏书者之间也不相互交流和交换,更谈不上开发、利用与研究。《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》通过古籍再造,使闲置的少数民族典籍可以得到充分利用,使珍稀的少数民族典籍可以从封闭走向开放,从"静态"转变为"动态",写在古籍中的文化,也可以"活"起来。

与以往所出版的单一民族单一文种少数民族文献不同,《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》是多民族多文种古籍的汇编丛书,是首次大规模、系统性地对我国多民族文字古籍原件进行整理出版。内容涉及历史、哲学、宗教、文学、历法、经济、医药等各个方面,大部分材料为首次刊布,不仅可以展现出各民族在相关领域的鲜明特色,更可以从多个角度对各民族的文化进行比较研究,有很高的学术研究价值,对推动和促进少数民族文化研究将起重要作用。

=

《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》先后被列入国家"十二五"少数民族语言文字出版规划和2016年度国家出版基金资助项目,是中央民族大学张公瑾先生和福建人民出版社的共同创意。张公瑾先生由于精力原因和与生俱来的谦虚,为提携后学,又一次把机会让给了我们,由黄建明和张铁山负责《中国少数民族文字珍稀典籍汇编》的选编工作。让我们万万没有想到的是,在本序封笔的头一天子夜,张公瑾先生来不及看到本书问世,就驾鹤而去。一代宗师给后人的精神思想、学术遗产是无数的,本书亦是他留给后人的一份沉甸甸的绝作。

在文献采集过程中,李鹏、李欣欣、徐丽华、韦如柱、姚炳烈、莫映广、普 学旺、王继超、马曲博、阿吉拉则等做了大量工作。张公瑾、刘军、杨凤江等还 把珍藏多年的珍贵典籍供我们拍照。

本书的英文翻译分别由聂鸿音、周廷升、顾松洁、张盈盈、区佩仪等完成。

本书编写过程中,除每卷编者外,陈旭、毕桪、孙昉、吴贵飙、孙伯君、周国炎、牟昆昊、叶康杰、徐海涛、甘述玲、崔焱、李明月、毕舒颖等也做了大量的工作。

本书得到了中央民族大学、国家图书馆、云南民族大学、云南省少数民族古籍整理出版规划办公室、广西壮族自治区少数民族古籍工作办公室、贵州省荔波县档案馆等单位的大力支持和帮助。福建人民出版社刘亚忠总编辑在百忙中始终

对本项目过问,并亲自把关。本汇编是集体性的合作项目,涉及的编者众多,组稿与编辑工作相当烦琐,出版社史霄鸿、陈稚瑶、田成海等编辑不厌其烦,始终怀着精品意识处理每一幅图片、每一篇稿件。这种踏实与敬业精神赢得了各位编者的敬重。

在这里, 谨向上述同志以及支持、帮助我们的所有朋友表示衷心的感谢和崇高的敬意!

黄建明 张铁山 2017年4月26日于中央民族大学

# Preface

I

The vast land of China accommodates many long-standing ethnic groups. They have not only played their parts in exploiting China's vast territory and decorating its beautiful mountains and rivers, but also made a contribution to creating time-honoured Chinese history and brilliant Chinese cultures in the long course of historical development.

In the treasure trove of Chinese culture, a wide variety of minority scripts and classics shine brilliantly just like numerous bright pearls.

As one of the ancient civilizations in the world, China boasted many kinds of scripts in the history. Scores of minority scripts, such as Kharosthi script, Karasahr-Kuchean script, Khotanese script, Turkic script, Sogdian script, Uyghur script, Chagatai script, Tangut script, Tibetan script, Dai script, Yi script, Dongba script, Ersu Shaba script, the ancient Zhuang script, Shui script, Bai character, Khitan script, Jurchen script, Mongolian script, Phagspa script, Manchu script made their appearance. Each ethnic minority created their own classics in their native languages, influenced by specific geographical and natural environment, socio-cultural development, historical background, life styles, methods of production, as well as their modes of thought. Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts are the products of the great unity of Chinese ethnic minorities as well as the essence of cross-cultural communication and the embodiment of the diversity of Chinese civilization.

Classics of different Chinese minorities are not only varied in linguistic forms, but also large in number. Take Tibetan classics for example. It is not surprising that the number of book collection in a single monastery can reach even up to millions of volumes. Also, for Manchu classics, the First Historical Archives of

China alone preserves more than 3.20 million volumes. In addition to the collection owned by monasteries and official institutions, huge numbers of Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts are still owned by individuals, making it impossible to know the specific number of the books. Being a part of Chinese literature, they are not only valuable historical and cultural heritage of the Chinese nation but also a kind of extremely precious historical memory.

