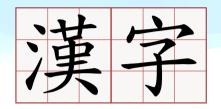
## **GE1501 Chinese Civilisation**

Week 2: Chinese Language



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Beowulf, Cotton MS Vitellius A XV. (c. 975-1010 AD) British Museum London

> Spiritual Flight Sutra (Lingfei ijng 雲飛 經), eighth century, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

德玄者周宣王時九報真人韓偉遠以致也 在當高偉遠久隨之乃得受法 行三千里 数 變形為馬 人形 受此方 此 靈 歌飛打 得六中 真甲岳 靈之道米德玄

PET PEGARD na ingerye dazum. heod cynniz buyin se pumon huda cebe lingar elle the medon oft feeld (coping feether buentum mone zu mæspum mæde fæll of tenh estade coul syddan agreet part Feet scenez funden he has thorne sepa peox under polenum peopes myndum balo of him achpole bana somb fixten sua open hon pade hypan Golde zomban Tyldan tref god cyning. dem espena paf estar cenned scons in secundum fone sod Cende polce coppoppe pyper dampe on year blue outpurgon alder afectinger hoile him her ly spen pulsher perlos populs are population bearing par buen bled pide sprang school cuspul scele landum in Spa footbase of fine good 24 believen blomma keep an andagi

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怨玄者周宣王, 日行三千里 為高偉遠久隨 井 遠 變 人普 又形為鳥 服 之乃得受法 叶叶 靈方 獸飛打 得六中 真甲岳 要之道 米德玄

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OPET PEGARD

na mzerye dazum. peod cynniz. paym se pumon huda cepe lingar elle the medons oft feeld feeting feether buentum mone zu mærpum medo fælle of couch offode coul sydden quest pour Fer scent funder he has thorne sepa peox under polenum people myndum bali of him ashpole bana somb fizzen spa open huon pade hypan scolde zombar Tyldan prof god cyning. dam europa par attor conned soons inscapdum hone sod fende polce coppoppe pyper dange on year blue apopurgon aldon afelange hpile him har ly spen pulsing perloon populs are popular borbute par buen bled pide formanz feed by custome forde landum in Spa food so a fine god to believen thoums tout the the anday

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安重之道

PEGARD

Ina ingery dazum. peod cynniz paym se Framon hada cepe lingar elle the medon oft feeld (cepus feether preacum mone zu miechum meodo fecla of cert estade coul syddan equere part per scenez punden he ber propre sed peox under polenum people myndum palo of him achpole bana somb fieren dua open hon pade hypan feolde zomban Tyldan pag god cyning. dam engena pag efter cenned soons inscapdum fone sod fende polce coppopue princi deince on year blue outpurgon alder afectinger hpile him hay lip pper pulsper por loor populs are populations bearing par buen blad pide forming feeled curent feele landum m. Sparfood and mac gode 24 believen blomma keep an andagi

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#### **Chinese Language**

- · Sino-Tibetan language family
- Modern regional groups
  - Mandarin (836 million)
  - Min (60 million; e.g. Taiwanese)
  - Wu (77 million; e.g. Shanghainese)
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  - National language created since Republican period (early twentieth century)
  - Based on a dialect of Beijing, capital of China
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- Defining components
  - Phonology: sound system
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- Monosyllabic: sound<->character
- Tones: 4 for Mandarin, 6 for Cantonese
- Writing systems (modern)
  - Traditional
  - Simplified

<b>Examples of Standard Mandarin tones</b>						
Characters	Pinyin Pitch contour Meaning					
妈/媽	mā	high level	'mother'			
麻	má	high rising	'hemp'			
马/馬	mă	low falling-rising	'horse'			
骂/罵	mà	high falling	'scold'			
吗/嗎	ma	neutral	question particle			

Examples of Standard Cantonese tones						
Jyutping	Yale Pitch contour Meanin		Meaning			
si1	sī	high level, high falling	'poem'			
si2	sí	high rising	'history'			
si3	si	mid level	'to assassinate'			
si4	sìh	low falling	'time'			
si5	síh	low rising	'market'			
si6	sih	low level	'yes'			
	Jyutping si1 si2 si3 si4 si5	Jyutping         Yale           si1         sī           si2         si           si3         si           si4         sih           si5         sih	Jyutping         Vale         Pitch contour           si1         s7         high level, high falling           si2         si         high rising           si3         si         mid level           si4         sih         low falling           si5         sih         low rising			

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  - Between traditional and 'modern' ways of reading Chinese (when horizontally written)
  - Traditional: right to left
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  - Loanwords
  - Pusa 菩薩: bodhisattva
  - Bashi 巴士: bus
    - Compare and contrast: dim sum/點心 and ketchup/茄汁
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## **Writing Systems**

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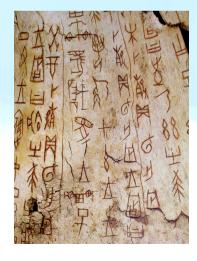


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- Seal script
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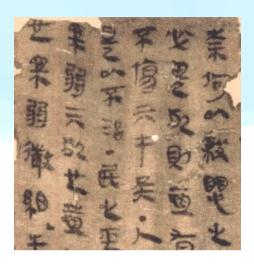
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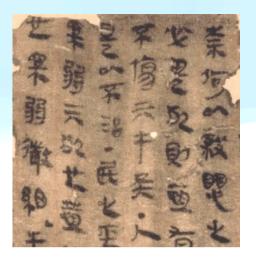


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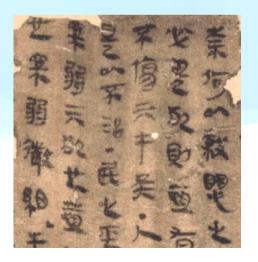


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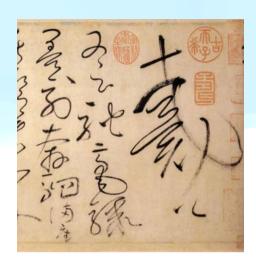
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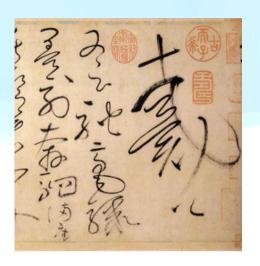


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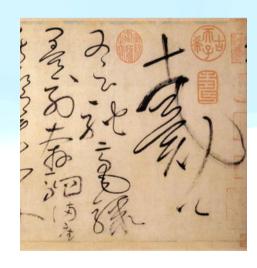
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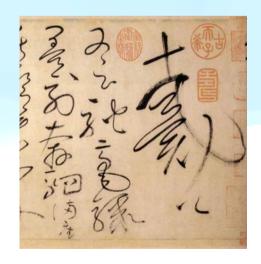


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- Wade-Giles system
- Pinyin system

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Characters	Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Meaning/Notes			
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台湾/台灣	T'ai2-wan1	Táiwān	Taiwan			
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