

Making Extracts and Compiling a Medical Book in a Manuscript-based Culture: An Observation on the Reproduction of Medical Books and the Reconstruction of Medical Authority Based on a Study of Dunhuang Manuscript P.3287

Chen, Hao

School of History

Renmin University of China

Abstract

P.3287, a Dunhuang manuscript belonging to the collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale of France, is the middle piece without the beginning or the end of an original manuscript. There are 149 lines remaining in the current manuscript. Previous research on this manuscript tended to consider it as five medical books written in one manuscript. This article argues this manuscript should be taken as a medical book in the making. Detailed research on it reveals the reproduction of medical books and the reconstruction of medical authority in Medieval China.

Keywords: medical books, Dunhuang manuscript, making extracts, compilation