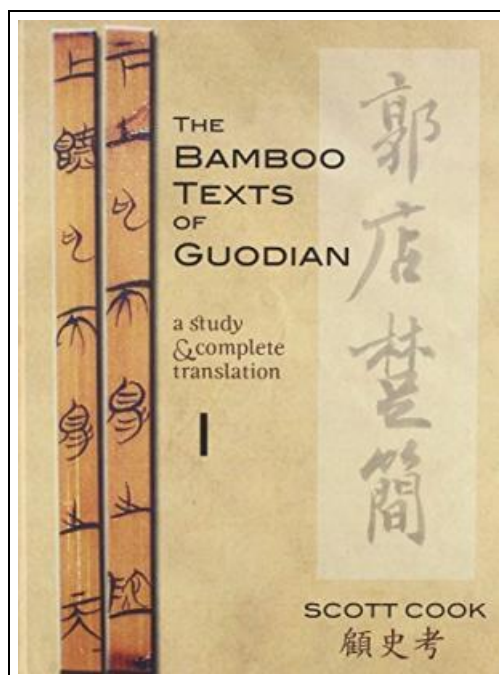


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Cornell University East Asia Program, United States, 2013. Hardback. Condition: New. Bilingual. Language: English,Chinese . Brand New Book. The cache of bamboo texts recently unearthed (in 1993) from the village of Guodian, Hubei Province, is without doubt a rare and unique find in the history of Chinese philosophy and literature. As the only archaeologically excavated corpus of philosophical manuscripts to emerge from a Warring States-period tomb, the Guodian texts provide us with a wealth of reliable information for gaining new insights into the textual and intellectual history of pre-imperial China. In this respect, one may reasonably claim that they are the most exciting thing to happen to the study of early China since the third century ad, the last time a pre-imperial textual cache of similar import was unearthed. The importance of these texts is manifold. First, given the prominence of Confucian works in the corpus, they serve to fill out much of the intellectual-historical picture for the doctrines of roughly three generations of Confucian disciples who fell between the times of Confucius (551-479 bc) and Mencius (ca. 390-305 bc). Next, the discovery of three different texts that each parallel portions of the Daode jing (aka. Laozi), along with a possibly related cosmogonic work, the Taiyi sheng shui, is helping us better understand the formation and early transmission of the Laozi and the nature of its relationship to early Confucian thought and even popular beliefs. Moreover, the dating of the tomb serves to dispel serious doubts about the early temporal provenance of both the Laozi and many of the chapters from the Li ji (Book of Ritual), as well as giving us a number of clues to help us reconstruct the history of the early Chinese canonical classics that are cited in some of the texts. Written as they are in...

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