By integrating the collective wisdom of all ethnic minorities in ancient times, recording their social and historical development track, as well as showing their specific spiritual value, ways of thinking, imagination and creativity, the rich and diverse scripts and classics of different Chinese minorities are both an important achievement of culture accumulated during thousands of years of Chinese historical development and a gem of human civilization that is of high cognitive and academic research value.

### (I) Value in philosophy

In Chinese classics of different minorities, the main philosophical problems involved are about the origin of the universe and the human being. For example, the books in Tibeto-Burman, Hmong-Mien (Miao-Yao) and other languages describe the threshold of an era and give their explanations for the origin and evolution of lands, mountains, rivers, the sun, the moon, stars, animals and plants. The most common methodology is to observe the nature and interpret it based on the nature dialectics. Despite of the coexistence of materialistic and idealistic explanations, both of them reflect the philosophical thinking of the ancestors of Chinese nation.

### (II) Value in religious studies

One of the important features of Chinese classics of different minorities is the huge number of religious literature. For example, most of Naxi Dongba classics are related to religion. Moreover, they also cover a wide range of religious areas and maintain close relationship with the world's major religions. For instance, books related to Buddhism have been found written in Tibetan script, Uyghur script, Mongolian script, Manchu script, Dai script, Hangui script, Tangut script, etc.; those related to Taoism in the ancient Zhuang script, the ancient Buyi script, Hmong (Miao) script, Mien (Yao) script, etc.; those related to Islam in Chagatai script, (Dongxiang) Xiaojingwen script, etc.; those related

to Christianity in the ancient Lisu script, the ancient Lahu script, Pollard Hmong script, etc.; and those related to primitive religion in Naxi Dongba script, Yi script, etc.

### (III) Value in historical studies

The historical books of different minorities have special significance for studies of ethnic history. Historical works of different minorities are also plentiful, such as The Origin and Development of the Yi Group in Yi script, The Blue History in Tibetan script, The Code of Tangut in Tangut script, A History of Rashid in Chagatai script, The Secret History of Mongolian in Mongolian script, Old Archives of Manchu in Manchu script, The Biography of Xuanzang in Uyghur script, etc. Although they are of great historical value to the study of ethnic history, few accesses have been made to these classics and historical materials as a result of language barriers and data utilization bias. Chinese historians prefer to use history books in Han language such as Records of the Grand Historian and Records of the County South of Mount Hua than the recordings in minority scripts. That indicates the great improvement room for the development and utilization of Chinese classics of different minorities. As for historians who are specialized in studies of ethnic history, it has important breakthrough significance to make use of the ethnic historical data in their own languages.

### (IV) Value in linguistics and philology

Originated from recording events by carving on wood, human scripts then followed the development path of pictograph—hieroglyph—ideograph—syllabary—alphabetic script. Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts, just like a picture depicting the development history of human scripts, involve various types and stages. For example, Ersu Shaba script belongs to the pictographic written system; Naxi Dongba script is pictographic and hieroglyphic; Tangut script is ideographic; Naxi Geba script belongs to the syllabic system; and Tibetan classics are written in Tibetan script, a form of alphabet writing.

There are also many monographs concerning linguistics and philology in Chinese classics of different minorities, which suggests that the language study of these minorities has reached a fairly high level. The examples are the Dai people's Sapu Chantika, the Yi people's Collections of Yi Scripts, and the Tangut people's The Sea of Characters.

There have already been monographs in Chinese on ancient vocabulary like Er'ya. But we have to seek for the linguistic data of Chinese ethnic archaisms and dialects from various classics. For example, Tibetan manuscripts written in the Tang Dynasty and those in the Ming and Qing dynasties contain the ancient Tibetan languages in the respective eras. Language data explored and collected from these classics are undoubtedly reliable.

### (V) Value in classical philology

Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts enjoy a unique position and play an essential role in studies of classical philology. Most of them are written on local papers, such as the Tibetan paper, the *Dongba* paper, the *Zhuang* paper, the *Miao* paper, and the Hotan paper. Some of them have distinctive advantages as book carriers. For example, the Tibetan paper is made from the roots of a poisonous plant, which can prevent paper from bookworms; and its thick and tough texture further contributes to the preservation of Tibetan books for hundreds of years. In addition, some Tibetan classics are written on birch bark. The *Dai* people have palm-leaf manuscripts. Those special carriers have greatly enriched the contents of studies of classical philology.

