

谢沫华  
起国庆  
杨莉  
编著



——云南民族古籍文化遗产

# MEMORIES OF MANKIND

Cultural Heritage of Yunnan  
Ethnic Ancient Literature

云南美术出版社

Yunnan Fine Arts Publishing House



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图书在版编目 ( C I P ) 数据

人类的记忆：云南民族古籍文化遗产 / 谢沫华，起国庆，杨莉编. —昆明：云南美术出版社，2005.12  
ISBN 7-80695-307-8

I . 人 ... II . ①谢 ... ②起 ... ③杨 ... III . 少数民族—古籍—研究—云南省 IV . G256.1

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 143595 号

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责任编辑：杨朝晖 陈铭阳

装帧设计：杨朝晖 陈铭阳

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出版发行：云南美术出版社

(昆明市环城西路 609 号)

制版印刷：昆明 (雅昌) 富新春彩色印务有限公司

开 本：889×1194mm 1/16

印 张：10

字 数：250 千字

图 片：263 幅

版 次：2005 年 12 月第 1 版

印 次：2005 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 7-80695-307-8/Z · 94

定 价：80.00 元



此书由美国亚洲协会博物  
馆资助出版

Sponsor of this publication: the  
Asia Society and Museum of the  
United States

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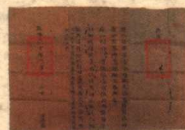
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# 前言 Foreword

民族古籍是对人类社会历史的永恒记忆，是人类弥足珍贵的民族文化遗产。

云南是中国民族种类最多的一个边疆省份，是全球罕见的多语种、多文种的“语言文字王国”，也是全球罕见的民族古籍文化蕴藏最为丰富的地区。在云南人口在5000人以上的26个民族中，除汉、回、水、满等4个民族已通用汉语外，其余22个民族至今还使用着27种语言和23种文字，各民族为人类留下了用不同文字书写的10余万册（卷）古籍文献，云南也因此被誉为民族古籍的博物馆。其中，纳西族东巴古籍文献于2003年8月被联合国教科文组织列入世界记忆遗产名录。

在当今强烈的社会变革与经济全球一体化的历史进程中，云南民族古籍文化遗产不可避免地受到前所未有的冲击，正面临诸多严峻的挑战。主要表现在：一是民族古籍的消失和流失现象极为严重，有人初步统计，每年正以上千册（卷）的速度加速消失；二是许多精通民族古籍的民间艺人相继离世，缺乏后继传承人，导致很多古籍难以解读，变成了“天书”；三是缺乏对民族古籍重要价值的认识，自觉保护意识不强，保护手段落后，很多民族古籍无法正常地发挥它的特殊作用；四是受商品经济的冲击，许多具有特殊价值的民族古籍被高价收藏后流出境外。由于上述多方面的原因，云南也因此变成了民族古籍文化遗产消蚀的“重灾区”。抢救和保护民族古籍文化遗产已迫在眉睫！

出于高度的责任感，神圣的使命感和强烈的紧迫感，2004年9月，我们策划推出了迄今为止反映云南民族古籍文化遗产方面规模最大、内容最全、展品数量最多的专题性展览“人类的记忆——云南民族古籍文化遗产展”，展览引起国内外观众的强烈反响，很多观众还留下了宝贵的意见和建议，全国30多家主流媒体先后对展览进行了全方位的报导，150余篇报导见于各类媒体，在2005年5月18日由国家文物局组织举行的第六届全国博物馆十大陈列展览精品终评会上，该展览获得“最佳宣传推广奖”。这一切表明，保护与弘扬民族古籍文化遗产已受到人类的普遍关注。

这本图录就是在展览框架基础上编著而成的。内容涉及有关云南民族古籍文化遗产的五个主要方面：

（一）原始记事与表意方法。文字是人类记录语言的符号，或者说







是人类书写语言的符号系统。文字作为人类最重要的辅助性交际工具，对人类的文明进步起着巨大的作用。世界人类文字学家的研究表明：在严格意义上的文字发明以前，世界上各地区的不同民族曾普遍采用刻木结绳、物件传言、图画符号表意等各种原始信息传递方法，以此来弥补语言的不足，它为后来人类发明文字产生了积极影响。难能可贵的是，至20世纪50年代，云南有的民族还不同程度地传承和使用着各种原始信息传递方式，它们与目前惟一存活并仍在使用的纳西族东巴象形文字一起，共同印证、揭示了人类文字的产生与发展的历史轨迹。

