

The Shape of the Turtle

SUNY Series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture

David L. Hall and Roger T. Ames, editors

The Shape of the Turtle

Myth, Art, and Cosmos in Early China

SARAH ALLAN

State University of New York Press

Published by
State University of New York Press, Albany

© 1991 State University of New York

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America

No part of this book may be used or reproduced
in any manner whatsoever without written permission
except in the case of brief quotations embodied in
critical articles as reviews.

For information, address the State University of New York Press,
State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246

Production by Christine M. Lynch
Marketing by Dana E. Yanulavich

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Allan, Sarah.

The shape of the turtle : myth, art, and cosmos in early China /
Sarah Allan.

p. cm.—(SUNY series in Chinese philosophy and culture)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-7914-0459-5 (alk. paper).—ISBN 0-7914-0460-9 (pbk. :
alk. paper)

1. Philosophy, Chinese—To 221 B.C. 2. China—Civilization—To
221 B.C. 3. Mythology, Chinese. 4. China—History—Shang dynasty,
1766–1122 B.C. 5. Cosmology, Chinese. I. Title. II. Series.
B126.A44 1991

299'.51'0931—dc20

90-30424

CIP

To Nicol Allan

