

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

List of Figures xi

Notes on Contributors xii

Introduction: Toward a History of Argumentative Practice in Late Imperial China 1

Martin Hofmann, Joachim Kurtz, and Ari Daniel Levine

PART 1

Comparison, Collation, Validation

1 Historical and Political Arguments: Debates on the *Veritable Records* in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) 47

Peter Ditmanson

2 A Performance of Transparency: Discourses of Veracity and Practices of Verification in Li Tao's *Long Draft* 90

Ari Daniel Levine

3 Learning with Metal and Stone: On the Discursive Formation of Song Epigraphy 135

Jeffrey Moser

PART 2

Visualization, Demonstration, Calculation

4 The Persuasive Power of *Tu*: A Case Study on Commentaries to the *Book of Documents* 177

Martin Hofmann

5 Inductive Arguments in the Midst of Smoke: "Proving" Rhetorically and Visually That Algorithms Work 234

Andrea Bréard

6 Keeping Your Ear to the Cosmos: Coherence as the Standard of Good Music in the Northern Song 277
Ya Zuo

7 The Textual Nature of Nature: Astronomical Debates in Eighteenth-Century China 310
Ori Sela

PART 3

Verification, Evaluation, Authentication

8 Identity Verification as a Standard of Validity in Late Imperial Civil Service Examinations 349
John Williams

9 Standards of Validity and Essay Grading in Early Qing Civil Service Examinations 393
Li Yu

10 Some Problems with Corpses: Standards of Validity in Qing Homicide Cases 431
Matthew H. Sommer

11 Value and Validity: Seeing through Silver in Late Imperial China 471
Bruce Rusk

PART 4

Corroboration, Refutation, Presentation

12 Philological Arguments as Religious Suasion: Liu Ning and His Study of Chinese Characters 503
Pingyi Chu

13 A Moral Verdict of Reasonable Doubts: Ouyi Zhixu's Argumentative Strategies in the *Collection of Refutations against Vicious Doctrines* 528
Manuel Sassmann

14 Reasoning in Style: The Formation of “Logical Writing” in Late Qing China 565
Joachim Kurtz

Index 607