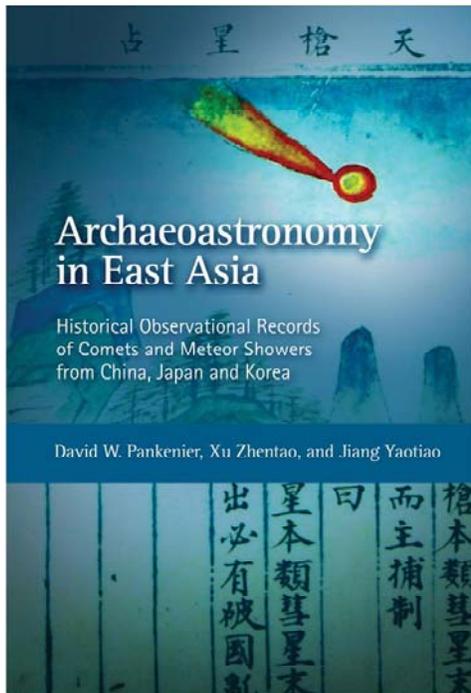


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Archaeology / Astronomy / History

Archaeoastronomy in East Asia

Historical Observational Records
of Comets and Meteor Showers
from China, Japan, and Korea

David W. Pankenier, Xu Zhentao,
and Jiang Yaotiao

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Description

Since Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9's spectacular bombardment of Jupiter in July 1994, astronomers have devoted increasing attention to the risks of objects entering the inner solar system at irregular intervals (so-called near-Earth objects or NEOs and fast-moving objects or FMOs). These include comets, meteors, and asteroids—mainly debris left over from the formation of the solar system. As the historical record of catastrophic impacts on the Earth and their implications becomes increasingly clear, the work of identifying, cataloging, and predicting the future orbits of such objects has assumed greater urgency. Many such bodies have an orbital history; for example, we know that certain important meteor streams like the Leonids began as short-term comets that disintegrated in much the same way as Shoemaker-Levy 9. Here, the historical records of comets and meteor showers from China, Japan, and Korea have the potential to make a contribution to historical research on the evolution of Earth-crossing orbits. Important statistical analyses of certain records have been published, but without complete translations.



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Archaeoastronomy in East Asia

Description (continued)

As a result, such research remains the exclusive province of those with expertise in the relevant languages. With this catalogue, the authors hope to ameliorate that situation.

In addition to astronomers, scholars have communicated to the authors how the East Asian astronomical records have materially aided their research in fields as diverse as mythology, medieval iconography, ancient chronology, and Hawaiian oral history. This response encouraged the authors to redouble their efforts to complete the task of making the records readily accessible to cultural astronomers as well for use in historical and comparative research. Employing a rigorous selection criteria and style of presentation, the authors have assembled and translated in this book some 1,500 individual observations of comets and meteor showers from China, Japan, and Korea spanning nearly three millennia. With the publication of this volume, most of the historical records of East Asian astronomical observations are now accessible in English.

Archaeoastronomy in East Asia is an important book for collections in archaeology, astronomy, and history.

About the Authors

David W. Pankenier is a professor of Chinese at Lehigh University. He holds a PhD and MA in Asian languages from Stanford University, and an MA from the University of Stockholm. Dr. Pankenier is co-author of the first volume of *East Asian Archaeoastronomy* (2000) and author of *Revealing the Secrets of Ancient Chinese History* (2008). He has published numerous articles on ancient Chinese astronomy, astrology, and intellectual history.

Jiang Yaotiao and Xu Zhentao are both retired professors and coauthors of *East Asian Archaeoastronomy: Historical Records of Astronomical Observations of China, Japan and Korea* (2000).

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Archaeoastronomy and Celestial Mythology. Allen, R.H. Star Names: Their Lore and Meaning. Aveni, Anthony Native American Astronomy. Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico. World Archaeoastronomy. Ethnoastronomy and Archaeoastronomy in the American Tropics. Conversing with the Planets: How Science and Myth Invented the Cosmos. Stairways to the Stars: Skywatching in Three Great Ancient Cultures. Belmonte, Juan Antonio and Shaltout, Mosalam (eds) In Search of Cosmic Order, Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy. Brennan, Martin The Stars and the Stones: Ancient Art and Astronomy in Ireland. The Ston Archaeoastronomy (also spelled archeoastronomy) is the study of how people in the past "have understood the phenomena in the sky, how they used these phenomena and what role the sky played in their cultures".[1] Clive Ruggles argues it is misleading to consider archaeoastronomy to be the study of ancient astronomy, as modern astronomy is a scientific discipline, while archaeoastronomy considers symbolically rich. Archaeoastronomy uses a variety of methods to uncover evidence of past practices including archaeology, anthropology, astronomy, statistics and probability, and history. Because these methods are diverse and Archaeoastronomy in East has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. Buy Now. Would you like to tell us about a lower price? If you are a seller for this product, would you like to suggest updates through seller support? East Asian astronomy. Cullen, Christopher. Astronomy and Mathematics in Ancient China: the Zhou bi suan jing. Cullen, Christopher. "The First Complete Chinese Theory of the Moon: The Innovations of Liu Hong c. A.D. 200", Journal for the History of Astronomy, 33 (2002): 21-39. Pankenier, David, Zhentao Xu, and Yaotiao Jiang. Archaeoastronomy in East Asia: historical observational records of comets and meteor showers from China, Japan, and Korea. Sivin, Nathan, Kiyosi Yabuuti, and Shigeru Nakayama. Granting the Seasons: the Chinese astronomical reform of 1280, with a study of its many dimensions and a translation of its records.