Contents

Preface ix

PARTI	LINGUISTIC PRELIMINARIES 1	
	Equadational concents 2	
CHAPTER 1	Foundational concepts 2 Phonetics and phonology 2	
	Emes and Allos 3	
	Notational conventions 5	
CHAPTER 2	What is writing? 6	
	The definition of writing 6	
	Language is not writing 6	
	Visual representations of non-languages are not writing 7	
	Writing is systematic 8	
	Writing is secondary to speech 9	
CHAPTER 3	What kinds of writing systems are there? 12	
	Classification of writing systems 12	
	The linguistic universal of writing systems 15	
	On 'entered land'isagget	
CHAPTER 4	Pīnyīn tutorial 17	
	Simple finals 18	
	Initials 19	
	Compound finals 21	
	Spelling rules 21	
	Tones 23	
PART II	WRITING CHINESE 29	
CHAPTER 5	The Chinese speech 30	· CI HTTGAM

Chinese languages and dialects 30

Modern Standard Chinese 32

CHAPTER 6	Written Chinese 40
	Classical Chinese as a written standard 40
	The impact of Classical Chinese on Modern Standard Chinese 42
CHAPTER 7	The Chinese writing system 45
	Nature of the Chinese script 45
	Formation of Chinese characters 46
	The character inventory 50
	Changes in script style 50
	Structure of the Chinese writing system 51
CHAPTER 8	Demythifying the Chinese script 56
	The ideographic myth 56
	The universality myth 59
PART III	BORROWING THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM 63
CHAPTER 9	Chinese characters in Asia: An overview 64
	From shared borders to common vocabularies 64
	Why borrow? 68
	General borrowing strategies 69
CHAPTER 10	Writing Korean 77
	Idu 'clerical reading' 78
	Hyangchal 'vernacular letters' 79
	Gugyeol 'oral formulae' 80
	Hangeul 81
CHAPTER 11	Writing Japanese 87
	Kanbun 88
	Kanji 89
	Man'yōgana 93
	Hiragana and Katakana 94
	A mixed script 97
CHAPTER 12	Writing Vietnamese 101
	Chữ nho 'Confucian script' 101

PART IV	REFORMING THE CHINESE SCRIPT 111
CHAPTER 13	Phonetic writing before <i>pīnyīn</i> 112
	Early attempts at Romanization (1580s-1620s) 112
	Later proposals of phonetic scripts (1890s–1930s) 115
CHAPTER 14	Pīnyīn 127
	What is pīnyīn? 127
	History of pīnyīn 129
	Current uses of <i>pīnyīn</i> 130
	Spelling rules 131
CHADTED 15	Cimplification of Chinese characters 126
CHAPTER 15	Simplification of Chinese characters 136
	Early attempts at simplification (1900–1950s) 136
	Script simplification by the PRC (1950s–1980s) 139 International impact 146
CHAPTER 16	Writing and technology in modern China 149
	Ordering information 149
	Computer input methods 152
PART V	IDENTITY AND GENDER IN WRITING CHINESE 157
CHAPTER 17	Handwriting and personhood 158
	Handwriting and moral character 158
	Handwriting and personality traits 160
	Parallels between calligraphy techniques and moral preferences 161
CHAPTER 18	Sexism in the Chinese writing system 163
	The status of women in China 163
	Sexism in Chinese characters 166
CHAPTER 19	Nǚshū: Women's script 169
	Who, where, and when? 169

Chữ nôm 'southern script' 102

Quốc ngữ 'national script' 105

	What kind of writing system is <i>nǚshū</i> ? 173 What is <i>nǚshū</i> used to write and why? 174	
CHAPTER 20	Script choice in writing Japanese 179 Linguistic constraints 179 Extra-linguistic factors 181	
PART VI	CHINESE CHARACTERS IN ART AND LITERATURE	187
CHAPTER 21	Chinese calligraphy 188 The Chinese script as foundation for calligraphy 188 Calligraphic evolution of the Chinese script 189	
CHAPTER 22	A calligraphy workshop 200 Getting ready 200 Warm-up 203 Basic strokes 204 Stroke order 208	
	Composition 209 Writing exercise 210	
CHAPTER 23	Modern calligraphy in China 212 The '85 New Wave 212 The Modernists and their works 214	
CHAPTER 24	Chinese characters in Avant-garde art 219 Background 219 Artworks 220	
CHAPTER 25	Chinese characters and Western Modernist poetry Imagism and Modernist poetry in the English language 226 Chinese characters and Imagist poetry 227	226
	References 233 Index 238	

What does nữ shữ look like? 171