The Disease Panic Behind Book of New Buddha and Book of Good Behaviors—On The Five Main Diseases in Tang and The Five Dynasties

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The Dunhuang Manuscripts Book of New Buddha and Book of Good Behaviors are the so called “pseudo-classics” popular in 8th to 10th centuries which predict the initiation of certain diseases, therefore persuade people to converse to Buddhism by copying Buddhist classics and doing good deeds to escape disaster. The two books are the precious material for research on the main diseases in Tang and The Five Dynasties. They express people’s panic at those diseases at the time. By analyzing the connotation of the disease names appeared in the manuscripts, the paper claims that the threatening focuses on the infectious diseases among which ague is the most serious one besides diseases of cardio-vascular system, digestive system, urinary system and dystocia. The features of landscape depicted in the manuscripts also indicate that diseases mentioned above are the main illnesses suffering North China in Tang and The Five Dynasties. Finally, the paper discusses the relations between those diseases and the historical process in Tang Dynasty.

Category Index
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2. Yu Gengzhe; From the Evolution of Chang'an City to Analyze the Concepts of Disease in Tang Dynasty [J]. Nankai Journal (Philosophy, Literature and Social Science Edition); 2010-05
4. Li Xiao-rong; On the Relationship between Apocryphal Sutras and the Ancient Chinese Literature [J]. Journal of Harbin Institute of Technology (Social Sciences Edition); 2012-06

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2. Lan Yong; Climatic Variations and the Rise and Fall of the Tang Dynasty [J]; Collections of Essays On Chinese Historical Geography; 2001-01
3. LIAO Yuqun (Institute for the History of Science, CAS, Beijing 100010); CONCERNING THE DISEASE JIAO QI IN ANCIENT CHINA AND ITS HISTORICAL RESEARCH [J]; Studies in the History of Natural Sciences; 2000-03
4. Zuo Peng; Diseases and Cultural Evolution: Miasmatic Diseases in the Song and Yuan Dynasties in China [J]; Social Sciences in China; 2004-01

Co-citations
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Recognising this, the Buddha discovered how to best approach suffering. First, one shouldn't bathe in luxury, nor abstain from food and comforts altogether. Instead, one ought to live in moderation (the Buddha called this “the middle way”). The Dunhuang Manuscripts Book of New Buddha and Book of Good Behaviors are the so-called “pseudo-classics” popular in the 8th to 10th centuries which predict the initiation of certain diseases, therefore persuade people to converse to Buddhism by copying Buddhist classics and doing good deeds to escape disaster. The two books are the precious material for research on the main diseases in Tang and The Five Dynasties. They express people's panic at those diseases at the time. By analyzing the connotation of the disease names appeared in the manuscripts, the paper claims that the three
The New Book of Tang (Xīn Tángshū), generally translated as "New History of the Tang", or "New Tang History", is a work of official history covering the Tang dynasty in ten volumes and 225 chapters. The work was compiled by a team of scholars of the Song dynasty, led by Ouyang Xiu and Song Qi. It was originally simply called the Tangshu (Book of Tang) until the 18th century. A Chinese painting from the Tang Dynasty shows Buddha discovering illness and old age. Gautama tried to learn from other holy men. He almost starved himself to death by avoiding all physical comforts and pleasures, as they did. Reflecting on his childhood compassion, Gautama felt a profound sense of peace. He ate, meditated under a fig tree, and finally reached the highest state of enlightenment: nirvana, which simply means awakening. He became the Buddha, the awakened one. Recognising this, the Buddha discovered how to best approach suffering. First, one shouldn't bathe in luxury, nor abstain from food and comforts altogether. Instead, one ought to live in moderation (the Buddha called this the middle way).