（二）金石铭刻与木刻印版。它们作为民族古籍文献的一种特殊载体，为人类留下了一个永恒的记忆。镌刻在金石器物上和用雕板印刷的民族古籍，包括各民族用本民族文字书写和用汉文记载各民族历史文化的各类碑刻、摩崖石刻、金属印章、木刻印版和木刻雕版印刷善本等，它们在璀璨夺目的民族古籍大观园中，具有特殊的价值和地位。

（三）民族文字与文献古籍。主要反映了彝、纳西、藏、傣、回、普米、傈僳族以及白、壮、瑶、水族等民族用自创体文字书写并流传下来的民族古籍文献。这部分民族古籍卷帙浩繁，几乎涉及云南各民族政治、经济、军事、宗教、文化、艺术、天文、历法、医学等方方面面的内容，是云南民族古籍文化遗产中最为耀眼的一枝奇葩。

（四）文书档案与族谱家牒。主要内容包括明、清代以来用各民族文字和汉文书写的有关土地租赁等方面的地契凭证、历代王朝统治地方而颁发的各类文告，以及记载本民族、本家族历史的民族文字谱牒。它们在很大程度上丰富了云南民族古籍的博大内涵。

（五）民族古籍与绘画插图。云南各民族在用自创体文字记载本民族政治、经济、历史、生活等内容的时候，也十分注意古籍文献的封面、版式和装帧设计，为人类留下了大量珍贵的古籍绘画插图。古籍中的绘画插图大多与古籍内容紧密相联，文字与插图相得益彰，交相辉映，有的还融入了本民族的审美理念，从而使古籍文献达到了历史性、知识性、趣味性、唯美性的有机统一。书中虽然只撷取了几个民族古籍文献中的部分绘画插图，但不难窥见民族古籍绘画插图的全貌。

云南民族古籍文化是异常博大精深的。限于我们的学识和本书的篇幅，无法进行全面、深入的研究和展现。我们编著出版此书的出发点和落脚点也只有一个，那就是呼唤全社会与我们一同来关心、关注人类极其珍贵的民族文化瑰宝，使民族古籍文化更加焕发出异样的光彩，如果此书能达到抛砖引玉的目的，那便是我们最大的欣慰。

人类的进步离不开对古老文明的传承，为了明天不再遗憾，让我们携起手来，共同珍视各民族祖先留给我们的民族古籍记忆遗产！





# Foreword

Ancient ethnic literature is the eternal memory of the human history and society, and the precious ethnic cultural heritage of the mankind.

Yunnan is China's only province that has the greatest number of ethnic groups. The many kinds of languages spoken and written by Yunnan's ethnic groups make the province the "kingdom of languages and writings" that is rarely found elsewhere in the world, as well as the world's richest reserve of ancient ethnic literature. Among Yunnan's 26 ethnic groups that respectively have a population exceeding 5,000, the Han, Hui, Shui and Man nationality commonly use the Chinese (Han) language, whereas the rest 22 ethnic groups are still using 27 kinds of spoken languages and 23 kinds of writings till the present day. Yunnan's

s ethnic groups contributed to the mankind over 100,000 volumes of ancient books and literature, Yunnan has hence won the fame of "museum of ancient ethnic literature". The UNESCO had registered the ancient Dongba Literature of Yunnan's Naxi minority in the World's Memory Heritage Listings.

In the historic process of drastic social changes and economic globalization, it is inevitable that Yunnan's ancient ethnic literature and cultural heritage are exposed to unprecedented impacts and severe challenges. Major representation of such problems could be seen in the following: First, tremendous amount of Yunnan's ethnic literature and books are disappearing or getting lost. Statistics of some scholars show that Yunnan's ancient ethnic literature is disappearing at an accelerated rate of over 1,000 copies (volumes) per year. Second, folk artists who were masters of the ethnic literature have passed away one after another without passing their learning to any successors. As the result, lots of ancient literature has become "books from the heaven" because no one could read them. Third, people do not have sufficient understanding of the importance of ancient ethnic literature, have not yet formed an active attitude for protecting them, and have but underdeveloped approaches for the protection work. For these reasons, the





ancient ethnic literature has not played its special roles. Fourth, lots of the ethnic cultural relics has been illegally sold at high prices and then smuggled out of China. Owing to the above-listed reasons, Yunnan has become an area that is threatened by extinction of ancient literature and cultural relics, and this indicates that urgent measures must be taken to protect the ancient literature and cultural relics.



