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*Frontispiece:* The history official Ban Zhao (d. 116) lecturing to her students. A great scholar, she worked in the imperial history bureau and taught palace ladies and the scholar Ma Jung (d. 166). Ma and his student Zheng Xuan (d. 200) were among China's greatest exegetes. Some of his footnotes have been used in preparing this translation.

This is one of the few extant pictures of a woman scholar in early China. The painting is an early copy of an original attributed to Gu Kaizhi (d. 406). This image is from a photograph of the entire scroll by Benrido, Japan in 1965, and published in 1966 by the Trustees of the British Museum.