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**Meaning-Construction in warring states philosophical discourse : a discussion of the palaeographic materials from Tomb Guōdiàn One**  
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## Conventions

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### Old Chinese Notation

My notation of Old Chinese follows the system of William H. Baxter and Laurent Sagart,<sup>1</sup> whilst taking into account the latest developments.<sup>2</sup> Differences from William H. Baxter's *Handbook*<sup>3</sup> include that in the latest version of the reconstruction after Baxter/Sagart no voicing \*curly-top h appears as a prefix. In its place, \*N- or \*m- is used. Also, \*N- does not make a following consonant nasal. Uvular initials, such as \*q<sup>(w)</sup>-, q<sup>(w)h</sup>- and G<sup>(w)</sup> are added to the system, replacing the initial glottal stop, but also \*x-, \*w-, \*hw-, \*curly-top h initial as used in the *Handbook*. The present system does not include initial \*z- and \*j-.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, type A syllables are indicated by a reversed glottal stop.<sup>5</sup> This could, for instance, be \*m<sup>ʔ</sup>raʔ, horse *mǎ* 馬 (MC maeX). This follows Jerry

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<sup>1</sup> See William H. Baxter 1992; Laurent Sagart 1999.

<sup>2</sup> William Baxter and Laurent Sagart continually refine their system of reconstructing Old Chinese. Their goal is that the reconstruction should be capable of both presenting the peculiarities and also the generalities of a language. William H. Baxter and Laurent Sagart introduced the latest developments of their system on various workshops and conferences.

<sup>3</sup> See William H. Baxter 1992.

<sup>4</sup> After William H. Baxter "Preliminary flowchart for initials" as introduced on the second ELNWS Intensive Seminar on Old Chinese Phonology, held at Leiden University in August 2006 (unpublished).

<sup>5</sup> This includes words that are grouped in Middle Chinese (henceforth MC) into the first division (*yī děng* 一等), thus including those words that in MC have a back vowel with no -j- (a, o, u); second division words (*èr děng* 二等), thus those words that have ae or ea (front vowels) but no -j-; fourth division words (*sì děng* 四等), thus those words that in MC have the main vowel -e- but no -j-.

Norman's proposal that type-A syllables had pharyngealized initial consonants.<sup>6</sup> Type B syllables had no pharyngealized initial consonants.<sup>7</sup> William Baxter's *Handbook*, for its part, uses \*-j- as notation for type B syllables, which is no longer used in the present system. Voiceless resonants are indicated with a ring below letters which have no descenders, as for instance in *hui* 晦 (OC \*m̥ʰək-s) 'last day of a moon; dark'. In letters that have a descender, such as the velar nasal \*ŋ- the voiceless sound is written with the ring above instead, such as for instance in *xì* 戲 'quip' (OC \*ŋ̊(r)ar-s).

For the sake of clarity, the present system also indicates where uncertainties remain. Parentheses, for instance \*-(r)-, indicate that it is not certain whether \*-r- should be reconstructed. Brackets, for instance \*[b]-, indicate that Old Chinese \*b- is uncertain and can be one of different possibilities, but its Middle Chinese reflex is the same as the reflexes of Old Chinese \*b-.

As mentioned, the present system does not have \*-z-; \*[z]- for its part is an artificial notation for what was either \*s-m-l-, \*s-m-t-, \*s-G<sup>(w)</sup>.<sup>8</sup>

### Reconstruction of the Texts

In my reconstruction of the various texts, I indicate the length of each strip and the graphs contained therein with superscripted letters together with a certain number to refer to the rank number of the strip in question. "M1" would thus mean "Manuscript 'm', strip one". When discussing a particular character, it is indicated by the use of backslash: "m1/9", for instance, would thus refer to the ninth graph on strip one of the particular manuscript 'm'. This convention applies to both the transcription and also the translation of the text. For the manuscript "Zhōng xìn zhī dào", the reader finds superscripted the letter "z"; for the "Qióng dá yǐ shí" I use "q"; for the "Wǔ xíng" I use "w"; for the "Xìng zì mìng chū" the

<sup>6</sup> See Jerry Norman 1994. On pharyngealization in Old Chinese, see also Edwin G. Pulleyblank 1996.

<sup>7</sup> Type B in Old Chinese includes those words that in MC belong to the third division (*sān děng* 三等), thus those words that in MC have -j- or -i- (or -y-) before the vowel.

<sup>8</sup> After William H. Baxter's "Preliminary flowchart for initials".

reader finds superscripted the letter “*x*”; the “*Tài yī shēng shuǐ*” is indicated by “*ty*”. The different bundles of the so-called “*Lǎozǐ*” are indicated by “*a*”, “*b*”, or “*c*”. When necessary to discuss a particular text in comparison to an extant counterpart of the same, I use capital letters. Whereas “*zy*” refers to the Guōdiàn One manuscript “*Zī yī*”, “*Zy*” thus refers to the particular counterpart that is part in the Shànghǎi collection of Chǔ manuscripts. For the sake of ease, I do repeat these conventions when necessary in the discussion of the various texts.

Letters in brackets, for instance “[A]”, refer to the philological discussion of the text, which the reader finds in the appendices.<sup>9</sup>

The crux “+”, which appears here and there in the Chinese texts, indicates that the text on the strips (or the strip itself) is corrupt, or that a graph cannot be identified with certainty. As a result, the translation must then be partly tentative, too. This is a standard notation widely applied in Greek philological studies. As it adds to clarity, I also use it in my present study. Missing parts on the strips, which I attempted to reconstruct on the basis of a continuous argument of the text, are marked with rolling brackets {}. The reconstructed passage is set in italics.

Titles of received texts are given in italics. Exhumed manuscripts will be treated in the same fashion as chapter titles and hence put in quotation marks.

## Transliteration

For the sake of coherence, I use *Hànyǔ pīnyīn* throughout for the transliteration of the Chinese, including diacritics, even when quoting a text that uses another transliteration. When authors use *pīnyīn*, but no diacritics, I have added these.

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<sup>9</sup> Chapters 9-13.

### Miscellaneous

If not announced otherwise, all translations are my own.

All Chinese names are given in traditional characters only.