The movable-type printing is a great Chinese invention. However, it is difficult to find such specimens in the North Song Dynasty, so some scholars question the Chinese people's invention of the movable-type printing. Fortunately, the archaeological excavations in Ningxia found movable-type printed books in Tangut script, which were also the oldest movable-type printed specimens in the world, and proved that the invention of Chinese movable-type printing technology can be traced back to the Song Dynasty to the most conservative extent. It provides a reliable basis for the research on the history of Chinese civilization as well as the history of literature.

### (VI) Value in literature

Most of the influential works of minorities have been handed down in written form and become an important part of ethnic classics. Some world-renowned literary masterpieces are *Gesar* in Tibetan script, *Jangar* in Mongolian script, *Manas* in Kyrgyz script, *Ashima* in *Yi* script, *Zhaoshutun* in *Dai* script, etc. And the world's oldest drama play script *Maitrisimit* is in Uyghur script.

Besides mountains of popular literary works, the ethnic minorities have made

an in-depth research on literary theories and recorded their thoughts and research results. As a result, the *Dai* people's *On the Dai Poetry*, the *Yi* people's *On the Yi Poetry and Essay* and other monographs on literature and art appeared.

### (W) Value in archaeology

Many Chinese cultural relics carry ethnic minority scripts. For example, the palace names in the Forbidden City are written in Manchu script; the inscriptions on murals of Mogaoku Grotto in Dunhuang are written in Uyghur script. The ethnic minority scripts can not only enrich the contents of cultural relics, but also provide important evidences for determining the time of their existence and what nationalities they belong to during the archaeological excavations. They are keys to the truth of historical relics.

Tablet inscriptions, as important components of Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts, have particular significance for archaeology. For example, The Meeting Tablet of Tang and Tibet combining Tibetan and Han scripts, The Tablet Marking the Rebuilding of the Liangzhou Gantong Pagoda, Huguo Temple combining Tangut and Han scripts, and carved stones in Juyongguan Pass carrying six kinds of scripts including Sanskrit, Tibetan, Han, Uyghur, Tangut and Phags-pa are all cultural relics of high historical value.

### (WII) Value in medicine

Since ancient times, the Chinese ethnic minorities developed their respective medical theories and therapies during their struggles against nature and diseases, and created a variety of ethnic medical books. For instance, the Tibetan people recorded the traditional Tibetan medicine in the 8th century. With the support of numerous Tibetan classics, the Tibetan medicine has become an independent theoretical and practical medical discipline. Among Chinese classics in ethnic minority scripts, medical classics are a section that has reached high scientific and technological level. However, many precious medical classics that can benefit mankind are still underexplored and rarely used in practice.

# (IX) Value in astronomy and calendar

Since ancient times, the ancestors of different Chinese ethnic minorities started their investigations on the astronomy and calendar and developed systematic theories. For example, at the beginning of the 9th century, the 60-year cyclic calendar was in wide use by the Tibetan. According to this calendar,

one circle is calculated by multiplying the Five Elements of Nature and the Twelve Zodiac Signs together. A year is divided into four seasons with 3 months for each, where a month may either be long (30 days) or short (29 days). The Yi people's On the Universe and Humanity records that it takes the earth 365. 40 days to orbit around the sun once, by which people can define boundaries of the year and the month, identify long and short months, as well as calculate the leap year and the leap month. The Yi calendar reaches a high level of accuracy. The Dai calendar was developed in the very early time. It combines the Han calendar and calendar of Indo-China Peninsula of Southeast Asian and thus forms a unique Dai astronomical calendar. Chinese people are proud of the outstanding achievements made in ancient astronomy and calendar. The classics of different minorities about astronomy and calendar demonstrate the Chinese people's understanding of the universe, which is one of the essential symbols of Chinese civilization.

II

The Chinese culture is inclusive and comprehensive and has combined elements from all sources, where the classics in ethnic minority scripts constitute an important and inseparable part. The Collection of Rare and Precious Chinese Classics in Ethnic Minority Scripts consists of 28 volumes and covers 14 ethnic minority scripts, i. e. Naxi Dongba script, Yi script, Shui script, Tangut script, Khitan script, Jurchen script, the ancient Zhuang script, the ancient Buyi script, Tibetan script, Phags-pa script, Dai script, Chagatai script, Mongolian script and Manchu script. Those classics basically present a general picture of minority literatures and reflect the diversity of Chinese culture as well as its rich and wonderful cultural heritage.

After the establishment of the project of *The Collection of Rare and Precious Chinese Classics in Ethnic Minority Scripts*, we fully discussed the criteria for selecting a classic and finally defined three major principles—preciousness and rareness, folk sources and representativeness.

### (I) Preciousness and Rareness

It is required that the selected classics must be precious and rare. Preciousness means that a selected classic may be valuable in either its subject and