Out of keen awareness of responsibility, sacred mission and urgency, we planned and launched in September 2004 the themed show of “Memory of the Human Beings – Exhibition of Yunnan’s Ancient Ethnic Literature and Cultural Heritage”, and up to the present, the show has proved to be the largest in dimension, the most complete in contents and the greatest in number of exhibits for displaying Yunnan’s ancient ethnic literature and cultural heritage. The exhibition had exerted a powerful impact on the domestic and foreign viewers, many of whom offered valuable comments on and suggestions, and over 30 mainstream news media of China published panoramic reports on the event in 150-plus news stories. At the “6<sup>th</sup> Meeting to Evaluate 10 Elite Exhibitions” held by the State Administration of Cultural Relics on May 18, 2005, this show of ours won the “Award for the Best Publicity and Propagation of Information”. All these indicate that the mankind is beginning to pay close attention to protecting and carrying forward its cultural heritage of ancient ethnic literature.

Based on the framework of the exhibition, we compiled the book Illustrations Catalogue, the contents of which cover the following 5 aspects of Yunnan’s cultural heritage of ancient ethnic literature:

1. Primitive records and ideogrammic methods. Writings are human-created signs for recording speeches, or the symbol systems of human languages. As the most important tool to assist communication among the humans, writings have been playing an indispensably great role to promote the advancement of human civilization. According to research of the world’s philologists, before the birth of significantly defined writings, ethnic groups living in different regions of the world had used all sorts of primitive





methods to transmit information, such as woodcuts, rope knots, message-transmitting articles and ideograms. These primitive methods had effectively supplemented the function of languages, and exerted positive influences to the subsequent invention of human languages. It is praiseworthy that some of Yunnan's ethnic minorities inherited and used diversified primitive methods to dissimilar extents for transmitting information till the 1950s. Together with the Naxi-minority Dongba Pictographs that have survived and are still being used, those primitive writings have witnessed and disclosed the historical traces of the emergence and development of human languages.



2. Metal and stone inscriptions and printing blocks. Served as special carriers of the ancient ethnic literature, the metal and stone inscriptions and printing blocks have left the mankind with an eternal memory. The ancient ethnic literature carved on metals and stones or reproduced by using printing blocks included stone tablets, rock inscriptions, metal seals, printing blocks and impressions, which were written in respective minority writings or in the Han language. All those have shown special values and taken unique positions in the eye-dazzling treasure house of ancient ethnic literature.



3. Ethnic writings and ancient literature. These include the written and inherited ancient literature of the Yi, Naxi, Tibetan, Dai, Hui, Pumi, Lisu, Bai, Zhuang, Yao and Shui nationality. The vast reserve of ancient ethnic literature had covered almost every aspect of Yunnan's ethnic groups, such as politics, economics, military affairs, cultures, arts, astronomy, calendar and medicine, all of which have formed a shining pearl in the cultural heritage of ancient ethnic literature.

4. Documents, archives and genealogical records. Those include title deeds and vouchers for land leases or other issues, and were written in minority writing or the Han language since the Ming and Qing Dynasties; all sorts of official documents promulgated by rulers in respective dynasties; and written



genealogical records of the ethnic groups or families. To a large extent, these works have greatly added to the profound connotation of Yunnan's ancient ethnic literature.

5. Ancient books and illustrations of the ethnic groups. While recording politics, economics, history and life in their own writings, Yunnan's ethnic groups also attached great importance to the design of front cover, page layout and decorations of the ancient ethnic literature, and such written ethnic records have left the mankind with tremendous amount of illustrations of ancient books, most of which had themes closely linked with the contents of ancient literature, while the

illustrations and writings served to enrich one another. Some of the illustrations had even incorporated the aesthetic concepts of the ethnic people they belonged. All those had materialized perfect integration of the historical, instructive, recreational and aesthetic features. Despite that only part of the illustrations of ancient literature of several ethnic groups were collected in the book, it is still possible for readers to get a panoramic view of the paintings and illustrations of Yunnan's ancient ethnic literature.



