Contents

Preface ix

PARTI	LINGUISTIC PRELIMINARIES 1	
OHADTED 4	File of the states and the second of the state of	
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	
	00 Perluthial late 1920	
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	

Chinese languages and dialects 30

Modern Standard Chinese 32

written Uninese 40	
Classical Chinese as a written standard 40	
The impact of Classical Chinese on Modern Standard Chinese 4	12
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	
Demythifying the Chinese script 56	
The ideographic myth 56	
The universality myth 59	
BORROWING THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM 63	
Chinese characters in Asia: An overview 64	
From shared borders to common vocabularies 64	
Why borrow? 68	
General borrowing strategies 69	
Writing Korean 77	
Idu 'clerical reading' 78	
Hyangchal 'vernacular letters' 79	
Gugyeol 'oral formulae' 80	
Hangeul 81	
nanji 00	
Man'yōgana 93	
Hiragana and Katakana 94	
A mixed script 97	
Writing Vietnamese 101	
Chữ nho 'Confucian script' 101	
	The impact of Classical Chinese on Modern Standard Chinese 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 Demythifying the Chinese script 56 The ideographic myth 56 The universality myth 59 BORROWING THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM 63 Chinese characters in Asia: An overview 64 From shared borders to common vocabularies 64 Why borrow? 68 General borrowing strategies 69 Writing Korean 77 Idu 'clerical reading' 78 Hyangchal 'vernacular letters' 79 Gugyeol 'oral formulae' 80 Hangeul 81 Writing Japanese 87 Kanbun 88 Kanji 89 Man'yōgana 93 Hiragana and Katakana 94 A mixed script 97 Writing Vietnamese 101

PART IV	REFORMING THE CHINESE SCRIPT 111
CHAPTER 13	Phonetic writing before pīnyīn 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 pīnyīn 130 Spelling rules 131
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