The Changing Paradigm of the Chinese Literary History and the Book A Chronicle of the Literature of the Tang and Five Dynasties Edited by Fu Xuanzong

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Roughly speaking, there are three successive paradigms of the Chinese literary history in the past one hundred years. What motivated these shifts were the modern Western literary theory and the evolution of the historians’ ideas from the traditional to the modern and from the disorderly to the scientific. However, its integrity, abundance and therefore the traditional Chinese characteristics have been weakened in the process of modernization. The academic reflections since the New Period have called for a new idea, i.e., a big literary history, which then brought the writing of literary history to a new stage. The book A Chronicle of the Tang and Five Dynasties is an truly exceptional achievement in the new stage.

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After the wars of the middle 700s, the power of the Tang Dynasty was diminished. Although the dynastic clan retook Chang'an and the Tibetans were driven back, local rulers and army leaders had more of the power, and various regions became more autonomous. The empire ended in natural disasters, defeats, and rebellions. The Tibetan Attack. In 763, taking advantage of the An Lushan Rebellion, the Tibetan empire attacked the Tang empire and captured a large part of the northern land area including Chang'an. Natural Disasters. Zhu Wen changed the empire to the Later Liang Dynasty. That was the end of the Tang Dynasty and the beginning of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms. Tang Dynasty Tours. Tour Early Tang Era Sites in Xi'an. The Wall of Xi'an. The Tang is considered the greatest age for Chinese poetry. Two of China's most famous poets, Li Bai and Du Fu, were active as were the celebrated painters Han Gan, Zhang Xuan, and Zhou Fang. There was a rich variety of historical literature compiled by scholars, as well as encyclopedias and geographical works. Influential innovations included the development of woodblock printing and advanced water clocks. Buddhism was a major influence in Chinese culture as were native Chinese sects. John D. Szostak of the University of Washington wrote: “Tang aristocratic and affluent society was strongly influenced by foreign music and arts. Central Asian musicians and dancers were highly appreciated both in the Tang court as well as on the popular level.”