The unusually vast expanse of knowledge and profound scholarship of Yunnan's ancient ethnic literature have gone far beyond the learning of the compilers and the limited space of the book, and the compilers find it difficult to portray those ethnic cultural gems in greater depths and fuller details. The objective and ultimate goal of us to compile this book have well coincided with one another: calling on people of all social circles to show concern in and pay focused attention to the pearl of extremely precious ethnic cultures, and make it shine with unrivaled splendor. It would be our greatest happiness if this book could serve the purpose of "throwing a sprat to catch a herring".

It would be impossible for the humans to make any progress if they fail to inherit the ancient civilization. To rid off future regrets, let us join forces to endear and protect the ancient ethnic literature, which is the memory heritage passed on to us by ancestors of different ethnic groups.



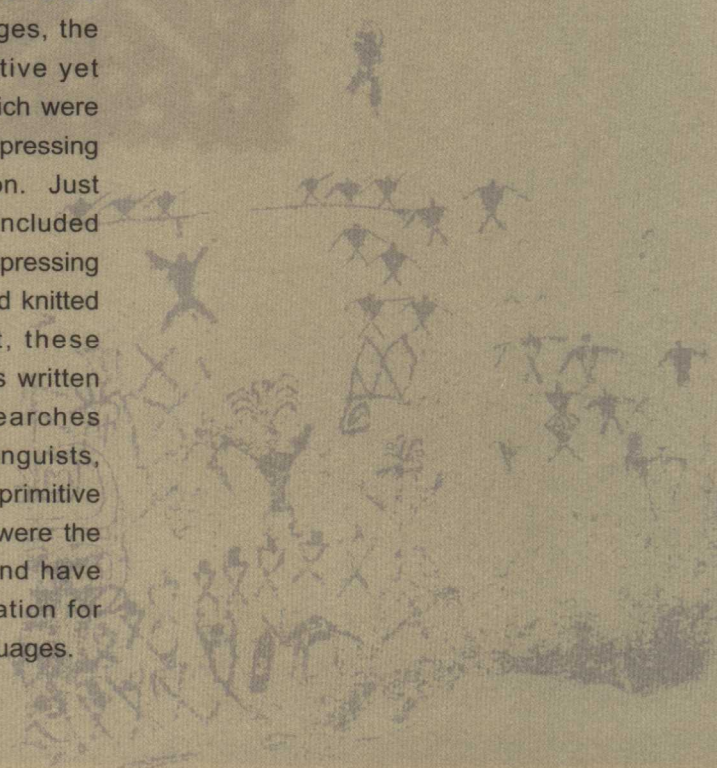
# 一、原始记事 与 表意方法



在文字面世并传开之前，人类为了记录事物，交流思想，表达意志，传递信息，曾创造了许多具有实际意义的原始信息传递方法。刻木结绳、物件传言、崖壁绘画、涂刺身体、编织字花等等，在一定程度上产生了和文字相似的功效。世界人类文字学家的研究表明，内容丰富、形式多样的原始信息传递方式，是人类文字起源的前奏，是探索和研究人类文字起源的珍贵资料。

## The Primitive Records and Ideograamic Methods

Before the emergence and popularization of written languages, the humans already created primitive yet applicable recording methods, which were used for exchanging messages, expressing ideas and transmitting information. Just to name a few, these methods included woodcuts, rope knots, message-expressing articles, rock paintings, tattoos and knitted patterns. To a certain extent, these methods functioned the same as written languages. According to researches of the world's anthropological linguists, such meaningful and diversified primitive ways of information propagation were the prelude to language creation, and have thus furnished valuable information for exploring the origin of human languages.









# 1. 刻木结绳记事

Woodcuts and rope knots for  
recording events

刻木结绳是文字产生以前和文字使用不普遍的情况下帮助人类记忆和表意的一种方法。据史籍记载，中国在周代以前就已使用刻木结绳记事方法。《周易》中记载的“结绳而治”的情形，至今在云南的许多民族中仍有活生生的例子，它们是研究文字起源的活素材。

In ancient times when languages were non-existent or not commonly used, our ancestors used woodcuts and rope knots to help record events and express feelings. Historic records show that our ancestors started to use those methods as early as before the Shang Dynasty. The method of using rope knots to record events, which were described in the Book of Changes of the Zhou Dynasty, could still be found in routine life of many ethnic groups of Yunnan Province, and those "living records" have furnished rich data for exploring the origin of languages.

