

Acknowledgments

Many people have provided me assistance, support, and encouragement in writing this book, but I must begin by expressing my debt of gratitude to an anonymous reader. This project was originally conceived of as a much shorter journal article based on a chapter of my dissertation, with the simple aim of presenting a set of commentarial passages concerning the *Spring and Autumn* that are embedded in the *Zuǒ Tradition* and showing that they lay out a unified reading of the *Spring and Autumn*, and are not (as had been commonly supposed) relatively late interpretations. I duly submitted my article for review and subsequently received a particularly inspiring reader report asking questions that I had not considered. As I sought answers, it became clear to me that I had more to say than could be addressed in an article. The anonymous reader asked about the distribution of the commentarial passages throughout the *Zuǒ Tradition*; the surprising discoveries I made in the process of answering this question threw light on the sources of these passages and inspired me to think more broadly about the nature of early texts about texts. My answer became chapter 4. A second question concerned the relationship of the embedded commentarial lines to two other *Zuǒ Tradition* passages that also refer to the *Spring and Autumn*; my response became chapter 5, which highlights two fundamentally different approaches to understanding and interpreting the *Spring and Autumn*, and to early Chinese historiography more generally. Other parts of the report, too, went beyond evaluating and correcting, and gave me mentoring, guidance, and teaching. I may never learn this reader's name, but I remain most grateful.

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helped clarify my understanding of the *Spring and Autumn*. Portions of this project, primarily an early draft of chapter 4, were presented at the Early China Seminar at Columbia University in November 2012, hosted by Li Feng and David Pankenier, and I would like to thank my hosts and the seminar participants for their inspiring and insightful discussion of my work. I have presented various parts of this project in preliminary form at annual meetings of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, and I am grateful to my colleagues for their thoughtful questions and comments.

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