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Practices of editing: Handling evidence

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The First Printed Edition of Mathematical Treatise in Nine Sections (Shushu jiuzhang 數書九章) and the Text Criticism during 17th to 19th Century

Abstract - The development of Chinese traditional mathematics reached its culminating point in the 13th century (Song and Yuan periods). Nevertheless, since the middle Ming period (15th, 16th centuries), with the rising of abacus computation and the introduction of Western mathematics, the mathematics in Song and Yuan periods gradually became hard to understand. In the second half of the 18th century, scholars began to recover, edit and study the mathematical works of Song and Yuan periods. *Mathematical Treatise in Nine Sections (Shushu jiuzhang 數書九章, hereafter SS)* completed by Qin Jiushao (秦九韶 1208-ca.1261) in 1247 is one of the most important mathematical works in the history of China. In 1842, the first printed edition of SS with critical apparatus was published in the *Yijiatang* collection (*Yijiatang congshu 宜稼堂叢書*). This critical edition (namely *Yijiatang* edition) became the standard version afterwards.

This paper sheds light on the textual history of SS, especially the way in which *Yijiatang* edition was elaborated. By comparison between the critical edition and its copy-text, we focus on the special features of a manuscript copy made by Zhao Qimei (1616). This MS not only contains precious information of rod calculus, but also reveals a key transition of traditional Chinese mathematical instruments from counting rods to paper in the 13th century. On this basis, this paper further analyzes the reason why certain contents are missing in the critical edition.